



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL #53
Affiliated with the AFL - CIO
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee**

Oscar L. Williams Jr., Chair
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Philadelphia, PA 19104

May 28, 2014

Charles E. Sepich, Network Director
VA Southeast Network (VISN 7)
3700 Crestwood Parkway #500
Duluth, GA 30096-5585

Subject: VISN 7 Outreach to Veterans Patients Regarding Clinic Appointments

Dear Mr. Sepich:

In accordance with Article 47, Section 2 C, of the Master Agreement, the National VA Council #53 formally is demanding to bargain on VISN 7 Outreach to Veterans Patients Regarding Clinic Appointments cited subject above within the Department. Ms. Alma L. Lee will be naming the Union's Chief Negotiator and negotiating team members. Please provide the named union negotiating team members with any information and/or data concerning the cited subject. The negotiations of this matter should normally begin no later than twenty (20) workdays after the management chief negotiator in this matter receives our demand to bargain.

Please cease and desist any implementation until the bargaining obligation has been met. The named union negotiating team may request a briefing over the cited subject above, before sending any proposals. If you have any questions please contact me at (217) 554-4866.

Sincerely,

Oscar L. Williams, Jr.
Chairperson, Mid-Term Bargaining Committee
2nd Executive Vice President
National VA Council #53

cc: Alma L. Lee, President National VA Council #53
Terrence Watts, 5th District Representative NVAC

AFGE: Good Government We Are Ready

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

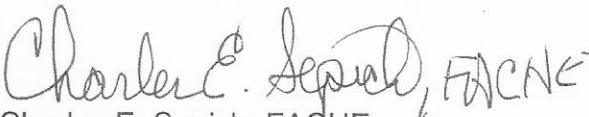
Date: MAY 27 2014

From: Director, VA Southeast Network (10N7)

Subj: VISN 7 Outreach to Veteran Patients Regarding Clinic Appointments

To: VA Southeast Network Labor Partners

1. I wish to thank you for your ongoing support as we work side-by-side in fulfilling the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) most sacred mission – to care for our country's Veterans and their families. It is only through the selfless commitment to excellence exhibited by VA staff that we are able to ensure our Veterans receive high quality care.
2. As you may be aware, strong public concerns have surfaced regarding the Department's use of Electronic Wait Lists (EWL), as well as the effectiveness of EWLs. In an intensive effort to ensure that we are meeting the needs/expectations of our Veterans, their families and the public by providing quality and timely health care; the VA Southeast Network (VISN 7) will immediately embark on an outreach initiative to our Veterans over the upcoming days. This outreach initiative will require the focused efforts of certain VISN 7 staff who will be assigned the task of making telephonic contact with our Veterans with a minimum of three (3) attempts. VISN 7 will meet its regulatory and contractual obligations relating to the compensation of staff assigned to support this critical initiative.
3. Although this critical task assignment will result in a minimal impact to VISN 7 staff, I have assigned Ms. Leslie Wiggins, Medical Center Director at the Atlanta VA Medical Center, as our VISN 7 Labor/Management Point of Contact (POC). Ms. Wiggins stands ready and willing to address any thoughts or concerns you may have as our VISN 7 Labor Partners in relation to the aforementioned effort. Ms. Wiggins may be contacted by dialing (404) 321-6111, extension 7601 or through Microsoft Outlook at Leslie.Wiggins2@va.gov.
4. In closing, as a VISN 7 Labor Partner, you continue to serve as an integral part of the VISN 7 family. Through our ongoing collaborative efforts, I am confident that we will continue to identify ways of improving services to our Veteran Heroes and their families. Thank you again for all that you do.


Charles E. Sepich, FAOHE

