



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL #53**

**Affiliated with the AFL - CIO
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee**

Oscar L. Williams Jr., Chair
2nd Exec. V-President
29 Lake Street
Danville, IL 61832-6101

Bill Wetmore, Member
3rd Exec. V-President
2319 Alava Court
Waldorf, MD 20603

Patrick Russell, Member
8th Dist. Rep., NVAC
VA Blacks Hills, HCS
Hot Springs, SD 57747

Sandra Eggleston, Member
13th Dist. Rep., NVAC
VAMC Tucson
Tucson, AZ 85723

November 30, 2009

Scott Holliday, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Labor Management Relations (LMR)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Subject: VHA Directive 5019.1 "Smoking Cessation Benefit for VHA Employees: No Cost Provision of Nicotine Replacement Therapy"

Dear Mr. Holliday:

The National VA Council #53 is formally demanding to bargain on the cited VHA Directive 5019.1, above within the Department. Please provide the above named Mid-Term Bargaining Committee with the information and/or data related to the matter. The negotiation in this matter should normally begin within ten (10) workdays after the management chief negotiator in this matter receives our demand to bargain.

Please cease and desist any implementation of bargaining unit employees until after the bargaining obligation has been met. Any prior agreement reached by local parties shall comply with the new agreement of the national parties. If you have any questions please call 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
NVAC Executive Committee
Clara Trapnell, VHA HRM Consultant Group

AFGE: Good Government We Are Ready