

SPEEA members split on Boeing contracts, engineers accept while technical workers reject



SEATTLE – Engineers and technical workers at The Boeing Company returned a split decision in voting on new four-year contract offers with engineers accepting their offer and technical workers rejecting the offer and giving their negotiation team authority to call a strike.

Votes tallied Tuesday (Feb. 19) by the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), IFPTE Local 2001, show engineers in the Professional unit accepted Boeing’s latest offer for a new four-year contract **6,483 to Accept** and 5,514 to Reject.

However, SPEEA members in the SPEEA Technical Unit rejected the company’s offer to them by 2,868 to Accept and **3,203 to Reject**. Technical workers granted strike authorization by a vote of **3,903 Do** grant strike authorization to 2,165 Do Not.

While engineers and technical workers bargain at the same time, the contracts are separate and independent agreements. With engineers accepting Boeing’s offer, the 15,550 employees in SPEEA Professional Unit are in position to provide inside support to technical workers if Boeing forces a strike.

“There are pathways to a negotiated agreement available,” said Ray Goforth, executive director. “With this second rejection by technical workers of Boeing takeaways, it’s time for the company to stop wasting resources and improve its offer to reflect the value and contributions technical workers bring to Boeing. That way, we can avoid a strike and focus on fixing the problems of the 787 and restoring customer confidence in Boeing.”

While the company offers extended most elements of the previous contracts, including 5% annual wage pools and no increases to employees for medical coverage, union members found fault with the elimination of the pension for future employees. In its place, Boeing offered a 401(k) retirement package that slashed the retirement benefit by 41%. Boeing also refused to ensure existing employees their benefits would not be affected by changes to the Social Security cap on taxable income or raising the Medicare eligibility age. Both are being considered by Congress and would dramatically impact existing retirement packages.

SPEEA contracts expired Nov. 25. Negotiations to secure new contracts started in November, 2011. SPEEA presented a full proposal to Boeing on June 15, 2012. It then took Boeing three months to present a counter offer. That offer was overwhelmingly rejected by 95.5% of the engineers and 97% of the technical workers.

While the majority of covered employees are in the Puget Sound region of Washington state, these contracts include employees in Oregon, Utah and California.

A local of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), SPEEA represents 26,560 aerospace professionals at Boeing, Spirit AeroSystems in Wichita, Kansas, and Triumph Composite Systems, Inc. in Spokane, Wash.

"

%%%"Eqpcev" DmF wi qxlej . "URGGC"eqo o wplecvkpu" f kt gevqt. "%428+'896/958: "qt "%428+'8: 5/; : 79""
".....Tc{ 'I qhqtj . "URGGC"gzgewkxg" f kt gevqt. "%428+'655/2; ; 3""