

Happy Holidays TPOAM Members!

It's nearly 5 months since you voted in your Union Officers. What have they been doing? Attending Executive board meetings, listening by phone, email, survey and in person, developing procedures, learning about economic developments and their impact on our workplace, bargaining with the City, attending public meetings, conferring with other City unions, solving computer incompatibilities---to mention a few activities.

We continue to strive for improved communications and appreciate the patience you've shown so far. It's harder than it looks to keep this organization running. The biggest challenges: Coordinating work and personal schedules, supporting members in physically different locations, having to do most of the work "off the clock", following through on tasks that need coordinating among several people.

So here's a summary of what's going on.

Bargaining You've been wondering why you haven't gotten a raise, right? The Negotiating Committee continues meet with the City. The City has stated what they want, we've stated what we want. This year, these wishes are a poor match, and there are good reasons on both sides. We're not yet close to an agreement, but **you** might want to start preparing for ratification by understanding your benefits as thoroughly as possible (do you know what VEBA is?) It's a very fortunate thing to have a TPOAM Business Agent at our side every time we meet with the City to bargain.

Public Meetings The Executive Board Officers strive to attend as many Council/ACS/SERS/VEBA meetings as possible, especially when relevant topics are on the agenda. **Members are strongly encouraged to attend also.**

Committees The Committees are starting to meet and elect Chairmen. The Nomination/Advisory Committee is recruiting people who want to be Tellers (they run our TPOAM elections) *Please contact David Blakeman or Kitty Allen for further information if you are interested in serving this way.*

Jan 17, 2006 Membership Meeting It will take place in the Library Meeting Room at 5:45 pm. In your Bylaws, it refers to this one as the "membership/nomination meeting". Since we are not electing Officers this year, we will "elect" or approve a group of Tellers---we'll need them to run our ratification vote. *Please---let's make extra effort to have a quorum at this meeting.*

Enjoy your holiday season. Be safe when driving. Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!

Kitty Allen
TPOAM President