

Outstanding organizing



AFGE Local 987 President Marion Williams accepts the Diamond Award on behalf of the membership from Fifth District National Vice President David Mollett. The award was presented during the recent District 5 training conference. It was, according to AFGE District 5 Program Manager Monica Rice, "in recognition of the Local's participation in the 2022 election cycle." In fact, that organizing effort said Williams - with AFGE Local 987 Treasurer Jeanette McElhaney leading the way - was praised by a number of organizations, to include the National office and President Everett Kelley, among them. Said Williams: "When you're able to increase the vote in South Georgia 1.5 percent (the figure the National passed on, and speaking just to the runoff between Raphael Warnock and Herschel Walker), and dealing with over a million people, that's quite a bit in a two-week period." (Courtesy photo)

Local intensifies arbitration effort

By **DON MONCRIEF**
Editor, The Union Advocate
don.moncrief@afgelocal987.org

Winter brings its chill and puts the freeze on a lot of things. Not arbitrations. In fact, Local 987 has just turned the heat up on them. To the rate of "four a week," said AFGE Local 987 President Marion Williams. "Not including anything that's been activated from Jan. 1, 2023 or forward," he said, "(but) working in conjunction with the older ones."

"So people should see a quicker response time on their grievances going to arbitration. Those that are selected to go (to

arbitration)."

The team busy working this all out is the Arbitration Committee. It includes, Williams said, himself, Stewards James Watson, Jerry Galloway and Sam Berry, VP At-Large Mike Ferguson, VP of DLA Teresa Freeman and DLA Steward Brandon Respress (along with others who may be added as time goes on, said Williams).

"What we want to make clear," he said, "is any employee can file a grievance. That's Step 1. At Step 2, the grievance belongs to the Union. And after the Step 2 decision, the committee will meet and at that point go over the grievance. See what

all's there and make a decision jointly on how to move forward. Whether it will be invoked or not invoked into arbitration.

"Any way we do it," he continued, "the member will be notified that their case was invoked for this reason or not invoked based on this reason."

"So, they'll get notification on how that comes out."

Williams explained that the committee operates within a 45-day window.

"It gives us a buffer within the committee because the committee (members) can't meet every day or every week

See **EFFORT**, page 3

YOUNG holds MLK banquet

By **BRANDON RESPRESS**
Chair, AFGE Local 987 YOUNG
brandon.respress@afgelocal987.org

The Inaugural YOUNG MLK Banquet hosted by AFGE Local 987's YOUNG Committee (Young Organizing Unionists for the Next Generation) was educational and entertaining.

The AFGE National YOUNG Committee had Chair Dr. Kendrick B. Roberson come out and provide a speech as the keynote speaker for the event. He outlined the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the struggle of the Labor movement and minority people.

He did an excellent job tying the history of the fight from past to present times. He captivated our union-member audience with his vast knowledge and style of delivery.

The program consisted of an opening by Local 987 President Marion Williams. He expressed the importance of supporting our younger members to sustain our union for years to come.



Above: AFGE Local 987 staff and guests of the Inaugural YOUNG MLK Banquet take a break from activities for a photo op. The event was held Saturday at the Warner Robins Convention Center. Below: YOUNG Committee Chair Brandon Respress and YOUNG Committee member Tia Simon speak to those in attendance. (Courtesy photos)

He was followed by Co-Chair of 987's YOUNG Committee

See **BANQUET**, page 6

Local prepares for DEFCON/LegCon

By **DON MONCRIEF**
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AFGE Local 987 will be sending a contingent of representatives to the AFGE 2023 Legislative and Grass-roots Mobilization Conference Feb. 12-15 in Washington, D.C.

That will most probably be the highlight of the trip. The journey itself will begin with the DEFCON meeting, Feb.

9-11, also in Washington. That, AFGE Local 987 President Marion Williams said will be used to discuss "some of the issues impacting federal employees." Those issues in turn, he said, will be taken to the LegCon and presented there.

The group will also have the opportunity to take part in training: "... educational

See **PREPARES**, page 3

"He did an excellent job tying history of the (Labor movement) fight from past to present times. He captivated our union-member audience with his vast knowledge and style of deliver."

- AFGE Local 987 YOUNG Chair Brandon Respress, on Kendrick Roberson, AFGE National YOUNG Committee Chair and keynote speaker of the MLK banquet held this past Saturday



AFGE Local 987 welcomes Antonio Lumpkin and James Watson to the Union Hall as full-time stewards. You can reach both at 478-922-5758 or at the Hall, which is located at 1764 Watson Blvd. (Note: With "your" time in mind, "appointment" is always best.)

"This is your union. We're here to do things to support the members." - AFGE Local 987 President Marion Williams

Entertainment Committee meets; begins bold event planning effort

By **DON MONCRIEF**
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You've heard it said. Maybe even said it yourself: It appears Christmas - decorations, et cetera - hits the store shelves earlier and earlier every year.

Well, truth be told. Christmas is also on the mind - heart - of Local 987. The difference is the Local's not motivated by profit but "necessity".

"Most venues we can use to hold our numbers, they'll be booked up in January," said AFGE Local 987 President Marion Williams. "Because people use the same places. By February, March, you won't find these places."

Williams was referring to once again having a Christmas party for members; something COVID has derailed the past couple of years. To that end, the Entertainment Committee met this past week. It was one, Williams said, to get back to meeting and two, to begin planning future events for the Local.

One of those is, as mentioned, the Christmas party - one for adults and a separate one for the children. Williams said the committee is also looking at "potentially" holding an event for Memorial day May 29;



Shown are AFGE Local 987's Entertainment Committee members. (Courtesy photo)

"although it's short notice," he said, meaning they may not be able to put it together in time. They're also looking at, again "potentially", holding an event for Labor Day, Sept. 4 and possibly the Fourth of July.

One of the main things, he said, is that they're meeting ... "at least every week, or every other week until they get some things figured out."

That's part of his overall vision: "One of my goals is to have all 11 committees actually moving (forward)." And, "If any of our members want to join a committee, there's no criteria.

All that is required is for you to come out an talk to us. Give us your ideas and you can get involved in the union and shape

the way you want it to be shaped. "This is your union. We're here to do things to support the members."

Volunteers are still needed for the following committees:

- YOUNG
- Stewards
- Resolution
- Training and Education
- Grievance/Arbitration
- Publicity
- Fair Practice
- Retiree
- Women's
- Entertainment
- Veterans

Call Union Hall at 478-922-5758 for more or to sign up.



Membership meeting

Local 987 will have a membership meeting Feb. 16 at 5 p.m. It will be held via Zoom. Membership will be verified before you are admitted into the meeting/teleconference. To that end, you must ensure you have a current email on file or you will not receive the Zoom link. You can make updates by calling Union Hall at 478-922-5758 or by emailing Linda Baxter at linda@afgelocal987.org or Jeanette McElhaney at jmac@afgelocal987.org.

Note: Per AFGE Local 987 President Marion Williams, barring any unforeseeable circumstances, March's membership meeting (March 16) will be in person (and still via Zoom for those who prefer/choose to attend via that vehicle, he said.)

Never-ending quest for motorcycle safety

By ERIC T. HOEHN
AFMC Safety Office

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio - Motorcycle Mishaps are a big safety concern for the Department of the Air Force, with the service averaging nearly 12 incidents per year over the past 10 years. Most motorcycle mishaps are preventable, and individuals can take steps to minimize the potential for injury and possibly even death while on the road.

You wear your personal protective equipment. You stay on top of your motorcycle's routine maintenance. You follow all rules of the road when you ride. What more can you do to be a safe rider? A LOT!

Safety is one of those things in life that is never-ending.

There is always something else you can do to be safe. Let's look at a few informational safety items that you can take with you when you head out on the highway.

Hit the brakes

Braking is probably the most important action that a rider can perform. Braking allows a rider to quickly slow down and come to a stop before hitting an obstacle.

Most riders do not fully understand the distance that is required to bring the bike to a full stop. Braking distance increases with speed, and unfortunately the increase is not linear. If a bike that is doing 30 miles-per-hour can stop in 33 feet, it doesn't mean that the same bike doing 60 miles-per-hour would be able

to stop in 66 feet. It will actually take 134 feet for the bike to stop!

Speed kills! Slow down, and give yourself time to react.

Put yourself in a safe place

If you are riding in a driver's blind spot, they may not see you. Additionally, the driver may fail to adequately check their blind spots before changing lanes or making turns.

Give yourself plenty of room. Car drivers are relatively limited in their ability to alter their position within the lane, since they normally occupy about 50 to 70% of it. Motorcycles, on the other hand, occupy a very small part of the lane and can use this to great advantage.

Remember to alter your road position to:

See **MOTORCYCLE**, page 3

Medal of Honor spotlight

Army Air Corps Maj. Thomas McGuire

By KATIE LANGE
DoD News

During World War II, Army Air Corps Maj. Thomas B. McGuire Jr. was a legend. The young pilot became one of the top-scoring airmen in U.S. air combat history in a very short timeframe. His skills and prowess in the air also helped him earn the Medal of Honor over Christmas 1944.

McGuire was born Aug. 1, 1920, in Ridgewood, New Jersey, to parents Thomas and Pauline.

He was the only child of the fairly affluent couple, who owned an automobile dealership. McGuire's parents eventually separated, so he moved with his mother to Sebring, Florida, where he spent his teenage years playing various musical instruments and becoming a sports car enthusiast.

He also grew interested in flying after hearing stories from an uncle who was a World War I pilot.

After graduating high school, McGuire went to the Georgia School of Technology (now Georgia Tech) to study aeronautical engineering.

However, he left in July 1941 after his third year of studies to join the Army Air Corps as World War II raged. McGuire trained to be a fighter pilot, earning his wings and a commission in February 1942.

His first assignment was flying patrols over the Aleutian Islands and Alaska in a P-39 Airacobra. That's where he honed his



Photo courtesy defense.gov
Army Air Corps Maj. Thomas McGuire

instincts as a pilot—something that seemed to come natural to him.

In December 1942, McGuire transitioned to flying the P-38 Lightning. That same month, he married Marilyn Giesler, whom he had met during training in Texas.

In March 1942, McGuire, who went by the nickname Mickey, was sent to Australia with the 49th Fighter Group. A few months into his deployment, the 475th Fighter Group was created, and he was chosen to join it as part of the 431st Fighter Squadron.

Nicknamed "Satan's Angels," the 431st flew all over the South Pacific on missions that ranged from escorting bombers to making fighter bomber sweeps.

He also helped the armorers with testing new machine guns and cannons on the P-38s.

In August 1943, McGuire got his first taste of aerial combat. Over the span of

two days, he shot down five enemy aircraft while protecting bombers over New Guinea.

By the end of the month, he had scored two more kills, received a Silver Star and earned three Distinguished Flying Crosses — a record made over an eight-day period that no one in Air Force history has surpassed.

During the summer of 1944, McGuire struck up a friendship with famed aviator Charles Lindbergh, who was visiting the 475th in the Pacific as a civilian consultant.

According to the newspaper The Ridgewood News, McGuire and Lindbergh bunked together in a hut in New Guinea, and Lindbergh flew the occasional secret mission with McGuire in his P-38.

On Christmas Day 1944, McGuire volunteered to lead a squadron of 15 P-38s as protection for heavy bombers attacking a Japanese-held airfield over Luzon Island in the Philippines.

They were on their way when the formation was attacked by 20 Japanese fighter aircraft.

McGuire repeatedly flew to the aid of his embattled comrades and drove off enemy assaults, even though he was sometimes outnumbered three to one.

At one point, his guns jammed, but he continued the fight by forcing an enemy aircraft into his wingman's line of fire. He had shot down three Japanese Zeros by the time he headed back to his base.

On the 26th, McGuire led more escort fighters on a mission to Luzon's Clark Field, which the Japanese had taken from the U.S. when it invaded the Philippines earlier in the war.

While he was trying to rescue a crippled bomber, he shot

See **SPOTLIGHT**, page 3

BBB offers tips for trusting your tax preparer

Most people get help filing their taxes, either from computer software or a professional tax preparer.

In addition, some filers may have questions regarding new tax laws and their impact on their personal taxes. But horror stories in the media about tax service rip offs and scams have some consumers concerned about who they can trust with their financial data and private information.

A paid tax return preparer is primarily responsible for the overall, substantive accuracy of your tax return(s). If there is a problem with your return or you are audited by the Internal Revenue Service, the tax preparer can help you address the issue and can often represent you.

The preparer is required to sign your tax forms (paper or electronic) and provide their preparer tax identification number, a number assigned by the IRS.

Better Business Bureau advises taxpayers to be extra cautious when choosing a tax preparer, since that person or company will have access to your personally identifiable information. Here are some BBB tips to help you find a tax preparer you can trust.

Get referrals. To find a tax preparer, start by asking friends and family for recommendations, then check BBB Business Reviews at bbb.org. Look beyond the letter grade; complaint details and Customer Reviews will tell you about others' experiences.

Make sure they are properly registered. A tax preparer must obtain a PTIN from the IRS. Never let someone work on your taxes unless they have this number. Don't be afraid to ask about this or other qualifications; a capable professional does not mind questions.

Look for credentials. Anyone with a PTIN can prepare your tax forms for you, but some tax preparers have more training and qualifications than others.

Enrolled agents, certified public accountants and attorneys have unlimited rights to represent their clients to the IRS on all matters.

Other preparers can help you with forms and



Kelvin Collins

simple IRS matters, but are limited otherwise, and they can't help you if they didn't prepare your form. Learn more about tax preparer credentials on the IRS website.

Keep a watchful eye for promises. Be wary of any tax preparation service that promises larger refunds than their competition and avoid tax preparers who base their fee on a percentage of the refund.

Also be wary of "refund anticipation loans," which can take a hefty chunk of your refund in commission. Refunds are processed quickly these days, so it's a better bet to just wait for the real thing rather than pay a premium to get it now. Refund Anticipation Loans also created some delays for many individuals receiving stimulus payments within the last year.

Search for free tax programs. There are several free government programs that prepare taxes free of charge if you meet an income requirement; go to the IRS's Free File page for more information.

Most will also file your state return as well. If not, check with your state's Department of Revenue to find out about their programs.

Tax software and apps. If you plan to file yourself, use tax software or an app that provides both excellent data security and good customer service. Some of the top names in tax prep software are BBB Accredited Businesses, so check with bbb.org first.

New tax laws can help create confusion that dishonest preparers will capitalize on, so taxpayers should always review their return before signing, ask questions on entries they do not understand.

Also be sure to get a copy of the return for your records. Finally, do not ever sign a blank tax form or one filled out in pencil!

For more trustworthy consumer tips, visit BBB.org.

How to turn your finances around in the months ahead

(StatePoint) Many consumers are feeling financial strain after a challenging economic year in 2022. One in three Americans say they are struggling to get by or are in trouble financially, according to Lincoln Financial Group's Consumer Sentiment Tracker.

The study also found that people aren't necessarily seeing any relief in sight, with 76% believing factors like inflation, market volatility and debt will worsen.

However, there are a few bright spots. Those who had specific financial goals last year were two to three times more likely to say various aspects of their personal finances improved.

They were also three times more likely to say they did a great job on their overall financial wellness last year and twice as likely to be optimistic about their finances in 2023.

So where should you start in creating and reaching your own financial goals?

"While financial goals don't need to be complicated, you should be able to easily track and monitor your progress," said Ed Walters, senior vice president, Lincoln Financial Network, the wealth management arm of Lincoln Financial Group. "Consumers' wallets are stretched thin with many competing financial priorities, so now is a great time to get back to the basics."

Lincoln Financial Group recommends setting these three goals to help turn your finances around in the months ahead:



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) Jacoblind / iStock via Getty Images Plus

1. Develop and stick to a budget.

Keep it simple. Start with fixed expenses like mortgage, rent, savings and car payments, then move to the more flexible expenses like groceries and entertainment.

Instead of establishing a fixed amount, bucket the flexible expenses together and adjust how you allocate your money monthly to address your needs and plans for that month. Tap into budgeting calculators and other expense management tools.

2. Save some money from every paycheck.

Now that you have a simple budget in place, take a few minutes to review those monthly expenses, from mortgage and car payments to morning coffee.

Cutting a little bit here and there may reveal extra money to set aside. Those funds can be put toward an emergency sav-

ings account, employer-sponsored retirement plan or college fund, or be used to prioritize investments.

You'll be surprised how quickly a little bit adds up over time.

3. Work with a financial professional.

Lincoln's study found consumers who are advised by financial professionals are more successful in meeting their goals.

A financial professional can help tailor a holistic plan to your specific needs, as well as educate you about various insurance and retirement solutions.

"It's important that you're honest with yourself about where you are financially and what your goals are," said Walters. "With a little discipline, knowledge and guidance, you can have a strong financial year and see long-lasting results."

By the end of the month, he had scored two more kills, received a Silver Star and earned three Distinguished Flying Crosses - a record made over an eight-day period that no one in Air Force history has surpassed.

In a weight loss plateau? 6 reasons why the scale is stuck

(StatePoint) So, you took the leap and signed up for a weight loss program. But once you got started, it was a whole different story. While you may feel like you're doing everything to a T, the scale is stuck and you can't figure out why.

Plateaus are a normal part of any weight loss journey, but there are many reasons for them. Check out these six reasons why the scale may be stuck:

1. Overeating. Weight loss is dependent on "calories in" being lower than "calories out." Eating too much for your current activity level and weight could be a reason why the scale is stuck.

"Meal delivery programs can help eliminate any guesswork," says nutrition expert Chris Mohr, PhD, RD.

2. Not Keeping Track. Overeating, skipping meals and portion control can all be eased if you get more diligent with food tracking.

Take it from the experts: According to research published in the journal "Obesity," self-monitoring your diet is the number one predictor of weight loss success, and it takes less than 15 minutes each day.

Try tracking your diet at least 80% of the time or at least five to six days of the week. Be sure to include all eating occasions (even nibbling), portion sizes and ingredients.

This way, when the scale is stuck, you can evaluate where you may be overdoing it.



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) Jacoblind / iStock via Getty Images Plus

3. Skimping on Protein and Fiber. Try maximizing protein and fiber in your diet. "Protein helps preserve lean muscle mass while losing weight to help maintain metabolic rate. Also, protein and fiber keep you feeling full longer.

What's more, protein is more thermogenic than carbohydrates and fats - meaning you'll burn more calories digesting and absorbing high-protein foods. Fiber isn't fully digested, so the calorie contribution from fiber is less than other carb sources," adds Mohr.

4. Increasing Muscle. If you've been hitting the gym and putting on muscle,

See **STUCK**, page 3

THE UNION ADVOCATE

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chaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by AFGE Local 987. Submitted news and editorial content/photographs are welcome - applicability to AFGE Local 987's mission to be determined by the discretion of the editor and/or president.

Please submit articles, photos, etc to don.moncrief@afge-local987.org. For questions about story content, to pass on story ideas or to request coverage, please contact the aforementioned.

Union Advocate note: AFGE Local 987 President Marion Williams wanted to make sure all members - you - were informed this email is circulating, so that you in turn have a chance to apply for the training listed.

From: WR-ALC Workflow <wralc.cc.suspense@us.af.mil>
 Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 10:59 AM
 To: WR-ALC All Personnel <wralc.ma.all@us.af.mil>
 Subject: ACTION//BetterUp Coaching Data Call-SUSPENSE NLT 10 Feb 23

SUSPENSE: 10 Feb 23

Workflows,

BLUF: Request BetterUp Coaching Program information be shared with AFSC military and civilian employees for widest dissemination. Supervisor approval is required for employee participation. Personnel interested in signing up for this coaching opportunity, can apply directly at <https://usaf.dps.mil/teams/TMCA19297/AFSCMentoring/SitePages/AFSC%20Better%20Up%20Program-Info%20Page.aspx>

DISCUSSION: BetterUp is the world's leading virtual coaching platform, combining best-in-class technology, science, and human- to-human guidance (coaching). The BetterUp platform gives you a confidential, supportive environment to uncover your strengths, work on areas of improvement, and feel more fully engaged at work and in life. AFMC/A1 has designated 58 funded slots for AFSC employees to receive four months of one-on-one coaching with an executive coach from BetterUp Coaching. The benefits of coaching aren't limited to individual development, it extends to organizations by increasing level of engagement, amplifying leadership skills, strengthening team performance, increasing employee retention, and building confidence.

Basic Eligibility:

- Most military and civilian grades (including WGs) are eligible to apply (GS-15, SES, O-6 and above are not eligible).
- Supervisor approval is required
- Selected participants are required to meet virtually once a week for 30 mins or biweekly for 45 mins after being matched with a coach

Application Process:

- Submissions will be accepted from 26 Jan - 10 Feb
- Incomplete applications will not be considered
- Personnel interested in signing up for this coaching opportunity apply directly to SharePoint
- Supervisors will receive an application request via email and must score the employee to approve employee participation

Notification:

- Selected individuals will be notified via email of their selection
- Participants must complete onboarding and schedule their first coaching session within two weeks of program start

For more information about BetterUp, click <https://www.betterup.com/for-individuals?hsLang=en>, or please contact Alison Sheffield at alison.sheffield.1@us.af.mil.

TASKING: Advise personnel interested in signing up for this coaching opportunity to apply directly at <https://usaf.dps.mil/teams/TMCA19297/AFSCMentoring/SitePages/AFSC%20Better%20Up%20Program-Info%20Page.aspx>

V/r,
 Alison
 Alison F. Sheffield
 WR-ALC/OBHA
 Training Administrator

STUCK

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you might also experience a stall on the scale. Find other measures of success in the meantime.

5. Other Lifestyle Factors. Lack of sleep can disrupt weight loss. The National Sleep Foundation recommends sticking to a regular sleep schedule.

Limit caffeine and screen-time in the hours before bed. You can also try a before bed

exercise routine.

Chronic stress can also halt weight loss? Address your stress with self-care. Try meditation, daily exercise, breathing techniques, seek out a support system and engage in your community.

6. Illness or Injury. A recent illness or injury can cause increased inflammation that results in water retention. Additionally, injury or illness can decrease daily activity and overall calories burned. Some medications may also stall weight loss. Consult your doctor.

MOTORCYCLE

From page 2

■ Improve your view of the situation ahead

■ Improve your chances of being seen by other road users

■ Avoid hazards in the road or improve surface grip

■ Reduce the severity of a corner or bend

■ Give information to influence other road users

This is especially important at night. Oftentimes, the lone headlight of a motorcycle appears to be one of the headlights of an oncoming car. As it accelerates more rapidly than a car, a motorcycle may be well ahead of a

group of cars leaving a traffic signal. Move across the lane away from the car that could pull out in front of you.

This will differentiate you from the other headlights and indicate your speed to the driver.

It is also important you do your best to ride in a safe, predictable manner. Give yourself room to maneuver if potholes, wet leaves, railroad tracks and other circumstances dictate that you have to take any action that fellow motorists may not anticipate.

These are just some ways that motorcycle riders can travel more safely on the road. Be alert and take precautions to protect yourself when riding. Your life depends on it.

PREPARES

From page 1

workshops by District to help you for lobbying and legislative advocacy," according to AFGE's website, as well as be offered a "variety of sessions, including your district and council meetings, and a Civil Rights Luncheon hosted by the Women's and Fair Practices Departments."

They will also have the opportunity to take part in a rally Feb. 14, but of key impor-

tance, Williams said, will be the opportunity to meet (in person or on Zoom depending on circumstances/scheduling) with Congressional leaders to address issues/concerns affecting federal employees — those brought up during the DEFCON, but also those closer at home on Robins AFB. (Williams said Jerry Galloway, who is not only a Local Steward but also the AFGE Georgia State Representative is currently working on those issues/appointments.)

EFFORT

From page 1

on that. (And), according to the MLA (Master Labor Agreement) it gives us a 45-day window to try to get the case scheduled for a hearing.

"We're trying to stay within those guidelines."

They use the 45-day window, he said, to assign an arbitrator to the case and based on availability, "the case can be heard in the 45 days or at a sooner date the arbitrator has within that timeframe.

"That gives us time for the committee to go through and look at the case. They may even contact the individual and say,

"Hey, tell us about your case. What's going on with it?" And (to make a decision): Is it something we can win, (and if so) we'll go ahead and go forward and push to arbitration.

"That doesn't mean we're going to look at a case and because we might lose a case we're not going to do it. We have to look at the merits behind it."

He used two examples to help explain that. One was where an employee had missed more than 1,100 hours of work in a year. The Agency, he said, was looking to terminate him. On the other hand, "he isn't even asking to keep his job," Williams said. "He's looking to retire medically. We would

go forward with something like this."

On perhaps the flip side was the employee, he said, who was accused of "cussing out" his supervisor. He profusely denied it. He agreed to a polygraph test and failed it miserably, Williams said.

Bottom line: "If we think we have enough evidence to push it through and possibly take it, we're probably going to do that."

"But we'll talk to the member also. And let them know where they are. So anything to do with adverse actions or suspensions, things like that, it will always have a fight to get that mitigated for our members, to have out there."

SPOTLIGHT

From page 2

down one aircraft, then evaded four other enemy fighters, one of which he shot down.

McGuire destroyed two more aircraft before the mission was over.

According to The News, a newspaper from Paterson, New Jersey, McGuire was hospitalized for three days due to injuries he suffered during those missions.

By this point, McGuire had 38 kills and was closing in on the record for aerial victories for the 5th Air Force.

He was second only to Maj. Richard Bong, who had shot down 40 enemy aircraft.

McGuire hoped to add to his tally and become the No. 1 ace, so on Jan. 7, 1945, he led a group on a volunteer mission to another Japanese-held airstrip on Los Negros Island. When a Japanese Zero aircraft came toward them, he had his squadron surround the Zero, which tried to get out of the snare by dropping down to 200 feet.

According to the Air Force Historical Support Division, "there, the formation scattered, and the enemy plane maneuvered into position on the tail of one of the Lightnings."

McGuire came to that pilot's rescue, but the dangerous maneuver he tried to use caused his aircraft to stall and crash.

After 325 missions, he was

reported as missing in action. His remains were eventually found in June 1949 in the jungles of Los Negros.

He was repatriated to the U.S. and buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

McGuire's aerial accomplishments were honored well before that, though. On May 8, 1946, his wife accepted the Medal of Honor on his behalf from Army Gen. George C. Kenney during a ceremony in Paterson, New Jersey.

That honor was added to the many other accolades McGuire had received during his career, including the Distinguished Service Cross, three Silver Stars, six Distinguished Flying Crosses and 15 Air Medals.



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ENROLL



MORE INFO



Valentine's recipes you'll love to share

(Family Features)

If the way to your loved one's heart is through the stomach, there's no better way to start off this Valentine's Day than with a homemade breakfast prepared with love.

Whether you're whipping up a breakfast for a spouse with a sophisticated palate or trying to tempt the taste buds of your littlest loves, explore these ideas to get inspired.

♥Red is the color of love, so build your menu around fresh strawberries or raspberries, which pair perfectly with French toast or crepes, and can even dress up a simple cereal.

♥For a more sensible menu, opt for a fruity berry smoothie or a parfait layered with fresh fruit, low-fat yogurt and granola. Add a hint of loving indulgence by sprinkling dark chocolate shavings on top.

♥Show your affection with a plate of these colorful Cocoa-Kissed Red Velvet Pancakes featuring rich 100 percent cocoa, buttermilk and fresh berries. Heart-shaped cookie cutters lend a special touch to these fluffy, flavorful pancakes.

Add sweet garnishes like powdered sugar and berries for a sensational way to say "I love you."

Find more recipes you'll love to share with your nearest and dearest this Valentine's Day at Culinary.net.



Cocoa-Kissed Red Velvet Pancakes

Recipe courtesy of Nestlé

Servings: 10 pancakes

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons Nestlé Toll House Baking Cocoa
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg
- 1 cup reduced-fat buttermilk or low-fat milk
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon red food coloring
- heart-shaped pancake cutters or cookie cutters (optional)
- butter, for garnish (optional)
- powdered sugar, for garnish (optional)
- maple syrup, for garnish (optional)
- fresh berries, for garnish (optional)

In large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking cocoa, baking powder, baking soda and salt; stir well.

In separate large bowl, whisk together egg, buttermilk, unsalted butter, vanilla extract and food coloring. Add to flour mixture; stir to combine. Allow mixture to sit 5 minutes.

Heat nonstick skillet or griddle over medium heat. Brush with oil or butter. Add about 1/4 cup batter to skillet. Cook about 2 minutes, or until bubbles start to form on top. Flip and cook 1-2 minutes, or until bottom is lightly browned. Serve immediately with butter, powdered sugar, syrup and berries, if desired.

Tip: If using pancake or cookie cutters, be sure to coat with oil so pancakes don't stick. Place cutters in skillet and pour batter into cutters. Remove cutters before flipping.

Source: Culinary.net

A creamy recipe created for families

(Culinary.net)

A lazy Sunday afternoon cuddled up with family, playing in the rain with your kids and tasting a perfect, sweet treat on a summer day can be some of the simplest yet best parts of life.

Recipes that can be made with clean, fresh ingredients in a matter of minutes make some of the best-tasting dishes, snacks and treats.

Sometimes keeping it simple is the best route to take as opposed to confusing prep that takes too much time.

This Strawberry Mousse, which is made with families in mind, is a perfect recipe to make with your little ones or for a date night dessert. It's great to take for an outing at the park, a neighborhood party or just to snack on throughout the week.

It's sweet, fluffy and smooth all at the same time. Made to serve a handful of people,

it only takes a few moments to complete. Moms love it and kids enjoy the taste and texture.

To start, puree 1 cup of strawberries in blender until smooth.

In a mixing bowl, combine whipping cream and powdered sugar until smooth.

In a different bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth then add the pureed strawberries.

Finally, add the whipped cream mixture to the cream cheese and strawberries. Stir all the components together until they reach the desired consistency before serving with fresh fruit.

It's easy, fresh and delicious. Your kids can help you combine all the ingredients and excitedly try the sweet result.

Find more sweet recipes at Culinary.net.

If you made this recipe at home, use #MyCulinaryConnection on your favorite social network to share your work.



Strawberry Mousse

Servings: 6-8

- 1 cup strawberries, halved
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- assorted fruit, for serving

In blender, puree strawberries until smooth. Set aside.

In mixing bowl, whip heavy cream and powdered sugar until fluffy.

In separate mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Add strawberry puree to cream cheese and mix until combined. Add whipped cream and stir until combined.

Serve in bowl with fruit.



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STEP 2:

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STEP 3:

Fill out the one-page membership form and click "Join"

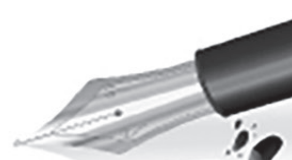


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© StatePoint Media
Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

I went to my therapist after my phone died. I just needed an outlet.

What do you call a group of introverts? A paradox.

Ends In LE

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| PICKLE | QUALE | ROLE |
| SOLE | TABLE | UNCLE |
| VILE | WRITEABLE | ZIZZLE |

A little humor ...

One evening as a mother was preparing dinner, her seven-year-old son came down to the kitchen, crying hysterically.

The loving mother bent down and said, "Honey, what's wrong?"

"Mom," he said, "I just cleaned my room."

"Well, I'm very proud of you," she replied. "But why on earth would that make you

cry?"

Her son looked up through his tears and said, "Because I still can't find my snake!"

Ed: "I have a job in a watch factory."

Fred: "Oh really? What do you do?"

Ed: "I just stand around and make faces."

Farmer: "Quite a storm we

had last night."

Neighbor: "Yep, it sure was."

Farmer: "Did it damage your barn any?"

Neighbor: "I dunno. I haven't found it yet."

"How is business?" Tailor: "Oh, it's so-so." Electrician: "It's fairly light." Author: "All right." Farmer: "It's growing." Astronomer: "Looking up!" Elevator operator: "Well, it has

its ups and downs." Trash collector: "It's picking up."

Employee: "My wife says I should ask you for a raise." Employer: "I'll ask my wife if I can give you one."

Wife: "You don't look well. What's the matter?" Husband: "You know those aptitude tests we give our employees?"

Wife: "Yes." Husband: "Well, I took one today, and it's a good thing I own the company."

run on Broadway."

Zach: "What play were you in?"

Dan: "Oh, I wasn't in any play. A mugger chased me for ten blocks."

Television repairman: "So, what seems to be the problem with your television?"

Woman: "It has double images. I hope you men can fix it."

A husband raced into his house. "I've found a great job!" he exclaimed to his wife. "The pay is incredible, they offer free medical insurance, and give three weeks' vacation!"

"That does sound wonderful," said the wife.

"I'm glad you think so," replied her husband. "You start tomorrow."

STR8TS

No. 625 Medium

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Previous solution - Tough

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How to beat **Str8ts** - Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

Barber: "Your hair is getting thin."
Client: "Who wants fat hair?"

Employer: "I thought you requested yesterday afternoon off to go see your dentist."
Employee: "Yes, sir."
Employer: "Then why did I see you coming out of the stadium with a friend?"
Employee: "That was my dentist."

Rancher: "What kind of saddle do you want? One with or without a horn?"
Cowboy: "Without is fine. There doesn't seem to be much traffic around here."

Dan: "I just finished a long

well

62. Bald eagle's nest
63. Ever, to a poet
64. Tinkerbell's powder

DOWN

1. "Clueless" catch phrase
2. *Get-together
3. End of a break-up phrase
4. Explosive of Czechoslovakian origin
5. *Winged one
6. September stone
7. Bank on
8. * ___ card
9. Not tails
10. '70s hairdo
11. Sylvester, to Tweety
13. Wholism, alt. sp.
14. Monotonous hum
19. Intestinal obstruction
22. "Wayne's World" catch-phrase
23. Japanese port
24. Necklace clasp location, pl.
25. Affirmatives
26. *Kisses' partners
27. National emblem
28. Type of weasel
29. BBQ tool
32. Pasturelands
33. Accompanies wisdom?
36. *a.k.a. St. Valentine's Malady
38. *Muse of love poetry
40. Large edible mushroom
41. Long-legged shore bird
44. Regions
46. Bummed about
48. Bell's invention
49. Laurels
50. Homesteader's measure
51. Active one
52. Soap block
53. Hokkaido language
54. Small amounts
55. Formerly, formerly
56. *Romantic destination

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CROSSWORD

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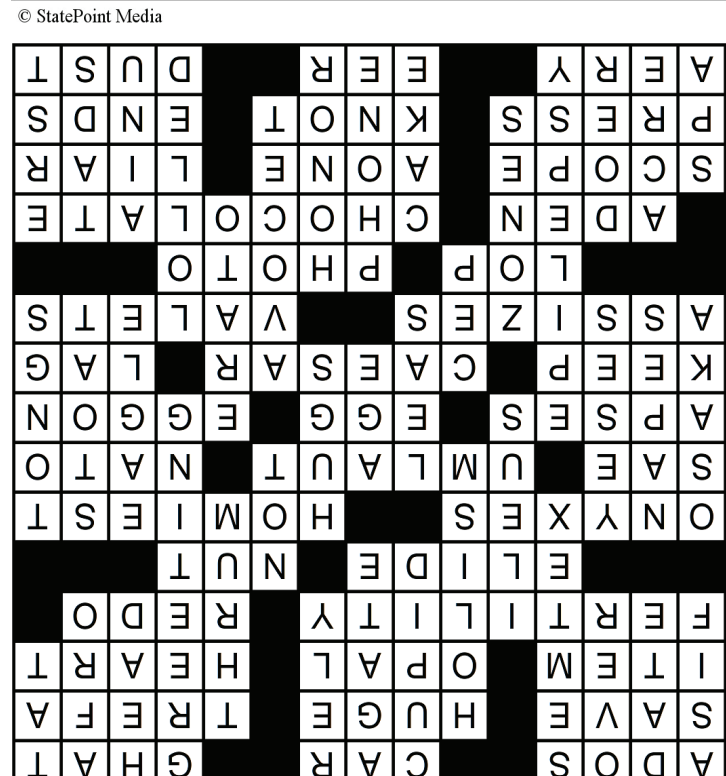
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BANQUET

From page 1

Whitney Jordan, who gave a warm AFGE welcome.

My part as Chair of local 987's YOUNG Committee followed. I gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining what AFGE's YOUNG program is and the importance of growing the program.

The presentation encapsulated the importance of Dr. King's work as well as the importance of mentors working with the younger union members for a stronger union.

After the brief presentation, dinner was enjoyed by the attendees. After dessert, Dr. Roberson gave his aforementioned speech. Following his invigorating speech, the local YOUNG Committee recognized some mentors/leaders who support our local program: President Marion Williams, Vice President of DLA Teresa Freeman and National Vice President of our 5th District David Mollett.

The event was concluded with a nice reception that flowed nicely with fellowship and dancing to the musical sounds provided by the DJ. Local 987 is looking forward to having more in-person events and is hopeful that more of our membership will start to come out more and aid us in building.

Overall the event was a success and Local 987 would like to thank everyone who help make it possible!

