

Spirit technical and professionals reaffirm SPEEA bargaining unit



WICHITA, KS – Technical and professional workers at Spirit AeroSystems today voted to remain represented by the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), IFPTE Local 2001.

In an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the results show 55% of the 1,968 voting employees recognize the value and need to keep their union negotiated contract. In the final count 1,073 voted “yes” for union representation and 895 voted “no.”

“Now we know this decertification nonsense is behind us, we can concentrate on the real problems of our members,” said Ray Goforth, executive director of SPEEA.

The election covered 2,460 employees in the union’s Wichita Technical and Professional Unit. Employees in the unit voted to join SPEEA in 2000.

Employees voted at work locations on Tuesday (June 24). Votes were counted and announced by representatives of the NLRB. The NLRB called the election after a group of employees filed a petition seeking to remove the union contract.

Union members were very pleased employees turned back the deserters’ effort by a solid margin.

“We won and it is very gratifying to know employees recognized the value of their union representation,” said Donna Castaneda, SPEEA Midwest Council Chair. “Now, we go to the negotiation table as a stronger unit.”

The vote did not include the 675 professional engineers represented by SPEEA at Spirit.

With the election complete, SPEEA resumes preparations to enter negotiations with Spirit as part of the scheduled economic opener in the six-year contract. The union and Spirit postponed negotiations until after the election. The six-year contract runs to July 2011.

Spirit is the primary manufacturer of the nose section of the 787 Dreamliner in addition to the fuselage for the 737 and various other parts for Boeing aircraft.

SPEEA represents 3,900 professional aerospace employees in Wichita, including 712 engineers at The Boeing Company. Overall, the union represents 24,600 aerospace employees at Spirit, Boeing, Triumph Composite Systems and BAE Systems in Kansas, Washington, Oregon, California, Texas and Utah.

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