

AFGE Local 2199

Newsletter 12/1/24

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2022 Master Agreements available at union office, Native American Heritage Month



Upcoming Events

Holiday Party 12/7/24, Food drive

Membership Meeting

Membership meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. We welcome all to attend. The link to attend the meetings are on the website, [AFGELocal2199.org](https://www.afgelocal2199.org), and once you book the meeting then the link will be sent to you via email.

Lunch & Learn

New Year, new dates for leadership to be swinging by all CBOCS to check in and see how things are going and for questions and info sessions.



UGLY SWEATER PARTY

AFGE Annual Holiday Celebration

For members only (+1's welcome)

Please R.S.V.P. by 29 NOV 24

WHERE: AFL-CIO Union Hall
2261 S. Redwood Road, SLC

WHEN: December 7, 2024 @1830

**Raffle and drawing for Prizes
(must be present to win)**

Grab your best ugly sweater and join the fun





Come join AFGE Local 2199 for the
**1ST ANNUAL COMFORT & JOY
EVENT**

From November 18th to December 23rd we will be collecting blankets and toys for those in need and will be donating them to the local shelters in SLC and surrounding areas

Collection bins will be available in the Union Office and the lobbies of Bldg 550 and 590.

Help us spread some comfort and joy this season



AFGE Local 2199

FOOD DRIVE

Drop off a non-perishable food items into the marked containers at the entrances of the Bldgs. 550 and 590 and in the Union Office.

If you know of a fellow employee who are in need, please drop their name and address, anonymously, into the box. Monetary donations will also be accepted (Venmo available)



venmo

AFGE Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

November 25, 2024

November is Native American Heritage Month, an annual celebration of the culture, heritage, and history of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity for celebration, but it's also an important opportunity to reflect on the dispossession and displacement faced by Indigenous peoples now and in the past, and all the resilience and activism done to ensure the continuance of Indigenous culture and community today.

Efforts to institutionalize a time to honor Indigenous peoples go back over a century. In 1916, the first American Indian Day was declared by the State of New York. Over the course of the 20th Century, a number of states declared similar holidays. In 1986, President Reagan proclaimed the week of November 23-30 “American Indian Week.” In 1990, President George H. W. Bush issued a proclamation designating November as National Native American Heritage Month.

To celebrate National Native American Heritage Month, AFGE’s honoring AFGE members of Native American descent by telling their stories and saluting them for their contributions to the labor movement and the American public as a whole.

This year, we sat down with Jojo Archibald-Begay, an AFGE member who works at the Salt Lake City VA Medical Center in Utah.



Jojo has been working at the VA for more than 20 years. She spent 16 years at the Albuquerque, New Mexico VA Medical Center before joining the Salt Lake City VA. She has been running the Women's Clinic for the past two years where she's passionate about advocating for and interacting with veterans.

A committed member of AFGE for 16 years, she recently took on the role of steward and Pride coordinator, continuing to advocate for workers' rights and fair treatment. She finds fulfillment in serving veterans and VA employees, with a particular focus on ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are met.

Can you share with us your experience growing up on the Navajo Nation Reservation?

I was raised in a little community called Two Grey Hills where I developed a strong work ethic from a young age. I took on responsibilities such as collecting firewood, hauling water for ourselves and the livestock, and tending to a flock of sheep during the summers. Early memories of shared moments with my grandmother, particularly enjoying fresh bread and gravy before beginning the day's tasks, remain vivid and influential. Though I distanced from my community and culture in adolescence, I have since rediscovered and deepened my connection to Native traditions, actively engaging with both Dine (Navajo) and other Indigenous cultures.

What does Native American Heritage Month mean to you?

As an advocate for Indigenous people, I hold complex views about Native American Heritage Month in November, recognizing the historical significance of this month as a time of reflection on the painful history of genocide. I believe that Indigenous peoples deserve to be honored at a time that does not coincide with this somber chapter of history.

Which Native American leader inspired you and why?

I find inspiration in the life and leadership of Geronimo, whose fierce advocacy for the preservation of his people's land and culture serves as a guiding example of strength, resilience, and unwavering commitment to community. I am proud to be Dine from the One Who Walks Around clan, born for the Mud People Clan.

"Working men and working women must have their voices heard when Congress debates policies that will have an impact on your lives. Your input is invaluable, and you will always be able to advocate with the Labor Caucus," said Rep. Horsford who co-chairs the Congressional Labor Caucus and chairs the Congressional Black Caucus.

"Unions are why we have good health care, good pay, dignity," said Cortez Masto.
"Everybody should have that access."

Pet of the Month



Sometimes dogs come in to the Brigham City Animal Shelter and they are adopted right away. Sometimes they are posted and within a matter of hours they have multiple people submitting applications. And then, there are the other scenarios..... 😞



Swayze is the longest shelter resident. He has been in the shelter now for 111 days. I have posted him a total of 22 separate times.

And I just don't know how to help this baby! 😞😞😞 I realize that it's hard when an animal needs to be an only pet, but I also know that it IS POSSIBLE. Swayze is a beautiful boy. He has the most gorgeous fur and piercing blue eyes. And he's a sweetheart!

All he wants in life is to have someone love him. He wants a home with space to run, perhaps an outside job to do, and to have someone throw him a ball. How, in our beautiful state, have we not been able to find one person to love him? Perhaps a retired

individual or couple. A family with older children and experience with dogs. Someone. 😞😞😞

Swayze is a year old. He's already neutered and has a fee of only \$30. The family that adopts him will also receive a gift card to Petsmart after he has been in their home for 30 days. We're hoping this will help with pet supplies or food, while also giving someone the incentive of giving an animal proper the much needed proper time to adjust in a home.

Please share Swayze's story. Please help this boy. 😞🙏😞🙏😞 He's nearing 4 full months in the shelter - a good part of summer and all of fall. No dog should experience that.

The shelter is open from 12-6 today. And Swayze needs to see someone come through those doors for him. Please be that someone. ❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️



Happy
Holidays!

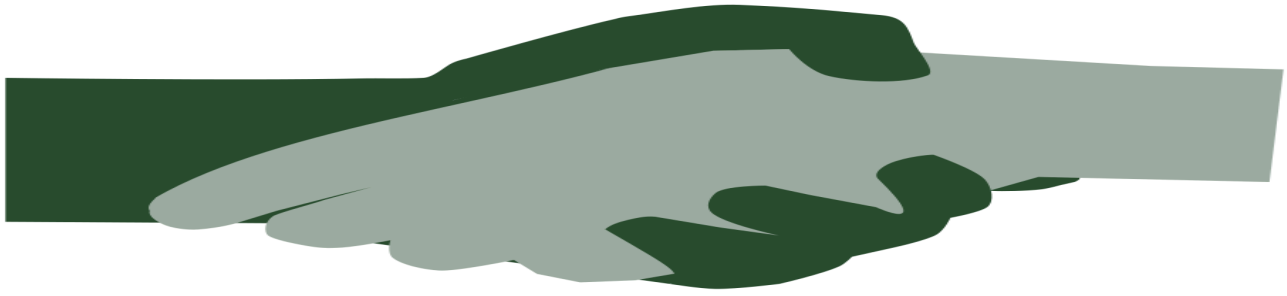
Your partnership with AFGE doesn't have to end when you retire.

AFGE Retirees are front and center in our efforts to honor and defend government employees. That means advocating for a productive, healthy, and secure retirement as well as good jobs, pay, and benefits for those who are still working.

- **Stay connected with friends through social activities and volunteer opportunities**
- **Keep informed about issues affecting retired and active government employees**
- **Take action to protect retirement security, jobs, and government employee pay**
- **Save money on a host of benefits – Retirees receive all AFGE discounts and benefits**
- **Share your skills with the next generation of union leaders and activists**



LEARN AND LEAD



BECOME A STEWARD

Transparency and Availability

Union officers are to provide more transparency and availability. What does this mean for the members? This means that if you need a rep to assist you then you will get one quickly. If you want to know what is happening in the local chapter, then we will have a monthly briefing to inform you of upcoming events. Our goal is to keep everyone informed of local events and events happening on the national level that will affect the VA and the employees.

AFGE LOCAL 2199

Union

President — Robert Johnson
Treasurer/Secretary- Lisa-Maria Manning
Executive Vice President - Jeff VanCuren
VHA Vice President - Open
VBA Vice President -Teresa Salazar
Sergeant At Arms - Caitlinn Tanaka
Chief Steward - Jason Jolly
Political Cord. - Steve Bollschweiller
Womens Fair Practice - Nancy Plambaek
YOUNG Cord. - Charles Borsani
PRIDE Coordinator-JoJo Begay
B.L.A.C.K.- Coordinator-Christine Meadows
APOWER Coordinator-Caitlinn Tanaka
HISCO Coordinator- Teresa Salazar

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<https://www.afge.org>

Facebook - [Local 2199](#)

