

Dear CNC and E-Board members,

I am sure you have all either seen or heard about Administrative Order No. 237 that Governor Palin signed on August 24 establishing "the Executive Branch Working Group to address issues concerning recruitment and retention of state employees in the executive branch." The Administrative Order is being widely circulated through the membership and has resulted in questions regarding the ratification vote. I have attached a copy of the Administrative Order for your information.

On receipt of a copy of the AO I immediately attempted to make contact with Annette Kretizer, Commissioner of Administration. Commissioner Kretizer is out of state on a family medical emergency but I did have a lengthy conversation this morning about the AO with Deputy Commissioner Kevin Brooks. While I told him I agree with the establishment of such a working group and agree it is important for the administration to evaluate what steps should be taken to increase recruitment and retention, I also strongly expressed my view that this action should have taken place prior to the beginning of negotiations or prior to entering into a contract or tentative agreement with any union. He stated he understood my concern.

I did make specific suggestions to Deputy Commissioner Brooks about steps that should be taken to ensure that any recommendation on a wage increase for state employees as a result of this working group would be made available to our membership immediately. Mr. Brooks committed to contacting Commissioner Kretizer about my concerns and suggestions. I expect to hear from him prior to the end of this week as to the Commissioner's response.

I will keep you informed as I receive new information.

Jim