



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

Oscar L. Williams Jr., Chairperson 2 nd Exec. V-President 29 S. Lake Street Danville, IL 61832-6101	Bill Wetmore, Member 3 rd Exec. V-President 2319 Alava Court Waldorf, MD 20603	Patrick Russell, Member 8 th Dist. Rep., NVAC VA Blacks Hills, HCS Hot Springs, SD 57747	Sandra Eggleston, Member 13 th Dist. Rep., NVAC VAMC Tucson Tucson, AZ 85723
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August 1, 2006

Ronald E. Cowles, Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Labor Management Relations (LMR)
Department of Veterans Affairs, Suite 215
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Subject: VA Directive 5017/2 and VA Handbook 5017/5 "Employee Recognition and Awards"

Dear Mr. Cowles:

The National VA Council #53 is formally demanding to bargain on VA Directive 5017/2 and VA Handbook 5017/5 in the Department. The negotiation of Employee Recognition and Awards are part of the National Master Agreement negotiation between the parties. Any changes in the VA Directive 5017/7 and VA Handbook 5017/5 which are in conflict with the VA/ AFGE Master Agreement, the Agreement shall govern.

Please cease and desist any implementation of changes to VA Directive 5017/2 and VA Handbook 5017/5 until the national Master Agreement negotiations have been completed. 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
Executive Committee, NVAC

**AFGE: The Future Is Ours
Creating A Shared Vision For The 21st Century**