

Jesse Slone

I appreciate you taking the time to be active in our union and our Southeast chapter by reviewing the negotiator candidates and voting. If you just want the high points that demonstrate my qualifications, please consider the following:

- I am prior military and committed to serving for the good of my union brothers and sisters. I was just elected president of our union and I'm ready to get to work.
- I am 20+ years from retirement, and I'm tier IV, so I represent many of you who still need a secure retirement plan. I'll be right here working toward that goal with you.
- I have formal training in negotiations¹; with your help and a strong and well-prepared negotiating team, we can get our wages back on track, which *benefits us all* now and in retirement.
- While I am Class 3, many of my friends and coworkers are Class 1, and I am committed to representing the interests of all strike classes.
- Most importantly, I want to work with you! *We* are the union, and I am working with the board to get approval to start a communications committee to make sure that you are heard and involved in the bargaining process!

I'm truly excited to start working with the new negotiations team, and I hope to be the primary representative from the Southeast Chapter! While I believe I have strong qualifications, I'm also looking forward to learning from those with more experience negotiating collective bargaining agreements with the State of Alaska.

I also believe we are at a time when the culture of the Supervisory Union is changing with the unprecedented influx of new supervisors, and I embrace that change and want to represent *all* the membership. I'm sure many of you are struggling to fill positions, and the better we negotiate the SU contract, the better off all the unions will be in their future negotiations.

To briefly recap my bio: During my time in the military, I learned the importance of taking care of people around me. This sense of responsibility towards others has been the driving force behind my career in the private and public sectors. My education in organizational leadership has reinforced this philosophy, and I currently work as a lead data analyst and IT project manager for the Division of Juvenile Justice.

After receiving encouragement from a few individuals, I carefully considered the idea of becoming Statewide SU President and a Negotiator. I am passionate about improving our benefits and wages, as well as our recruitment and retention issues.

The current state of contracts is insufficient, leading to "permanent striking," the departure of valuable personnel and mounting work demands. The implementation of contractors as a temporary solution has proved to be ineffective. We are at a turning point where competition for workers is increasing, and the state must become more competitive to provide necessary services to Alaskans. I would love the opportunity to work together to make the most of this opportunity and get our benefits and wages back on track!

¹ Besides other relevant military training, my LSU MBA program used negotiations curricula from the Harvard Business School MBA course. Importantly though, negotiating is a team sport and *all* of us are on that team.