Article 29

Union—Management Meetings

(See addendum following Article for appropriate application)

The Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources or designee and appropriate staff members shall meet with representatives of the American Federation of Government Employees six times a year. These National meetings at SSA headquarters will be scheduled on mutually agreed upon dates and may be attended by a Union representative from each of the six (6) components and the General Committee Spokesperson.

These meetings shall be to exchange information and discuss issues dealing with personnel practices and procedures, matters affecting working conditions and other appropriate subjects. Individual grievances, complaints or any other issue in a formal appellate procedure will not be a subject of discussion at these meetings.

These 1-day meetings will be held during duty hours. ~~The Agency will pay travel and per diem for 5 Union representatives to attend this meeting.~~ All seven Union representatives, who would otherwise be in duty status, will be granted ~~official time~~ **taxpayer-funded union time** in accordance with the provisions in Article 30.

Matters proposed for discussion by either party will be forwarded to the other party at least thirty (30) working days prior to these meetings.

~~The same~~ AFGE representatives ~~on travel status (five total) for~~ **who attend** the National Union-Management Meeting are also authorized an additional day ~~of travel and per diem in order~~ to attend a General Committee meeting which is held the day after the National Union-Management Meeting. ~~Official time~~ **Taxpayer-funded union time** for these General Committee meetings will be handled in accordance with Article 30. **Travel and per diem will not be authorized.**

Lower level committees may be established or retained by the mutual consent of the parties.

Addendum to Article 29

1. ~~If the National Forum continues, the current procedures of Article 29 will be followed; however, the parties will meet four times per year face-to-face and two times per year via technology.~~
2. ~~2. If the National Forum is terminated, t~~**T**he current procedures of Article 29 will continue; however, the parties will meet monthly. ~~face-to-face and the agency will pay for up to seven travelers.~~ Travel for these meetings will normally occur on Monday and Friday.

During this week, the parties will conduct a 3-hour National Union-Management meeting on Tuesday from 1-4PM or at a time mutually agreed to by the parties. The union will conduct a General Committee meeting on Wednesday. The parties will conduct 2-hour component level meetings on Thursday (where such meetings exist under the forum structure as of the effective date of this Agreement).

1. ~~3.~~ The parties will conduct quarterly up to three hour meetings via technology at the DCO Regional level. AFGE will be representated by up to six representatives for these meetings.