



ALASKA CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

"Walking Alaska's Toughest Beat"

September 1, 2009

Correctional Officers,

This mailing is somewhat of a pre-mailing. A larger mailing will follow that will contain information on the contract/arbitration court case, including how you can help. Please keep this mailing and enclosures on hand until you receive the second mailing. The second mailing will also contain information on contacting the legislators from your specific area, including pertinent information and talking points. Kudos go to Deb and Jen who put in a lot of work/research into finding out which Legislators represent each and every one of the 769 of you. Anyway, we have some good news and an update on the health insurance deductions.

Superior Court Grants ACOA's Motion for a Hearing.

On the very day we were preparing to mail this letter we learned that the Superior Court has granted ACOA's motion for a hearing on our petition for an injunction against the State. A date is usually set soon after but, after waiting a day, we decided to get this letter out. We will inform you of the court date as soon as we know. Keep an eye on the web page.

ALRA Finds Probable Cause on ACOA's ULP.

In other good news, Alaska Labor Relations Agency, ALRA, returned a finding of probable cause regarding ACOA's contention that the Administration interfered with the funding of our contract's arbitration award.

The ALRA decision is extremely important to Correctional Officers for two reasons. First and foremost, the decision states that certain aspects of this issue, involving legislative authority, are not within its (ALRA) jurisdiction. This is very important as the State wants the Superior Court to refuse to hear ACOA's petition for a judgment

declaring that the ACOA arbitration award is available for funding next session. The State wants the petition sent back to ALRA, which would almost certainly ensure that Legislative funding consideration would be delayed until the next legislative session. Second, ALRA's probable cause finding lets Legislators know that the actions of the Palin Administration are questionable.

The next step is an ALRA pre-conference meeting on September 9th. At that time a date will be set for a hearing before the ALRA Board on our claim that the Administration interfered with the funding of the contract arbitration award. State employees, including Commissioner Joe Schmidt will testify. We will advise you of the Hearing date so you can attend and observe.

Health insurance check deduction

Unfair labor practice filed. ACOA filed an unfair labor practice (ULP) against the State in regard to the deductions in your checks for health insurance. Enclosed is the petition for your review so I will not recap the issues in this letter. Simply stated, the Administration wants it both ways – that is, they are trying to void the contract, but also use the contract to take money from you.

Notice of pay problem: Enclosed is an example of a notice of pay problem that you may use for the health insurance deduction issue. The ULP covers everyone, but many have sent and many may still wish to send in notice of pay problems. Enclosed is ACOA's response to the State's response to your notice of pay problem claims.

Be safe,



Attachments:

- FAQs
- Danny's Letter to Governor Parnell / Staff Response
- ULP – Health Insurance
- ALRA's finding of Probable Cause
- Example of Notice of Pay Problem
- Response to State on pay problem denial