

A MESSAGE FROM NTEU

April 23, 2013

NTEU, IRS Continue Furlough Agreement Talks This Week

NTEU and the IRS ended bargaining last week without an agreement on the implementation of furloughs required by [sequestration](#). The union will continue discussions with the IRS this week in an effort to narrow our differences. While you received a furlough notice yesterday, NTEU and the IRS have until May 24—before the first furlough day is served—to reach an agreement.

To answer your questions about scheduling and other issues related to furloughs, NTEU has developed an [FAQ document](#) for employees with questions about how the furlough will affect their alternative work schedules (AWS) and available options. The document addresses common questions concerning employees working compressed work schedules, part-time, night shifts and flexitour, as well as those in non-pay status (leave without pay or leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act).

In the meantime, NTEU has so far secured several positive provisions including:

- Delaying until fiscal year 2014 further periodic reinvestigations of frontline employees.
- Delaying until fiscal 2014 the self-input of SETR initiative. The delay of periodic reinvestigations and SETR are cost-saving measures.
- Lifting of the requirement for many categories that employees seek permission prior to engaging in outside employment. In addition, the IRS will respond expeditiously to requests for outside employment that are related to the IRS work performed by employees.

The IRS has proposed [hypothetical schedule modifications](#) that will be permitted for all employees on these AWS schedules so that they do not serve more than 8 furlough hours.

NTEU will continue to keep you updated on developments during these important negotiations. To be sure that you receive all NTEU communications, please [provide us with your home e-mail address](#). You may do this now, on your government computer, in accordance with the agency's policy on limited personal use of the Internet.

NTEU remains focused on ending sequestration. To learn what NTEU is doing to stop the sequester, visit www.nteu.org.

"...to ensure that every federal employee is treated with dignity and respect."