

webmaster@nteu23

From: *NTEU National President [nationalpresident@nteu.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2013 5:33 PM
To: IRS.NTEU.Member@mtb0120vprelay1.is.irs.gov
Subject: A Message from NTEU

**July 16, 2013**

Update on NTEU's Efforts on Furlough Days

Earlier today, you received the news that the IRS is canceling the furlough day planned for this Monday, July 22. NTEU has been working to mitigate the sequester's impact on employees since it took effect and is pleased that you will not be forced to take one of the scheduled furlough days.

During negotiations over a furlough agreement, NTEU has pressed to allow employees to take unscheduled leave in the event a furlough day is canceled. With today's announcement coming less than a week before the planned furlough day, NTEU understands the frustration of employees who made plans for Monday weeks ago with the understanding that IRS offices would be closed. As the announcement states, employees who wish to take leave on Monday will be permitted to do so without issue. NTEU has confirmed with the IRS that this includes requests for LWOP. NTEU will also continue pressing for the cancellation of the remaining scheduled furlough day, Aug. 30.

Despite the welcome news that IRS employees will not be forced to take an unpaid leave day on Monday, our position on the cancellation of this year's performance awards program has not changed. The NTEU awards program is legally required under the contract and the IRS must bargain over any changes to it. Moreover, employees have already earned these awards through their hard work, and NTEU believes you deserve this acknowledgement of a job well done. There is a mediator-arbitrator hearing on NTEU's dispute over this issue next week. I will keep you updated on any developments.

IRS employees work hard every day collecting the revenue that keeps this country running. Despite the challenge you face at home from having to take unpaid furlough days during a three-year pay freeze, and the challenges at work from budget cuts and understaffing, you remain committed to the IRS mission. Thank you for your ongoing professionalism during this difficult time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen M. Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Colleen M. Kelley
National President

"...to ensure that every federal employee is treated with dignity and respect."