

AFGE Local 2199

Newsletter 9/1/24

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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.



TO ALL OUR MEMBERS:

AFGE Local 2199 does not endorse, or support ANY Political party and does not support the actions of National AFGE. Your choice is yours, and we have no right or responsibility to waive your choice.



8 Takeaways from 2024 AFGE National Convention

August 19, 2024

Categories: [The Insider](#)

The 43rd convention opened last week in Las Vegas with a message of growth and solidarity, the key components that will help us defeat attacks against working people.

The gathering took place only a few months before the most important election in our lifetime where our values and very existence are on the line. AFGE activists and leaders reaffirmed our commitment to building a better future for government employees.

If you missed AFGE's 43rd national convention, here are some of the highlights:

1. AFGE President Everett Kelley fired up the crowd, urging members to stand up against attacks with the power of WE

Kelley reminded members the power they have when they stand together in solidarity. From overturning the previous administration's anti-worker executive orders to becoming the fastest growing large union in America, AFGE members proved that when we come together, we win.

“Through every challenge we face, one thing remains constant – the power of WE. When we stand together, when we are united, when are pulling in the same direction, when we aren’t distracted, when we aren’t divided, when we are speaking with one voice – we have power,” Kelley told the crowd.

2. Coalition of Black Trade Unionist President Terry Melvin brought the house down as he urged union leaders to think about their members’ interest when voting in November

Terry Melvin has spoken at AFGE gatherings many times, and each time his message resonates with AFGE members, and this convention was no difference. Melvin reminded people that this convention is about our survival and the threat against unions is very real.

“I know some of you voted for 45. But it’s not about you. It’s about AFGE. It’s about your members,” he said. “My point is the future is never given. Nothing is guaranteed. You are the leaders of now. The future of this country rests in your hands. AFGE, now is the time to lead. Now is the time to stand up for your members. AFGE, you are the leader. AFGE, be the union we know you are. AFGE, be the future we need you to be!”

3. The P word was the talk of the town

Every speaker talked about how bad Project 2025 would be for unions and members. Everyone agreed that the conservatives’ blueprint for the next Republican government threatens the very existence of unions, the civil service, the merit system, democracy, and everything else we value and stand for.

“What’s at stake? Workers’ protections. Everything we work hard to protect,” said Nevada AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Susie Martinez.

4. AFGE declared August 13, 2024 Representative Bennie G. Thompson Day

AFGE delegates passed a resolution designating Aug. 13, 2024 Representative Bennie G. Thompson Day in honor of his unwavering support for government workers.

Since the establishment of the House Homeland Security Committee in 2005, Rep. Thompson has served as either chairman or ranking member in every Congress. He has been a tireless advocate for DHS workers, especially those at TSA and has introduced legislation to provide full collective bargaining rights for TSOs since 2009. He was also instrumental in providing a historic 31% raise for TSOs in 2023.

Addressing the AFGE convention, Thompson said we still have other things to do between now and Election Day.

“If you want to go forward, you’ll put your car in D. If you want to go backward, you’ll put your car in R,” he said to the cheering crowd.

5. AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said workers are discovering that unions are a major source of power to fight against the economic injustice

Shuler told a story of a Phoenix airport concessions worker named David Bonilla who represents a new generation of union members. Before joining UNITE HERE, he worked dead-end jobs and felt powerless about his future. After getting the union job at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and becoming a local leader, he threw himself in the contract fight after seeing his coworkers work 60 hours a week but not getting by. The next thing he knew, he was part of this historic win for airport workers to raise pay to levels they had never had before with better schedules and dignity on the job.

“Something amazing is happening all over this country. Workers are reclaiming their power. Workers are realizing there is a way to fight back. There is a way to come together and win. It happens in a union. It’s better in a union!” Shuler said. “AFGE is proving that every single day.”

She urged each AFGE member to volunteer and recruit at least one person to help mobilize union households to vote for Vice President Kamala Harris and Gov. Tim Walz who are strong supporters of unions.

6. AFGE took a moment of silence in honor of a BOP correctional officer who recently died in the line of duty

Correctional Officer Marc Fischer died after being contaminated with fentanyl in the mail room at the U.S. Penitentiary Atwater as part of his job preventing the drug from coming into the prison. Addressing the AFGE convention, AFGE Council of Prison Locals President Brandy Moore-White said most people don’t understand how dangerous the officers’ job is and how understaffed the prisons are. She urged AFGE members to help the council reach the goal of sending 30,000 letters to Congress asking for increases of staffing and resources.

7. Union leaders sent in videos greeting AFGE members and stressing the importance of solidarity in the labor movement

NTEU President Doreen Greenwald said she and NTEU members are excited to work with AFGE members to elect a president and vice president that support government workers and the work they do.

AFLCIO Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond said he looks forward to AFGE members leading the way to elect candidates who put workers first this November.

AFSCME President Lee Saunders said two out of three Americans support unions, and we need to sustain that momentum. “We must stick together and have each other’s back. Together we rise, united we triumph! I’m excited what our unions can accomplish together.”

8. Nevada members of Congress reaffirmed their support for government workers

Addressing the convention, Rep. Steven Horsford and Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto told AFGE members how they and their work are important to the American people, and they can always count on them for support.

“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.”

Local 2199 Events

Starting soon AFGE will be set up in the main lobby hopefully on the second Wednesday each month from 1100-1300 for questions / answers and more.

Please come by and say hi.

Pet of the Month



Cortana (Shepherd, Australian mix) Female

Meet Cortana, the epitome of youthful exuberance and boundless energy! This wiggly, playful girl is eagerly awaiting her chance to join a loving family as their ultimate adventure buddy.

Cortana is a joy to be around, always ready for fun and games. Whether it's chasing after a ball or exploring new trails, she's your go-to companion for any outdoor escapade. Despite her zest for adventure, Cortana also has a gentle, cuddly side. She absolutely adores snuggling up with her humans after a day of excitement.

Young and full of enthusiasm, Cortana would thrive in a home that can match her active lifestyle. If you're searching for a loyal, affectionate friend who will keep you on your toes and fill your days with laughter, Cortana might just be the perfect match for you. Please reach out to utahadoptions@bestfriends.org to see what a delightful addition she can be to your life!

The background of the image is a close-up of a brick wall. The bricks are painted with the colors of the American flag: red, white, and blue. The blue bricks feature white stars, while the red and white bricks are solid. The text 'HAPPY LABOR DAY' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The text is arranged in three lines: 'HAPPY' on the top line, 'LABOR' on the middle line, and 'DAY' on the bottom line. The text is centered horizontally and spans most of the width of the image. There are thin white horizontal lines above and below the text area.

HAPPY LABOR DAY

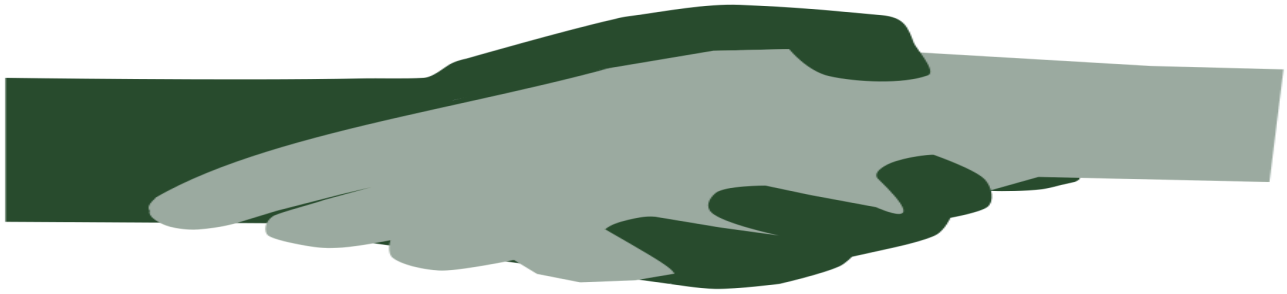
Your partnership with AFGE doesn't have to end when you retire.

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 - Robert Malone
Political Cord. - Steve Bollschweiller
Womens Fair Practice - Open
YOUNG Cord. - Open
PRIDE Coordinator-JoJo Begay
B.L.A.C.K.- Coordinator-Open
APOWERS Coordinator-Caitlinn Tanaka
HISCO Coordinator- Open

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801-582-1565 ext 1086

<https://www.afge.org>

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Scan me!