

PROUD TO MAKE AMERICA WORK
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (AFGE) -AFL-CIO
LOCAL 3599

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Greetings Fellow Members,

This quarter (April-June 2009) has been a very challenging one for me as your President. I started off April by visiting the Miami District Office (MMDO). The MMDO has a new director, Jacqueline McNair, who came into the Miami District Office like a steam roller, crushing the morale of the employees, ignoring existing Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's), and mis-interpreting the CBA and other rules and regulations to meet her needs. As a result of the continuing actions by Ms. McNair I have filed five Unfair Labor Practices (ULP's).

I also visited the Charlotte District Office in May 2009 and conducted elections for the office steward. Ms. Orma Buie was elected to the position. We met with management and one of the significant outcomes of that meeting was that management agreed to formulate a self-directed focus group to look at how the overall intake process is being done and will consider implementing suggestions from that work group. It is hoped that if successful, management will consider using self-directed focus groups to resolve work process concerns. I am pleased to announce that as a result of my prior teleconference meeting and visit to that office, their membership "doubled!"

The previous quarter (January-March 2009), I visited the Birmingham District Office in March to meet with the membership and management regarding a list of issues that were presented to me. I am awaiting requested feedback from the Birmingham members. I along with Rachel Shonfield, Chief Steward and Clinton Smith (Atlanta Steward), met with your congressional representatives in February regarding our main issues centered around the budget and staffing. We also met with the Acting Chair and Vice Chair of the EEOC during the Council meeting and discussed issues regarding promotions for Attorneys, Mediators and Investigators. We also discussed the intake problem throughout the Commission. The Acting Chair acknowledged that the investigators are doing more administrative work and less investigative work. The Acting Chair asked the Council if they had a proposal regarding the intake problem. The Council responded by stating that they will submit their proposal to the Acting Chair. I was appointed to chair the committee on formulating a proposal for restructuring intake. The Committee's goal is to have a proposal ready for review by June 30, 2009.

To those of you who have an interest in the status of the overtime ruling we are in the settlement stage. Continue to be patient and take this time to make sure your time will be accounted for. Go back to any records you may have to show when you worked overtime both on the books and off the books and use the form provided on Council 216's website to record that information.

In Solidarity

Sharon