

THE GUARDIAN

NTEU CHAPTER 68 PUBLICATION

LEGISLATIVE EDITION



2020 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



www.nteuch68.org



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NTEU United!



Legislative Corner

Building Chapter 68's Digital Advocacy Toolbox

Chapter 68's grassroots movements are organized efforts by federal employees to influence lawmaker perception of an issue impacting their livelihood. Nowadays, digital apps, social media and the transition to mobile platforms have transformed the way that federal employees connect with lawmakers which reinvents how constituents participate in the legislative process. Digital advocacy is the result of this innovation.

Advocacy is a central tenet of federal employee issues. Without advocacy, our union contract, workplace rights, pay raises and retirement benefits all would potentially cease to exist. It is vital in advancing legislative issues impacting federal employees working lives. If federal employees don't speak up and advocate for important legislation, those who oppose us will.

Grassroots efforts also give a voice to everyone in the community who cares about the issue. Fruitful discussions between those for and against the issue are likely to provide the most acceptable solutions to the overall community. Community members involved in grassroots movements often have a more realistic idea of what happens when the rubber of policy hits the road.

What Digital Advocacy Tools Do You Use? NTEU's Legislative Action Center. NTEU has made it easy to stay informed on the proposals every federal employee should know about it. After getting educated, visit NTEU's Legislative Action Center to make sure your members of Congress know how you feel about these bills.

Additionally, Chapter 68's website, www.nteuch68.org, has direct link to NTEU's legislative information and action page on its website. Now you can learn about NTEU's legislative priorities, sign up to receive legislative updates, discover your Members of Congress using your zip code, and take action on legislation that concerns you. Simply visit action.nteu.org for all this and more. Remember, if you want to send an email to a Member of Congress, make sure you do NOT use your government email address, and make sure you work on your email on your own time.

With that said, NTEU's legislative advisory committee set the blue print for the legislative conference and recommended priority issues that drive our chapter's legislative efforts this year; Federal Employee Pay, Workplace Rights & Protections, Benefits, Retirement and Agency Funding & Staffing.

Many thanks for being the key of this Chapter's successful grassroots efforts!

Respectively yours,

Nell Arndt, NTEU Chapter 68 Legislative Coordinator

NTEU  **United!**



NTEU is prepared to make 2020 a year of action. "We are here this week because we are NTEU, we are united, and we will be heard." - National President Tony Reardon.

The first day of NTEU's Legislative Conference got off to an energizing start with a speech from Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a leader in the fight for paid parental leave. We were proud to welcome Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney as an honorary member of NTEU. Thank you for your 20-year fight for paid parental leave and for your longtime support of federal employees!

NTEU  United!

2020 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



NTEU  United!



NTEU members took to Capitol Hill where they met with members of Congress to advance the union’s legislative agenda.

NTEU Chapter Leaders had scheduled visits with their respective Senators, Congressmen and Congresswomen and their Legislative staff from the states of NH & MA.

These scheduled visits were face-to-face contact to inform district officials on the issues that affect all federal workers. When Chapter Leaders shared personal stories, it took the key issues from the theoretical to the personal level.



2020 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE





NTEU members were loud outside the U.S. Capitol rallying for our pay, benefits and workplace rights! Thank you to our congressional supporters who addressed the crowd; Congresswoman Lori Trahan, Congressman Don Beyer, Congresswoman Deb Haaland, Congressman TJ Cox, Rep. Jamie Raskin, Rep. Katie Porter, Congressman Gerry Connolly, Senator Mazie Hirono and Congresswoman Angie Craig.

It's a wrap. Another Legislative Conference has ended, with NTEU leaving our mark on Capitol Hill. "Your activity here this week and what you do back home truly matters," President Reardon said in closing out the conference. "It can make the difference as we face challenges and threats to your pay, benefits and collective bargaining rights." Keep the momentum going by learning more about our legislative agenda and contacting your members of Congress. Your emails and phone calls make a difference.

2020 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

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NTEU United!



Protecting Federal Workers' Collective Bargaining Rights and Union Rights



- Preserve the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 which codified the right of federal employees to form labor unions and engage in collective bargaining. Federal employee due process and collective bargaining rights ensure safe, transparent and fair agency workplaces that prevent a politicized civil service and safeguard whistleblower protections.
- Preserve and improve innovative workplace initiatives developed under collective bargaining such as alternative work schedules (AWS) and telework



Improving Federal Employee Pay

• Provide competitive pay to federal workers so our federal government can continue to recruit and retain the most talented workforce.

- Provide hardworking federal employees a pay raise that is comparable to private sector raises and that reflects the healthy national job market.
- Stop the attacks on the federal workforce. Federal employees contributed approximately \$200 billion over a 10-year period toward deficit reduction through pay freezes and furlough days, below-market pay adjustments and retirement contribution increases.



For more information, please contact Nell Arndt, NTEU Chapter 68 Legislative Coordinator email: nteuchapter68legislative@gmail.com



Preserving and Modernizing Employee Benefits and Retirement



- Protect federal employee retirement benefits. All employees deserve a secure retirement. Federal employees earn modest retirement benefits (approximately\$1,100 per month),but those benefits have been under attack.



- Expand employee benefits to include programs such as paid family leave.

STAND FOR
PAID FAMILY LEAVE



Supporting Adequate Federal Agency Funding



- Provide sufficient funding to ensure agencies can meet their missions and perform the essential work they do for the American public.

- Stop government shutdowns and stop using agency funding as a political bargaining chip. Government shutdowns, hiring freezes and additional proposals to reduce the work force significantly undermine the ability of agencies to perform their basic functions and harm the public, which relies on agency programs and services.

For more information, please contact Nell Arndt, NTEU Chapter 68 Legislative Coordinator email: nteuchapter68legislative@gmail.com



POWER—People Organized to Win Employee Rights

The goal of the P.O.W.E.R. program is to strengthen chapter 68 legislative efforts and to engage chapter members in grassroots activity throughout the year. As part of POWER, chapter 68 leaders contact their elected officials, hold voter registration drives, conduct letter-writing campaigns, get members to vote, and hold other events that encourage NTEU members to become more politically active.

NTEU works to ensure that all NTEU members are tuned in to real time legislative updates. We also want to ensure that members can be contacted at a moment's notice and are responding accordingly to NTEU's legislative calls to action. In the fourth quarter of 2019, the top 3 issues on which members sent letters to Congress were:

- *Asking Congress to reach a funding agreement to keep agencies open and adequately funded in 2020.*
- *Asking Congress to support a pay raise for federal workers for 2020.*
- *Asking Congress to support the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act.*

We will continue to send these letter updates out every quarter, so you can see the progress our chapter is making. We strive to engage and empower our membership by educating them about legislation that impacts all federal employees and how you can take action.

Please share this information with members and ask them to take action on the issues that affect their pay, benefits and agency funding. Please note, that you may email your members of Congress while onsite through NTEU's Legislative Action Center as long as you are on your own time, use a personal email address, smartphone or tablet. Please do not use your government computer or email. And, remember, you can always use your personal device to share your thoughts with Congress.

Every effort you make, large or small, to increase the number of letters being sent to Congress from our chapter matters and can make all the difference. ***You have a Choice: Shrink with Fear or Soar with Courage.***

Respectively yours,

Nell Arndt, NTEU Chapter 68 Legislative Coordinator





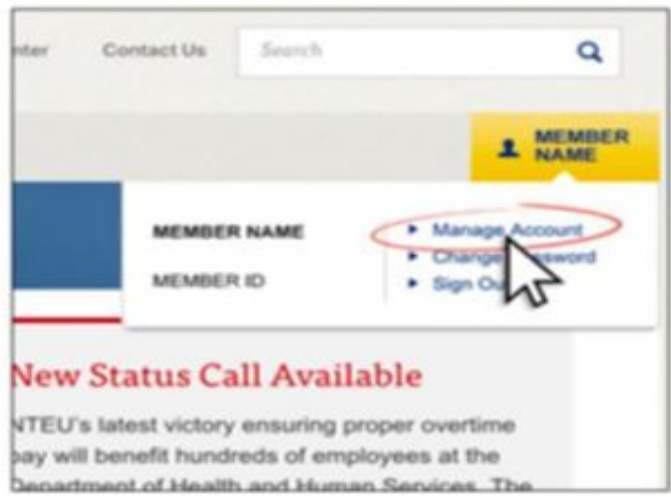
Help NTEU Reach You

In this very busy news environment, NTEU wants to make sure we can reach you with information you should have. Often, that information is best shared, privately, outside of government email systems.

Take a moment to check your member profile to see if your personal email address and cell phone number are there and accurate.

NTEU will never sell, share or use this information for anything other than keeping you informed.

Check your information today:



- Log in to www.nteu.org
- Hover your cursor over the yellow box with your name in the top right corner
- Select "Manage Account"





NTEU releases checklist for keeping federal employees and their communities safe.

Coronavirus COVID-19 RESOURCES

NTEU Calls for Immediate Action

The federal government should immediately be implementing these steps to protect employees and their families, including closing federal buildings where more than 50 employees work. View full checklist here.

Top News

NTEU Checklist: Close Federal Buildings with 50 or More Workers

The federal government should follow the directions of its own Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and close all federal buildings with 50 or more employees, NTEU National President Tony Reardon said Monday. Many federal employees in these buildings are not telework eligible and work...

Read more



Checklist for the Federal Government

NTEU calls on the federal government to take these steps immediately to protect its employees from the coronavirus and halt community spread in cities and towns across the country. The federal workforce is the largest in the nation and keeping them safe and healthy will benefit all American citizens by helping halt the spread of COVID-19.

- Expand Telework
Close Government Buildings
Authorize Weather and Safety Leave for Certain Non-Telework Eligible Employees
Halt All International and Domestic Travel
Make COVID-19 Tests Available for Federal Employees
Extend the Tax-Filing Season
Provide Basic Disinfectant Supplies
Notify Employees



NTEU National Treasury Employees Union

See What You Can Do!

Visit NTEU.org Action Center Today!

ACTION STAR CENTER

Help protect federal employees from COVID-19

Ask Congress

Support a fair pay increase of 3.5% in 2021

Give to TEPAC

Write Congress

Connect



Note: Do not use government computer. Use home computer, personal email, phone and tablet. Must be done on your time.

"Moist, mellow, and full of almond flavor."

Ingredients

- 8 ounces almond paste
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 4 eggs, separated
- 2 cups all-purpose flour

6 drops red food coloring

6 drops green food coloring

1/4 cup seedless red raspberry jam

1/4 cup apricot jam

1 cup semisweet chocolate chips, melted

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Line three 9x13 inch baking pans with parchment paper.
- In a large bowl, break apart almond paste with a fork, and cream together with butter, sugar, and egg yolks. When mixture is fluffy and smooth, stir in flour to form a dough. In a small bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Fold egg whites into the dough. Divide dough into 3 equal portions. Mix one portion with red food coloring, and one with green food coloring. Spread each portion into one of the prepared baking pans.

Rainbow Cookies



- Bake 10 to 12 minutes in the preheated oven, until lightly browned. Carefully remove from pan and parchment paper, and cool completely on wire racks.
- Place green layer onto a piece of plastic wrap large enough to wrap all three layers. Spread green layer with raspberry jam, and top with uncolored layer. Spread with apricot jam, and top with pink layer. Transfer layers to a baking sheet, and enclose with plastic wrap. Place a heavy pan or cutting board on top of wrapped layers to compress. Chill in the refrigerator 8 hours, or overnight.
- Remove plastic wrap. Top with melted chocolate chips, and refrigerate 1 hour, or until chocolate is firm. Slice into small squares to serve.



St. Patrick's Day Facts

Every March 17, countries around the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day in observance of the death of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland credited for bringing Christianity to the country. Initially a religious feast day in the 17th century, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a day of celebrating Irish culture with parades, music, dancing, special foods, and of course, a lot of green.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, here are a few interesting St. Patrick's Day facts!

- Saint Patrick didn't wear green. His color was "Saint Patrick's blue." The color green became associated with St. Patrick's Day after it was linked to the Irish independence movement in the late 18th century.
- Despite his Irish notoriety, Saint Patrick was British. He was born to Roman parents in Scotland or Wales in the late fourth century.
- According to Irish legend, Saint Patrick used the shamrock as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity when he was first introducing Christianity to Ireland.
- Saint Patrick is credited for driving the snakes out of Ireland, but according to the fossil record, Ireland has never been home to snakes as it was too cold to host reptiles during the Ice Age. The surrounding seas have kept snakes out since.
- There isn't any corn in the traditional St. Patrick's Day meal of corned beef and cabbage. The name is a reference to the large grains of salt historically used to cure meats, which were also known as "corns."
- Saint Patrick was born but "Maewyn Succat" his name to "Patricius" after becoming a priest.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SEARCH



- LEPRECHAUN
- POT OF GOLD
- RAINBOW
- SHAMROCK
- GOLD
- LUCKY
- IRISH
- GREEN
- CLOVER
- MARCH

R I L K E U F L E P R E C H A U N T D S Y O
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NTEU PARKING RAFFLE

Next drawing is for April and May



Enter by March 20th @ NTEU Union Office/Stop 935 Union Office # (978)783-8426

Name: _____

TOD: _____

PHONE: _____

NTEU Sponsored Lunch and Learns

Health Education Prediabetes and Diabetes



Prediabetes and Diabetes Lunch & Learn Highlights:

- This session outlines the differences between prediabetes and diabetes, and how to prevent or manage these conditions.
- Nutrition and exercise tips included!
- Blue Cross representatives available to answer questions.

ANDOVER - Café Function Rooms 223 & 224

Date: Tuesday, April 28th

Times: 11:30 AM, 12:00 PM and 12:30 PM
5:30 PM, 6:00 PM and 6:30 PM



**BlueCross.
BlueShield.**

Federal Employee Program.

NTEU members only

For questions, please contact NTEU office at nteu.chapter.68@irs.gov
or call 978-783-8426

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