

Bargaining Solidarity Update #19

May 9, 2012

The Union opened the session with an assessment of where we are at in negotiations – concluding that, either both MGE CEO Wolter and the MGE Board are pursuing an anti-union agenda that includes taking away our bargaining rights over health care or the parties should be able to work out a package today and get it done. HR Asst-VP Pellitteri and CEO Wolter have previously indicated that that they are not about union-busting or taking away bargaining rights – which is good to hear – but the black and white proposals we have received indicate otherwise. We didn't believe that any of the Union and management people in the room wanted a political and ideological fight in downtown Madison when we have all worked so hard to make MGE the Company it is; with record profits in 4 of the last 5 years. Based upon our conversation the Union prepared **Union Package #3**.

Our package included a health proposal that preserves our bargaining rights, takes us to 20% of the premium, along with the ability of the parties to negotiate changes to the health plans annually. This annual “flexibility” was tied to our wage increases in the second and third years.

The Company said that “there were some interesting things” in the Package and they'd get back to us on Monday.

So, we didn't get the contract done today like we felt we should or could. The Company is bargaining with the OPEIU tomorrow. Our contract extension with MGE is through Monday the 14th.

For more details, please check our website, www.ibew2304.com, and talk to your **Solidarity Committee Representative**.

In Solidarity,

IBEW 2304 Bargaining Committee