

NTEU 207 News

NTEU EMPLOYEE UPDATE

DECEMBER 22, 2004

An information service provided by the Washington Headquarters Chapter of the NTEU – your fellow employees working to help you stay informed about vital issues impacting your FDIC career.

RIF to hit union members hard

The coming reduction in force is likely to have a major impact on NTEU members, stewards and officers now working at the FDIC, especially in DIRM and DRR. With the likely loss of many FDIC employees who are union members, it is more important than ever for FDIC staff who enjoy benefits and protections fiercely negotiated over the years by NTEU on behalf of employee to support the union. If a large number of union members are lost in the RIF and not replaced by new members, FDIC senior management will have an easier time imposing greater restrictions on employee rights and the union will be more hard-pressed to defend employees. These are difficult days for ordinary employees – it is more important than ever for us to support each other and support the organization that is working for us. For more information on Chapter 207 NTEU, contact an NTEU steward who works near you. The stewards are: Doreen Bryant (DIRM, H-2207B, 703-516-1374), Steve Callender (DSC, F-5004, 202-898-8940), Robert Cassell (Outsourcing/Contracting, DIRM, VS-5235, 703-516-5372), Roger Congress (DSC, F-5035, 202-898-3847), Sherrie Craun (Outsourcing/Contracting, DIRM, VS-6064, 703-516-1153), Ron Komara (DIRM, VS-4001, 703-516-1118), Nancy Maginn (DRR, F-7016, 202-898-8661), Howard Matthews (DOF, 801-606, 202-416-2889), Jane Mendoza (DIRM, VS-7078, 703-516-5335), Tracie Morris (DOF, 801-319, 202-416-7396), Daniel Rosenfeld (DIR, F-5080, 202-898-6561), and Robin Zaner (DIR, MB-2126, 202-898-6631).

We want to hear from you

The NTEU Employee Update wants employees to send in questions and concerns they have about the FDIC and what is going on in the Corporation. We will collect and review your submitted materials and select from them issues to be put before FDIC Senior Management. We will pass along management's responses to employees in future issues of the NTEU Employee Update. If management does not respond, we will put your concerns before congressional representatives who have an interest in what is happening at FDIC. Let us hear from you – we want to know what concerns you and we want FDIC senior management to know, too. Send your comments/questions to: nteu207hq@fdic.gov.

National Grievance on Use of Official Time While Teleworking – FDIC to allow use of official time to perform union functions.

After extensive negotiation, the FDIC has agreed that NTEU can be conducted by FDIC employees who are also union representatives while teleworking. These

employees will be required to request official time for union representational activities, and otherwise follow the requirements of the collective bargaining agreement. NTEU has reserved the right to pursue other action against the FDIC if there are further attempts to unfairly restrict the legitimate union activities of teleworking employees. So that we can properly monitor this situation, please keep track of instances when requests for official time while teleworking have been approved and when they have been denied. If you feel that a request for official time while teleworking has been unreasonably denied or if you have any questions or would like more information about this particular grievance, please contact an NTEU steward or send an email to: nteu207hq@fdic.gov.

FDIC's attempt to deny agreed-to compensation to frequent overnight travelers blocked by arbitrator.

An employee was assigned to work on a bank closing, but remained in her official position, responsible for her normal duties, at her assigned work place, under the same supervisor she had before the bank closed. Traveling as necessary to carry out the closing work, the employee filed for the Frequent Travel Lodging Stipend, as agreed to by both FDIC and NTEU. The FDIC attempted to deny the stipend by declaring that the employee had been placed on a detail at the closed bank and stated that the employee owed the FDIC \$2,800. The NTEU filed a grievance on the employee's behalf, after which, the FDIC tacked on an additional \$500 it claimed the employee owed. The case went to arbitration and the arbitrator rejected all of the FDIC's arguments and ruled that the employee was entitled to all that she had claimed, with interest. For more info on the lodging stipend agreement, send an email to: nteu207hq@fdic.gov.

Employees who may be RIFed should pay down any T. Rowe Price and TSP loans.

If you leave the FDIC, whether through a RIF or early retirement or taking a new job, any loans you have outstanding with T. Rowe Price, the manager of the FDIC Savings Plan funds, must be paid in full by the day you depart. In addition, if you have a loan with the federal Thrift Savings Plan and you leave the federal government, that loan must be paid in full as well. Avoid being hit by a big bill at a bad time – if you have reason to believe you will be forced to leave the FDIC, work now to pay off your FDIC savings plan loan. If you will be leaving not only the FDIC, but the federal government as well, then you need to make a plan for paying off any federal Thrift Savings Plan loans as well.

This is YOUR newsletter. Feel free to pass it on to other employees, whether they are NTEU members or not. If sharing this information with non-members, remind them that it is one of many services the union provides to employees. Urge your fellow employees to learn more about the union.
