



Probation Association of New Jersey
Serving New Jersey Since 1904
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Presidential Newsletter
March 6, 2019

I am writing to you, our members regarding the deal that was reached in the Executive Branch of government with other bargaining units. That deal, if ratified, will run from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023. The PANJ Professional Case Related and Professional Supervisors Unit Contracts will expire one year later, June 30, 2020. PANJ is securing negotiating dates for both units to finalize the contracts before expiration.

Let me say this, my concerns are your concerns when it comes to healthcare, pensions, and wages. When PANJ negotiates the respective bargaining unit contracts, we do so knowing that we also bear the burden of the costs and benefits that you do. The PANJ Executive Board is made up of active Probation Officers' and Supervisors' that receive the same raises and contractual rights that you do. We will one day, rely on the pension system in retirement.

PANJ will enter negotiations to get the best possible deal for members. While details are scarce as to what the changes in healthcare will be, the changes were negotiated and not legislated, as was done with the previous administration regarding Chapter 78. Chapter 78 allocated more of a financial burden to employees without negotiation, through legislation. Governor Murphy's administration appears to have negotiated a deal that will save money, not by forcing more costs onto workers, but by smarter savings in the healthcare arena.

"Negotiations and progress flow from mutual trust," Murphy said in his budget address on March 5, 2019.

Maybe the tide is turning to a fairer, negotiated road. PANJ will see when it returns to the table with the Judiciary shortly.

In Solidarity,

Dwight Covalleskie

President, PANJ