

AFGE Local 2199 Newsletter 2/1/24

Inside This Issue

AFGE SEEKS TO BUILD ON THE ORGANIZING SUCCESS FROM 2023. If you see a vet not doing well reach out and make a difference. 22 is 22 too many!! **LegCon** ..Local 2199 shirts available at union office 12.00 each

Upcoming Events

LegCon In DC happening in February. Please let the local know what your concerns are to bring to our state Reps.



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 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.



22



SUICIDES
PER
DAY

22 IS TOO MANY!



  **Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**



**Eagle Eye After Hours
Crisis Hotline**
855-206-8997 or 931-372-3331



HAPPY

Valentine's

DAY

AFGE SEEKS TO BUILD ON THE ORGANIZING SUCCESS FROM 2023

January 10, 2024

Director of the Membership and Organization Department of the **American Federation of Government Employees**, David Cann, joined the America's Work Force Union Podcast to discuss the union's best year for member growth in over a decade. Cann also talked about educating members to prevent anti-union attacks and what the plan is to continue last years organizing success.

In 2023 AFGE experienced a 5 percent growth, the largest year of growth in over a decade. Texas and Florida were two of the largest growing states after rallying together while under attack from legislators seeking to stamp out workers' rights, Cann said. The strategies, tactics and organizers' attitudes have led to national organizing success. Cann talked about how the pride displayed by members helped reinforce the importance of the work being done to protect federal employees.

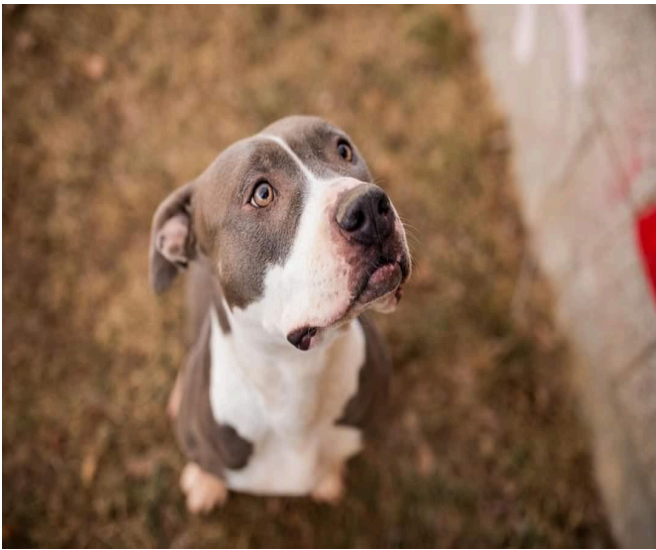
Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina recently tried to decertify the union. Members rallied together to prevent the decertification and push back the anti-union efforts by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation. An understanding of the protections and benefits unions provide and continuously educating the workforce on ways unions are helping workers are what contributed to the success of the AFGE in the vote, Cann said.

The new year brings new goals for organizing for the AFGE. One of the goals is to take in a number of new units in the United States and abroad. Cann discussed improving the density of membership, because with more members, the union can gain more bargaining power. Improving the techniques for remote organizing will be the key to reaching remote workers, Cann added.

For more on the AFGE's organizing plans, please listen to the show above.

America's WorkForce is the only daily labor podcast in the US and has been on the air since 1993, supplying listeners with useful, relevant input into their daily lives through fact-finding features, in-depth interviews, informative news segments and practical consumer reports. America's Work Force is committed to providing an accessible venue in which America's workers and their families can hear discussion on important, relevant topics such as employment, healthcare, legislative action, labor-management relations, corporate practices, finances, local and national politics, consumer reports and labor issues.

America's WorkForce Union Podcast is brought to you in part by our sponsors: American Federation of Government Employees, American Federation of Musicians Local 4, Columbus/Central Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council, Communication Workers of America, International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 6, The Labor Citizen newspaper, Laborers International Union of North America, North Coast Area Labor Federation, Survey and Ballot Systems, United Auto Workers, United Labor Agency, United Steelworkers.



PET OF THE MONTH

The shelter environment is SO rough on our senior animals especially. Poor girl Petunia has been at the shelter for almost 100 days now. West Valley Animal Shelter is desperately seeking a rescue or adopter for Petunia! 🌸 Petunia is a 7-9 year old female pitbull, she is a total love bug she loves to cuddle! She does well with other large dogs but hasn't been tested with small dogs or cats. (We can test her if needed) She loves her stuffed animals. She knows sit and loves to be your shadow (follow you around the house), she is most likely potty trained. She has done well with kids.

She is very skinny and losing weight. She might need some blood work done to check her levels as she's older.

If any rescues are able to help this sweet senior out please message Wvcas Karissa Gold or Wvcas Tess Hartwell or at (801) 509-2703

help us help petunia! We need a rescue or adopter asap!



2024 Legislative and Grassroots Mobilization Conference

Together We Rise: United We Triumph

Welcome to the 2024 Legislative Conference. Registration is now open! Space is limited, so we recommend you register and reserve your hotel room before you sign off for the new year.

The 2024 Legislative Conference will take place in person from Sunday, February 11, 2024 to Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Washington at 400 New Jersey Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20001. You will be able to check in on Saturday, February 10.

All materials will be on the Legislative Conference App at the time of the conference.

Legislative Conference Workshops: This year's conference will offer educational training workshops by District to help prepare you for lobbying and legislative advocacy. You do not need to pre-register for these sessions. You will be able to attend these sessions by registering for the full conference.

In addition to these workshops, you will be able to attend a variety of sessions including your district and council meetings, and a Civil Rights Luncheon hosted by the Women's

and Fair Practices Departments. There is a separate charge of \$85 for the Civil Rights Luncheon.

Congressional Meetings: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot guarantee your member of Congress and their staff will be able to schedule an in-person meeting on Capitol Hill, but with advanced arrangements, most are able to escort you to their offices for your meetings.

We recommend you visit your member of Congress' website to request a meeting ASAP. Be clear in your request that you are their constituent. For questions or more information please contact your Legislative and Political Organizer.

We advise you to make appointments with key legislative staff in DC and follow up with appointments with your House members at home.

Rally: We will be holding a rally on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, between 12-1pm, during the lunch hour. Please do not schedule visits with your members of Congress for that time. More details will be provided at the conference.

We have meetings set up with Mike Lee and Burgess Owens while local 2199 is there.



In the picture from left to right. Susan Nielsen and Teresa Salazar

VBA Vice President Susan Nielsen heard of a member house caught on December 24, 2023 and found that one of the family members' child had lost everything so she organized and donations came in.

Thank you Susan for a union job well done.

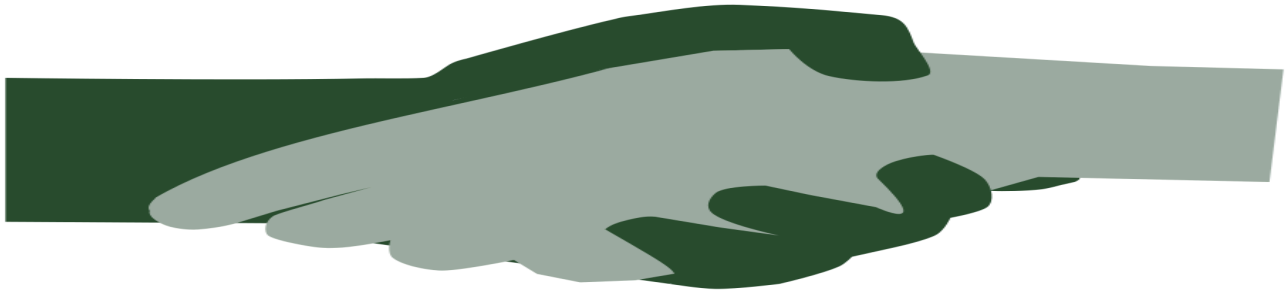


Your partnership with AFGE doesn't have to end when you retire.

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

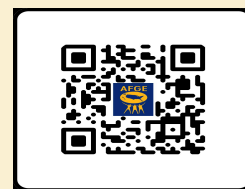
President — Robert Johnson
Treasurer/Secretary- Vacant
Executive Vice President - Jeff VanCuren
VHA Vice President - Lisa-Marie Manning
VBA Vice President -Susan Nielsen
Sergeant At Arms - Caitlinn Tanaka
Chief Steward - Robert Malone
Womens Fair Practice - Michelle Weeks
YOUNG Cord. - Vacant
PRIDE Coordinator-Peter Shubin
B.L.A.C.K.- Coordinator-Kendra Childs
APOWERS Coordinator-Caitlinn Tanaka
HISCO Coordinator- VACANT

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<https://www.afge.org>

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Scan me!