



TPOAM

Technical, Professional and Officeworkers Association of Michigan

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO OUR WAGE REOPENER?

That's a good question. AFSCME should have notified your employer of its intention to negotiate a wage reopener in July of 2015. Instead, in late September, AFSCME told the employer it was insisting on a \$5.00/hr. wage increase across-the-board. Two months later, they cut their demand in half. The employer responded by informing AFSCME that there would be additional employee contributions for health care beginning January 1 that the facility would be willing to waive if the union made a rational offer on their wage increase demand. AFSCME ignored the employer's offer for months, causing employees to come further out of pocket for premiums. AFSCME did not file for mediation until TPOAM interest cards were disseminated amongst employees.

Now AFSCME is trying to blame TPOAM for delaying those negotiations with the employer and a mediator. They only have themselves to blame! Those negotiations can resume immediately after the election, and if TPOAM prevails in the election, hopefully AFSCME will allow us to start over in a professional manner.

So ... how can you support a union that falls asleep at the wheel, disseminates false information, and misleads their own local leadership? You don't have to! Take a few minutes to do the research; make a telephone call and verify what other courageous employees have been telling you. The evidence is all around you. You don't have to settle for any more of this poor performance.

We will be posting new information every few days on our web site, www.tpoam.net, for you to review, including the upcoming information on the election. Look at the long list of groups that have left AFSCME for TPOAM, and don't be afraid to ask AFSCME for their version of the same list. It doesn't exist! No matter what, make your upcoming decision an informed one. You owe that much to your family and career. Call me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ed Jacques

Director of Member Services

EJ/jlh