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From the President's Desk

NEGOTIATIONS 2006: NO CLOSER TO A SETTLEMENT

I do not need to tell any teacher that there are only two weeks remaining before the current Labor-Management Agreement expires. Unfortunately, we are no closer to a settlement than we were at the end of July. The Association and the System continue to remain very far apart on the major contract issues, most notably, salary, medical and other benefits, the early retirement provisions, the proposed deletion of all past practices (zipper clause) and penalty-driven changes in working conditions.

I have spoken to reporters concerning the status of negotiations and I have let them know that if the ACT Negotiating Team was to take the System's current proposals back to our members, the Team would, most certainly, recommend rejection.

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Hopefully, when we return to the bargaining table, we will find that the System has reconsidered its many punitive proposals and will replace them with ones that reflect the respect the System claims that it has for its teachers. In addition, the System needs to present a much more acceptable money and benefits package.

As we head for the homestretch, we will be posting Negotiations updates on the ACT web site. On Wednesday, August 30th, Senior Delegates will be meeting with the ACT Negotiating Team and Executive Board at the ACT Office to receive the latest report on the progress of negotiations.

The General Membership Meeting is at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, September 5th at Penns Landing Caterers.

Please continue to keep both Teams in your prayers.

Check us out

ACT Web Site

www.act1776.com