

AFGE Local 2199

Newsletter 10/1/23

Inside This Issue

Compressed Work Schedule Update. Possible Government shutdown?? Time off to vote act introduced. Afro Festival, and T-Shirt Contest.



Upcoming Events

Halloween Party on Oct 31 in the gem garden.
Need Volunteers to help set up Christmas decor on 11/30 and 12/1. Please contact 1086 for more info.

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.



At this moment Local 2199 has issued a Demand to bargain. What this means is that the director cannot tell us what she is going to do but she must bargain for an outcome that is beneficial for the veterans and the staff.

This is the newest information about Compressed Work Schedules in the new Master Agreement 2023 and it was signed by President Joe Biden.

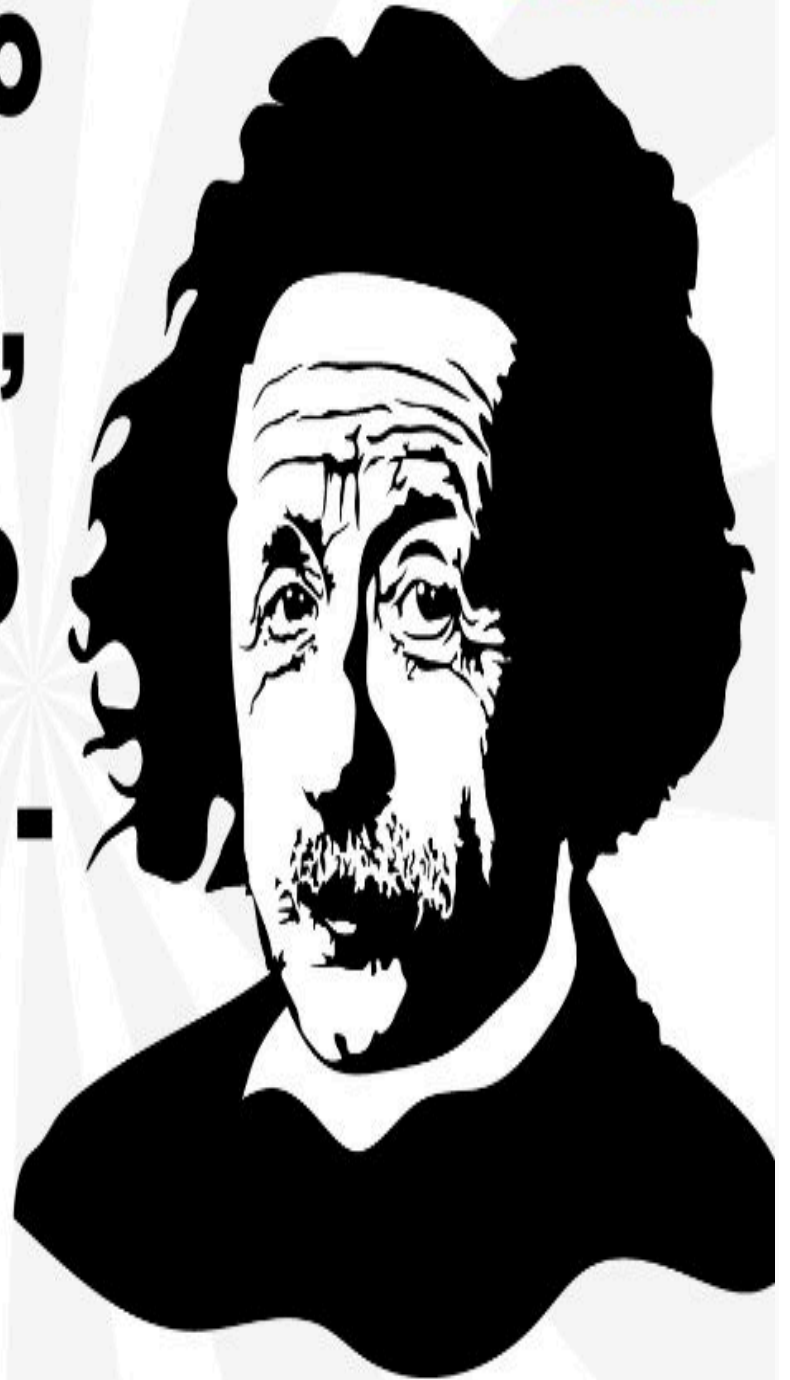
Requests for CWS: a. Each employee desiring to work under a CWS plan must submit a written request to their supervisor for a decision. The Department shall act upon these requests as soon as possible, but in no case later than 30 calendar days after the request is made. If the request is denied, the supervisor will explain in writing the reasons for the denial; upon request, a sanitized copy will be provided to the local union. Decisions on CWS will be made based on valid operational needs. Employees already established in a CWS will not be required to file a new request for each pay period. All new employees or re-hires shall be given the opportunity of requesting participation in the CWS plan. c. Any conflicts in scheduling that result will be resolved in favor of the employee who is most senior, as defined locally. d. Employees who wish to terminate or change their participation in a CWS may do so at the beginning of any pay period after notifying their supervisor at least one pay period in advance or as negotiated locally. Hardship situations will be considered to the greatest extent possible and handled on an individual basis. e. When this contract is implemented, employees on CWS don't have to reapply for CWS in order to continue their CWS.

This is ORDERED by the Commander and Chief, President Joseph Biden.

More updates to come as we receive them!!!

**"Strive not to
be a success,
but rather to
be of value." -**

**Albert
Einstein**





AFGE Urges Congress to Avoid Government Shutdown

September 18, 2023

[Tell Congress to Act NOW and Fund Our Government](#)

Visit afge.org/shutdown and urge your members of Congress to pass funding and stop the shutdown.

Much is at stake for federal employees and the American public when it comes to funding our government. The missions of our agencies depend on full and consistent funding from Congress. The good news is, you can do something about it. The last time Congress shut down the government for 35 days in December 2018 and January 2019, nearly 800,000 federal workers were either required to work without pay or were furloughed from their jobs without pay. AFGE members

struggled to pay bills and feed their families. They drove for ride shares, went to food banks, and were forced to take out loans that caused some employees years of hardship. They also stepped up to share what they had among themselves, like creating on-site food banks for struggling workers.

It's completely unthinkable that they may have to go through this again because Congress has so far failed to do their job.

The last shutdown created a long-lasting financial hardship for working Americans while damaging our economy and creating security risks for our nation.

That's why AFGE is urging members of Congress not to repeat the same mistakes they made a few years ago. They need to come together to either pass full-year funding or a clean short-term measure to keep our government running and protect our country and the services we provide to the American people.

“Shutting down the government is no way to run our country,” said AFGE President Everett Kelley. “We need Congress to do the right thing and pass funding to keep our government running.”

Some of the highlights of the damages done the last time Congress shut down our government:

- 420,000 federal employees were required to work without pay while another 350,000 were furloughed from their jobs without pay. Among those being forced to work without pay for 35 days were Transportation Security Officers, Coast Guard members, Bureau of Prisons employees, Veterans Affairs employees, and Border Patrol officers. These employees were unable to pay their bills or afford groceries for weeks.
- That shutdown cost the U.S. economy \$11 billion – \$3 billion of which was never recovered.
- National Park Service lost \$400,000 a day from entrance fee revenue.
- The shutdown threatened national security as funding shortages interrupted

the FBI's work, including counterterrorism.

- The Department of Homeland Security's new Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency was at risk as it was being operated under a skeleton crew. Security experts feared sophisticated hackers could infiltrate the network and use that as a launching pad to attack other federal networks.
- Environmental Protection Agency employees stayed home, not being able to do their jobs protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we live on. They could not inspect factories, power plants, and others to make sure there were no violations.
- The National Transportation Safety Board halted its investigations into accidents like plane crashes and train derailments due to furloughs.
- Consumers were at risk of contracting food-borne diseases as hundreds of inspectors were furloughed, causing the FDA to cut back food inspections. USDA meat and poultry inspectors were required to work without pay.
- Health services for Native Americans were put on hold.
- The Consumer Product Safety Commission halted the recall of potentially dangerous consumer products, leaving them on the market.

AFGE Launches Shutdown Page With Tools for Members, Local Leaders

Visit afge.org/shutdown and urge your members of Congress to pass funding and stop the shutdown.

AFGE is relaunching our shutdown page at afge.org/StopTheShutdown to provide facts, information, and actions members can take to help avoid a shutdown. The site includes talking points, a sample letter to the editor, sample media release, and other important information.

Please Contact Your elected Officials

Burgess Owens

WEST JORDAN
3549 North University Avenue
Suite 101
West Jordan, UT 84088
Phone: (801) 999-9801

John Curtis

Provo Office
9067 S. 1300 W
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Provo, UT 84604
Phone: (801)922-5400

Blake Moore

OGDEN DISTRICT OFFICE
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Ogden, UT 84401
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Mike Lee

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125 South State, Suite 4225

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Phone: 801-524-5933
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U.S. REPS. CARTWRIGHT AND WILLIAMS REINTRODUCE THE TIME OFF TO VOTE ACT

Legislators Seeking to Require Employers to Provide Employees at Least Two Hours of Paid Leave to Vote in Federal Elections

Washington, D.C., September 8, 2023

U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright (PA-08) and U.S. Representative Nikema Williams (GA-05) have reintroduced the Time Off to Vote Act, which would require employers to provide their employees at least two hours of paid leave to vote in a federal election.

During each election, many wage earners choose not to go to the polls because they simply cannot afford to take time off from work. The Time Off to Vote Act would establish a minimum national standard to give workers time to vote without creating a financial burden.

“Voting should not be a luxury that only the well-off can afford,” said Rep. Cartwright. “This bill reaffirms our commitment to making voting more accessible to all by ensuring that American workers do not have to choose between casting their ballots or receiving a full paycheck.”

“As a working mom, I know how tough it is to carve out time to vote in between our daily demands,” said Rep. Williams, Co-Chair of the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus and the Task Force for Strengthening Democracy. “That’s why I am proud to reintroduce the Time Off to Vote Act because no one should be forced to choose between earning their full paycheck or participating in our democracy. This legislation will make it easier for working people to exercise their sacred right to vote. Everyone deserves free and fair access to the ballot box, regardless of where they work or their flexibility while on the clock.”

This legislation has received the support of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE); Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC; Brennan Center for Justice; Common Cause; End Citizens United/Let America Vote Action Fund; GALEO Impact Fund; Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; League of Conservation Voters; NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.; National Association of Social Workers (NASW); National Education Association (NEA); Service Employees International Union (SEIU); The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; UNITE HERE; Vote.org; Voters of Tomorrow.

“All Americans deserve to have their voices heard and votes counted.

Especially as some states pass discriminatory voter suppression laws, the Time Off to Vote Act is needed more than ever,” said Sylvia Albert, Director of Voting and Elections at Common Cause. to Require Employers to Provide Employees at Least

Two Hours of Paid Leave to Vote in a Federal Election

“We commend Representative Cartwright for his leadership to protect and strengthen the freedom to vote so that ‘We the People’ can continue to have our voices heard.”

“The American public should be able to exercise the right to vote without the obstacle of missing a paycheck to do so. Many face this very choice, and we applaud Representative Matt Cartwright for working to correct this injustice,” said Everett Kelly, American Federation of Government Employees National President. “AFGE represents thousands of employees serving, caring for, and protecting the American public while also working long hours on late-night or odd shifts. Some are front-line workers on shifts around the clock, and even more work far from home and endure commutes that make it difficult to take time off to vote. The Time Off to Vote Act will help American workers including AFGE members exercise their right to vote by delivering them paid leave, which allows flexibility for workers with difficult schedules to access the polls on election day. We support the Time Off to Vote Act and look forward to its passage so that federal employees may more fully participate in our democracy.”

“Black and Brown working people shouldn’t have to choose between making their voices heard at the ballot box and providing for their families,” said Alex Ault, Policy Counsel, Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. The Lawyers’ Committee is proud to once again endorse the Time Off to Vote Act, a necessary piece of legislation to combat the burdens of long lines and ease the hard choices Black and Brown voters too often confront.”

“The ability to participate in the democratic process is one of our greatest rights in this country. No American should be prevented from making their voice heard at the ballot box because they can’t get time off work to do it. We applaud Congressman Cartwright for his continued leadership in expanding the freedom to vote—and we fully support his Time Off to Vote Act,” said Tiffany Muller, President, End Citizens United / Let America Vote Action Fund.

GK FOLKS
FOUNDATION

PRESENTS

Afro Utah Festival

SEPTEMBER
30TH
12PM

JAZZ, HIP HOP, REGGAE, CALYPSO, AFROBEATS, AMAPIANO, SOCA, TANGO, MERENGUE, BACHATA

Live @
Gallivan Center

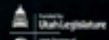
239 S MAIN ST, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111

Sponsored By

ZIONS BANK



GET YOUR TICKETS
FREE





T-SHIRT

AFGE Local 2199

DESIGN CONTEST

**MAKE A COOL T-SHIRT
DESIGN FOR AFGE Local
2199.**

**THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE
A FREE T-SHIRT WITH THEIR
DESIGN ON IT AND 100.00
VISA GIFT CARD .**

CONTEST RULES:

No Profanity, Hatch Act Compliant, In Good
Taste, Solid color shirts only. Can be front and back

**SUBMIT ENTRIES BY September
15, 23 jvancuren.afge@gmail.com .
Can upload jpgs, scanned drawings,
or text design to 801-448-9252**

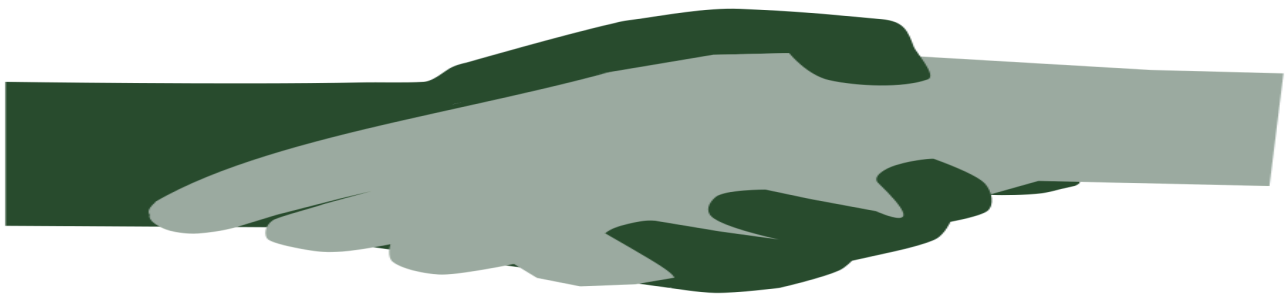


Your partnership with AFGE doesn't have to end when you retire.

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. - Vacant
PRIDE Coordinator- Jackie Kinsey
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](#)