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Subject: President's Message - May 8
Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014 6:20:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Members:

Today EA participated in mediation with the District and Mike Coleman's group regarding the District's dismissal of their 2011 petition to carve out a handful of professional classifications from the EA bargaining unit to create a separate union. The mediation did not produce an

agreement between the parties. The District, however, has offered to continue talking with the Coleman group. These talks would apparently mean that the Coleman group's PERB complaint against the District would remain on hold. We are awaiting more information from the District on whether these talks will take place.

As we have noted many times in the past, EA recognizes the right of professional employees to be represented separately in an appropriate unit, but as we've also noted in the past, the vast majority of our professionals have no desire to separate from our union. The Coleman petition expresses the interest of only a small fraction of our professionals to create a new unit. The District properly dismissed the petition.

Nonetheless, ***EA remains committed to representing our entire bargaining unit***, professionals and all other classes alike, including any employees affiliated with the Coleman group. We represent our members, not just at the bargaining or meet & confer table with management, but by our own internal processes. Our membership meetings are regular as clockwork, there is a process in place for bringing issues to the EA Executive Board, we have open officer elections, and we create and openly recruit volunteers to lead and participate in numerous activities, committees and work groups; we have on-going open recruitment for Stewards and worksite Representatives and we have excelled in our communication efforts with our members. I strongly urge each and every one of you to take advantage of these opportunities and *get involved in your union*.

As we gear up for MOU negotiations this year, *it is especially important that we stay on course and united*. There is strength in unity and we can be successful when we work together.

NEGOTIATIONS SURVEY

The deadline for responding to the negotiations survey was 5:00 p.m. today. More than half of the membership has responded—great job! However, in an effort to ensure that everyone gets an opportunity to have their voice heard, we are **extending the deadline to Wednesday, May 14 at 5:00 p.m.** If you have not already filled out your survey, please do it now!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TKHY6JG>

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Congratulations to **Kimberly Grundy** and **Tyrome Garrison** on their promotions to Staff Analyst positions in the Purchasing, Consultant Contracts and Warehouse Services Unit. Well done!

In solidarity,

Liz Bettencourt

President, Employees Association

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