The NABET-CWA Network Negotiating Committee has reached a tentative agreement with NBC Universal on a new contract to replace the Master Agreement which expired on March 31, 2009. This contract offer is the result of numerous bargaining sessions which took place over the past five weeks in New York, and has the unanimous recommendation of the Union’s Bargaining Committee. The new contract, when ratified, will cover approximately 2500 staff and daily hire employees working as broadcast technicians, newswriters, building, air conditioning and plant maintenance personnel, staging services personnel, and couriers at various Company Network and TV station operations in New York, Chicago, Burbank and Washington D.C., including NBC News and NBC Sports. The new contract will run through March 31, 2015.

While complete details of the contract offer will be made available within the next few days, this package contains a number of improvements from NBCU’s July 25, 2011, offer in the areas of economics and job security. The wage offer contains a total of 8% in wage increases over the next three years (2.75%, 2.75%, and 2.5%) beginning on April 1, 2012, in addition to a signing bonus effective upon ratification. In the area of job security, the new contract provides numerous layoff protections for staff employees, and calls for the conversion of a number of daily hire positions into full-time staff positions at each office of the Company. The contract offer also extends the jurisdiction of the Master Agreement to the secondary digital channel operations of WNBC-TV, WRC-TV, WMAQ-TV, and KNBC-TV.

NABET-CWA Locals 11 (New York), 31 (Washington, D.C.), 41 (Chicago) and 53 (Los Angeles) will be conducting ratification voting over the next few weeks, and the votes will be tallied by February 10, 2012. The Locals will also be conducting membership meetings and providing further information on this contract offer during the ratification process.

In the meantime, we remind you to ignore all rumors.

In Solidarity,
NABET-CWA Network Negotiating Committee:
Ed McEwan - President Emeritus, Local 11
Rich McDermott - Vice President, Local 31
Charles G. Braico - President, Local 41
Steve Ross - President, Local 53
James C. Joyce - President, NABET-CWA