

Building Labor Negotiations 2010 Update #1  
January 4, 2010

Many members have asked questions about the status of building negotiations in 2010. With unemployment at record highs in the building sector and no end in sight to this recession, many of our union building contractor members are deeply concerned how negotiations could impact their business the next few years. With credit markets frozen, competition from nonunion contractors on the increase, and available work and margins at all time lows, owner and contractor concerns about cost increases associated with negotiations are dominating discussions among union signatory building contractors. We have had preliminary, informal discussions with the Basic Craft unions about the economy and upcoming negotiations, but there is nothing definite to report at this time. We will continue discussions with our members and the trades and will immediately advise members when there is news to report. Contractors are reminded to review the labor contracts to which they are signatory *in other states*. Many of these agreements have notification clauses of up to 120 days (compared to 60 days in most Minnesota agreements) if the contractor wishes to preserve their right to terminate their agreement or to open negotiations. Now is the time to review these contract clauses if you wish to avoid becoming signatory by not taking the appropriate action required by the agreement. If you have questions contact, Dave Semerad at 651-796-2182 or [dsemerad@agcmn.org](mailto:dsemerad@agcmn.org).