

502 News? Maybe Not...

A voice for common sense and change since 1996

Hello again fellow Deputies,

After a staggering 1,500 days without a contract, we finally have a new arbitration "award" (some award) to work under. The only problem is our new contract is basically dead on arrival. Soon we will have to start the entire bargaining process again. While we may have to start the process again, we certainly don't have to repeat our mistakes.

Recently there have been many newsletters around debating POAM versus SEIU. Since it's fact that SEIU collects our money without providing service, clearly they should be gone. However, I would ask you to focus on the bigger picture.

Fact: The fact that there were no back door deals notwithstanding, the way this contract was negotiated was no different than any of the last 5 contracts. We stood as an independent Union, hiring attorneys to bargain against the County.

Fact: In the end, the results were that we got punked. We got exactly what the County wanted us to have and nothing more. Just like the "(89) gun and badge or money contract", the "(95) Pay steps that don't equal years of service contract" and the (01) "Sweet Water Tavern" contract we voted on three times.

You would think this latest horse whipping at the hands of Wayne County would serve as absolute proof that we can no longer try to negotiate ourselves. One would think that Union leaders would be the first to admit that the way we bargain clearly isn't working and it's time for professional help. Guess again...

What really shocks the conscience, is the logic defying response from many on the Executive Board. Union Cheerleaders have said that their new visionary plan is to be an independent Union, hiring attorneys to bargain against Wayne County! Wait just a minute! Isn't that what we've done for 20 years! Isn't that what we just did this last time? They can't be serious...can they?

Ask yourself something. If you agree this clearly doesn't make sense after this last contract fiasco, then what is this really about?

- Why would 502 insist on traveling down the same failed path?
- If over 300 Police Agencies use POAM for bargaining, why is 502 so absolutely terrified of bringing POAM on board?
- Just what does 502 have planned? Is there something they are worried a Police Union at the bargaining table would stop them from doing?

It's time to stop wishing our contracts looked like other Police agencies and instead, hire the exact same people who bargain those contracts! Support your career by dumping SEIU and replace them with Professional Police Bargainers. Now is the time to explore our options. Either that, or continue to believe Union lip service as we March towards 25 years of;

"Just wait till next contract things will be different."

Friends, that's the one option no one here should be prepared to accept.

Regards,



Cpl. Ryan L. Florios