

VA National Partnership Agreement

The Department of Veterans Affairs, American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), National Association of Government Employees (NAGE), and the United American Nurses (UAN) enter into this partnership agreement in the spirit of cooperative labor-management relations.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the VA National Partnership Council (NPC) is to advise the Secretary on VA initiatives which impact employees, and to promote cooperative labor-management relations. In accordance with Executive Order 13522, the NPC will foster cooperative labor-management relations that will result in improved services to veterans and a positive workplace environment for employees.

OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve this purpose, the partners agree to the following objectives:

1. Support and promote the implementation of the Executive Order 13522, that allows union representatives to have pre-decisional involvement in all workplace matters to the fullest extent practicable, without regard to whether those matters are negotiable subjects of bargaining under 5 U.S.C. 7106; [Management should discuss workplace challenges and problems with labor and endeavor to develop solutions jointly, rather than advise union representatives of predetermined solutions to problems and then engage in bargaining over the impact and implementation of the predetermined solutions].
2. Provide advice and recommendations on policies, programs, and initiatives that affect employees and customer services, as appropriate;
3. Promote cooperative labor-management relations including labor-management forums, at the national, intermediate and local levels;
4. Advocate a full exchange of views and sharing of information between labor and management;
5. Support the use of all forms of alternative dispute resolution techniques as appropriate;
6. Facilitate, promote and recommend cooperative labor-management relations training and;
7. Provide for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the NPC as measured through the Strategic Plan metrics.

STRUCTURE/OPERATION

The Council will be comprised of representatives from the following organizations:

Management

Labor Management Relations
General Counsel
National Cemetery Administration
Veterans Health Administration
Veterans Benefits Administration
Office of Information & Technology

Union

American Federation of Government Employees
United American Nurses
National Association of Government Employees
National Federation of Federal Employees
Service Employees International Union

There will be 4 members from AFGE and 2 members from each of the other unions (total 12) and 12 management members.

The Council will have two Co-Chairpersons representing labor and management, respectively. Management and labor will each select their Co-Chair every two years. Either party may also designate an alternate.

Meetings will be held quarterly. The Co-Chairpersons may call additional meetings as are necessary.

The NPC may establish committees, task forces, or work groups as appropriate to carry out work of the council. Those serving on such groups will be in a duty status.

The Department of Veterans Affairs will be responsible for all council members' travel and per diem expenses and other costs associated with Council operations.

All NPC members will be in a duty status while participating in the council business. National partnership activities beyond or outside normal duty hours of those involved will be considered in duty status;

NPC decisions will be made using a consensus approach.

COMMITMENT

This agreement is a commitment by the partners to make the best efforts to ensure that cooperative labor-management relations are maintained in the interests of the employees and the veterans we serve.

Signatures

Alma L. Lee

Alma L. Lee (Co-Chair)
President, AFGE NVAC

Leslie B. Wiggins

Leslie B. Wiggins (Co-Chair)
Deputy Asst. Secretary for Labor-Mgmt Relations

Claudia Moore

Claudia Moore
NAGE National Executive Board
Exec. VP, Local R3-35

Brian McVeigh

Brian McVeigh
VHA Workforce Mgmt & Consulting

Stephen Warden

Stephen Warden
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
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Susan F. Anderson

Susan F. Anderson
NAGE National Vice President
President Local R4-78

Juan Morales

Juan Morales
Director, VA Tennessee Valley HCS

Veronica Wiles

Veronica Wiles
Director, Office of Human Resources
Veterans Benefits Administration

Mary Jean Burke

Mary Jean Burke
1st Exec VP AFGE NVAC

Christine Polnak

Christine Polnak
Pres. SEIU Local 200UNITED

Vivieca Wright

Vivieca Wright
Office of Deputy USH for Operations
& Management

Alberta Franklin

Alberta Franklin
President AFGE Local 490

Robert E. Redding

Robert E. Redding
President, NFFE DVA Council

Irma Westmoreland

Irma Westmoreland, R.N.
Vice President, UAN NVAC

Elaine Gerace, R.N.

Elaine Gerace
Pres. SEIU Local 200UNITED

Alice Staggs, R.N.

Alice Staggs, R.N.
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William Wetmore

William Wetmore
3rd Executive Vice President
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Walt Hall

Walt Hall
Asst General Counsel PSG III

Richard Thomesen

Richard Thomesen
Nat'l VP NFFE/IAM VA Council

Alan Bernstein, MS, RN

Alan Bernstein
Office of Nursing Services

Donna Terrell

Donna Terrell
Director, Buffalo Regional Office

7-15-2010

Date

Lindee Lenox

Lindee Lenox
NCA
Assoc Director of Field Operations

Michael Walcott

Michael Walcott
Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits

Eric K. Stinseki

Eric K. Stinseki
Secretary