

Biography of Jimmie Wallace for Primary Negotiator of South-Central Region

I am again asking for your vote to be the Primary Negotiator for the South-Central Region Supervisory Unit (SU). I absolutely understand the need for a good contract, and we gained some ground in the last series of negotiations, higher COLA's than any other contract in SU history, increased pay for standby, and many other benefits for members. Who doesn't remember the insulting negative 6% pay decrease the State thought was what we deserved. Your team fought through that nonsense with your support, and we ended up with a contract that I thought was fair, that was until I began seeing what other Unions have been able to negotiate. True, they have had the benefit of seeing what SU had negotiated and they were in a time frame where there were higher oil prices along with increased inflation. I am retiring at the end of negotiations, so this next contract will in no way have any bearing on my income, I'm doing this entirely to get the very best contract for all of you.

So, let me introduce myself. I am Jimmie Wallace, an SU member for the last 22 years and State Employee for 29. My entire career has been with the Department of Corrections, having started in 1994 in Fairbanks as a Probation Officer. From there I moved to Anchorage and have held positions at Intensive Supervision and Surveillance, the Pre-Sentence Investigation Unit, the Training Academy, Statewide Sex-Offender Management, the Anchorage Probation Office training unit, Victim Services, and was the Village Public Safety Officer Project Coordinator. For the last dozen years, I have been the Central Transportation Unit Supervisor, in charge of inmate moves around the state, gang intelligence, the K-9 program and the Special Operations Response Teams. My work history has been exciting and varied taking me from Nome to Ketchikan and everywhere in between to include working in different Divisions. Variety has kept me engaged in making the workplace a better place for everyone and now I want to share that energy with the Negotiating Team and our Union to get a solid contract in place for the next three years. Our next contract needs to account for the fact that the people we supervise in many cases make more than we do. That is unacceptable and I intend to fix it in this round of negotiations. Since negotiations ended last time, I have been involved in dialogue with the Administration and providing LOA's and suggestions on how to increase pay for supervisors.

I ask for your support in my bid for the Primary Negotiator in the South-Central Region. It was an honor the last time to be elected and now that I have experience on how negotiations are conducted and the games the Administration likes to play I feel like it is an advantage to have experienced negotiators in place this round. Please support my bid for this position so that I can help support a good contract that meets the best long-term needs of our members. We are only as strong as our weakest link and we are all in this together to support ourselves, our families, our community, and our State.

I intend to ask for a return to the 3.75 annual merit increase and COLA increases commensurate with what others have received in the last two years. Additionally, fixing pay disparities that arise in different bargaining units.

I promise to strive to get the very best contract for all of us listening to your needs and concerns. I'd appreciate your vote on the ballot. I will support all members and I look forward to serving you in the capacity of Primary Negotiator.

In Solidarity,

Jimmie Wallace