

# AFGE Local 2199

## Newsletter 2/1/23

### Inside This Issue

Holman Rule? What is this? In this issue we will inform you about this. Government workers showing up for work. Read below to see all the details.

Calling all AFGE 2199 members!! We are looking for people that want to become stewards for the CBOCS and for the main campus. Leadership goal is to try to get a steward in all departments and in every CBOC. If you are interested, please contact Rob Johnson or Jeff VanCuren at (801) 582-1565 ext 1086. We are looking for self-driven individuals that have a passion to help others and to make the VA a safer, better, place to be employed.



### Upcoming Events

Coming in February we have the LegCon convention in Washington DC we will be attending and will provide updates on that convention. This gives us a chance to meet with our state and national reps to lobby on your behalf. Please be on the lookout for election information.

### Membership Meeting

Membership meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. We welcome all to attend. Team links will be provided 48 hours in advance for those that are unable to attend in person. We are also considering changing the time for the meetings to make it more available for the masses to attend. More to come!!

### 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.

**Work  
hard  
in silence,  
let your  
success  
be the  
noise.**

Your Positive Oasis



## **Clarification of Inclement Weather Protocol**

**It has been brought to my attention there is confusion regarding our current inclement weather protocol and procedures. To ensure Salt Lake City is in alignment with the use of Weather & Safety Leave, authorized absence etc., I had a meeting with our VISN CHRO and Deputy CHRO to discuss the practices in VISN 19. It was communicated that SLC is the only facility that is granting W&SL on a regular and recurring basis. Common practice is that W&SL or Authorized Absence is used on a case-by-case basis for inclement weather, requiring renewed authorization for each occasion. The expectation is for staff to plan accordingly, to ensure they make it to the workplace safely.**

**Since it has been delegated for this year, I am going to keep with the spirit in which it was intended; but clarify the verbiage to state I am authorizing up to 1-hour Authorized Absence to be used for inclement weather. This should be coded as LN, with the annotation of inclement weather. This cannot be utilized in conjunction with any other leave request.**

**However, I recognize that some employees have lengthy commutes and travel conditions can deteriorate quickly, potentially jeopardizing employee safety. Therefore, if an employee's safe passage to the VAMC or CBOC is in doubt, supervisors are encouraged to be flexible when considering requests for annual leave.**

**I hope this provides the clarity that is needed for you to ensure we are meeting our mission and ensuring that we are keeping our employees safe. If you have any questions please reach out to your supervisor. Have a great day!**

Angela

Angela D. Williams, Pharm.D., M.S.

Medical Center Director

VA Salt Lake City Health Care System

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Salt Lake City, UT 84148

## You AFGE Leadership for next 3 years

President Robert Johnson

Secretary/Treasurer Tina Dameron

Executive VP Jeffery VanCuren

VHA VP Lisa Maria Manning

VBA VP Susan Neilsen

Sergeant At Arms Caitlynn Tanaka

Chief Steward Robert Malone

# 2023 Legislative and Grassroots Mobilization Conference

## **AFGE Rising: Building Our Power By Raising Our Voices**

Welcome to the 2023 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 2023 Legislative Conference will take place in person from Sunday, February 12, 2023 to Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency Washington at 400 New Jersey Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20001. You will be able to check in on Saturday, February 11. This year's conference will offer educational training workshops by District to help prepare you for lobbying and legislative advocacy. 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.



## **AFGE Ready to Mobilize Against Proposals Targeting Workers Under Revived 'Holman Rule'.**

AFGE is watching closely if Congress targets specific federal workers under the so-called Holman Rule revived by House Republicans, and we will be ready to mobilize our members in opposition.

The House passed the rule change Jan. 9 as part of a package of new rules to govern their activities during the new session of Congress. Any action proposed under the Holman rule would

require affirmative votes by the House and Senate and the approval of the president. The Holman Rule, named for the lawmaker who devised it in the late 1870s, allows amendments on the House floor to cut federal spending by targeting specific named employees for firing or salary reductions in appropriations bills. Under this rule, lawmakers will be able to vote to eliminate the jobs of individual workers, programs, offices, or even entire military installations. Jobs could be cut without adhering to normal reduction-in-force (RIF) rules, meaning factors like veterans' status, length of employee service, and high-performance ratings will not apply. By failing to receive input from agencies or other stakeholders, lawmakers could end up cutting critical personnel without knowing the negative impact until it is too late. The Holman Rule undermines civil service protections for the millions of working people who process our Social Security checks, take care of our veterans, support our military, protect communities outside the prison walls, research cures for deadly diseases, and carry out programs and services that are vital to our nation. It is a license for members of Congress to hunt and target individual federal workers or entire groups of federal workers for retaliation. "The whole point of it is to use it recklessly. There's no way to use it responsibly," AFGE Public Policy Director Jacqueline Simon said. "It goes around everything that protects the civil service from political corruption — not just federal employees but entire agencies. It is precisely for theater and to create chaos and disrupt the operation of federal agencies, including law enforcement agencies."



## Government Employees Show Up for Work Every Day

Did you know that more than half of the federal workforce never worked remotely, even in the most dangerous period of the pandemic? Health care workers at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Defense Department civilians, law enforcement at the Bureau of Prisons and Border Patrol, TSA officers, FEMA specialists – all showed their tremendous commitment to their agencies' missions not only throughout the

COVID crisis, but through numerous government shutdowns as well. Their co-workers who were able to continue government operations via telework performed no less heroically through these crises. Yet a new House bill entitled the “Stopping Home Office Work’s Unproductive Problems (SHOW UP) Act” would have the public believe otherwise. “In spite of the misinformation that forms the basis of a bill like the SHOW UP Act, the truth is that government employees show up for work every day – whether they’re working in an office, hospital, prison, military base, or from their homes,” said AFGE National President Everett Kelley. “Anyone who suggests otherwise is deliberately misleading the American public.” Telework benefits agencies, workers, and the public they serve. In 2020, for example, telework helped the government save \$180 million. Congress should be writing bills to fix the real problems affecting government services for the American people such as outdated systems and technology, crumbling infrastructure, and understaffing. Each of these is a direct result of a political ideology that prescribes cuts to the federal budget no matter how much damage ensues. “At a time when agencies across government are struggling to hire and retain a new generation of government employees, Congress should be focused on improving pay, benefits, and career development opportunities. Instead, we see message bills like the SHOW UP Act that denigrate the federal workforce and undermine recruitment and retention,” he added.



## New Year, New WFP Website

AFGE’s Women’s and Fair Practices Departments are kicking off 2023 with a brand new website! Visit the site here: [www.afge.org/wfp](http://www.afge.org/wfp).

Learn more about WFP and the work we do

WFP is committed to protecting and advancing the civil, human, women's, and workers' rights of federal and D.C.

government workers and their families through education and training, member organizing and mobilization, legislative and political action, and representation through litigation. Learn more about WFP and the work we do to support AFGE.

### **Keep up with WFP coordinators, committees and constituency groups**

One of the most important ways WFP advances its mission is through the Human Rights Network—a coalition of AFGE leaders and activists committed to building the power necessary to advance civil, human, worker's, and women's rights for AFGE members, our families, and our communities. Check out [Coordinators & Committees](#) to keep up with the National Human Rights Committee, AFGE Y.O.U.N.G., AFGE PRIDE, AFGE B.L.A.C.K., AFGE A.P.O.W.E.R., and AFGE HISCO.

### **Easier access to WFP resources**

You can find all of WFP's most important resources, like our toolkits, handbooks, brochures, photo albums, and more on our WFP Resource Library. You can even find some of our materials translated into Spanish and Tagalog.



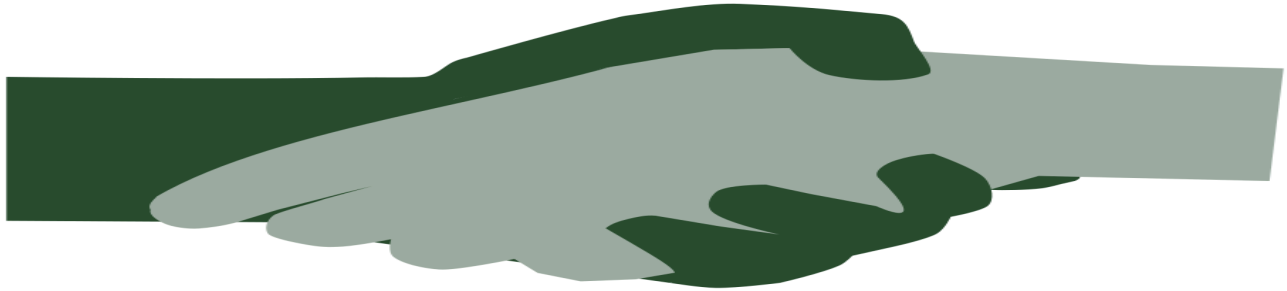
### **Your partnership with AFGE doesn't have to end when you retire.**

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- Tina Dameron  
Executive Vice President - Jeff VanCuren  
VHA Vice President - Lisa-Marie Manning  
VBA Vice President -Susan (Jackie) Neilsen  
Sergeant At Arms - Caitlinn Tanaka  
Chief Steward - Robert Malone  
Fair Practice/YOUNG Cord. - Taylor Wensel  
PRIDE Coordinator- Eli Blevins  
B.L.A.C.K.- Coordinator-Kendra Childs  
APOWER Coordinator-Caitlinn Tanaka  
HISCO Coordinator- VACANT

### **AFGE Local 2199 Contact Info:**

801-582-1565 ext 1086

<https://www.afge.org>

Facebook - [Local 2199](#)

[Afee National page](#)