The parties last met at the bargaining table on February 21st and 22nd. During the break in meeting dates, the bargaining unit came together for a General Membership meeting and Strike Authorization vote on March 15, 2017.

The turnout was good for the meeting, as well as the interaction with all areas of the bargaining unit at KMEX. There was a very contentious discussion involving the Union’s counter proposal to the Company’s 9 hour day proposal which generated intense dislike for any agreement that extends the day for any NABET. As a bargaining unit, we have long held the belief that a wrong does not become right by simply adding money to the equation. That was not the intention of the Negotiating Committee, and it was clearly communicated by the bargaining unit that no money was going to make a 9 hour day worth the fatigue, the safety risk, or the potential for an even longer day beyond that. A discrepancy was also discovered that would have caused a loss for some members at higher rates. It was never the intention of the Negotiating Committee to create any provision or solution that caused the member a loss of pay in an upgrade situation.

The bargaining unit unanimously authorized the Negotiating Committee to call a strike if deemed necessary.

The parties resumed discussions at the bargaining table on March 20th at KMEX.

A clarification was made regarding Article 17 Vacations confirming that the TA reached on 17.02 included a deadline for posting of approved vacation selections no later than December 31st of that year. There were discussions over bullet proof vests for field crews, the AFTRA/NABET pairing situation, and 4 hour call rules for Per Diem employees. After a brief caucus, a TA was reached on 14.02 Hazard Insurance, improving the language and increasing the amount of insurance to 500,000 dollars. There was also brief discussions on 13.03 Pregnancy Disability, Video Journalists, and use of non-broadcast material.

On Tuesday, March 21st, the parties resumed discussions on 19.03 Work Schedules, Weekend Days Off, and the status of work schedules bouncing from day shift to evening or vice versa. A good effort was made to try and agree that resolution of issues that were generating changes to the contract could be resolved away from the bargaining table, reducing or eliminating the need to change the contract. We currently have approximately 20 issues left to resolve, however with some work on correcting
some of the issues discussed, we could easily find ourselves with about half a dozen issues left to resolve. The Parties recessed until April 6 & 7, 2017.

Fraternally,

NABET-CWA/KMEX Negotiating Committee

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT NABET-CWA LOCAL 53’S WEBSITE AT:
http://www.nabet53.org