

AFGE



DISTRICT 12

AFGE District 12

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IMPORTANT : Information contained in this publication suggests action to be taken in support of and/or against legislation and should not be read during duty time, or sent to others using government equipment.

Vision

Spring 2018



*George E. McCubbin III
National Vice President*

Welcome AFGE District 12 members! Much has happened since our very successful 2018 Legislative Conference. A big thanks to our Rock Star LPO's Ryan Mims and Ian Hoffmann for making everything run as smooth as it did. Also, a big thank you to those members who attended our conference. As usual, we had many participants and a great turn out at our legislative breakfast on the hill. With the continued attacks on all of our agencies, let's not stop meeting, writing or calling our legislators and let them know we are watching how they are voting on our issues.

In March 2018, Districts 11 and 12 hosted AFGE's LEAD Training Conference in San Diego, California. Along with the training conference, we held a LPTI class and several classes on credential and delegates training for our upcoming national convention which will be held August 13-17, 2018 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

NR Yvonne Wheeler and I attended the IAM2018 Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. The conference was to honor Dr. Martin Luther King's 50th Anniversary of the legacy he left behind. He gave that famous Mountaintop speech at the historic Mason Temple. Less than 24 hours later, he was gunned down on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. It was really an honor and a privilege representing AFGE. We had approximately 40-50 representing AFGE. Later in the month California the California Labor Federation held their pre-primary convention in San Jose. Based on the recommendations of our state CLC's endorsements were made for every eligible state and federal legislator.

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Continued from page 1 AFGE had its most participants ever at this event and I encourage all AFGE members to participate in their state federations. Your per-capita to AFGE pays for your affiliation, so there is no reason not to participate. We need to educate our union brothers and sisters in labor about AFGE issues.

As I mentioned earlier, District 12 will be hosting our National Convention August 13-17, 2018. We will be electing our National President, National Secretary-Treasurer and National Vice-President for our Women's and Fair Practice Department. If you haven't done so, get your delegates elected, and get your credentials in. If you are not planning on attending, you need to proxy your votes to another sister local. We are facing attacks like never before. We need to elect the type of leadership that we know will lead us through all the uphill battles we will be facing. Lastly, we have mid-term elections coming up in November 2018. The states of California, Arizona, and Nevada all have major races that will shape our country for years to come. We need to vote for those elected officials who vote correctly on our issues. We need to vote out those that don't support us. Every vote counts. As we get closer to November, we will be asking for volunteers to help-out in special targeted races. Continue to visit AFGE.org for up to dates and current information.

We have started our 2018 organizing metros. If you have not been contacted by any of our organizers, you will be. Its important with all these attacks that we hold events at your work sites to inform as many members as possible. Together we must help beat back these attacks. National cannot do it alone.

We need everyone to do their part. Ask your Local President how you can help. Thank you.

In Solidarity,
George E McCubbin III
National Vice-President
AFGE 12th District

2018 Schedule

- May 21-25 Reno Organizing Metro
- May 28-31 BOP Training San Diego
- June 11-15 San Diego Organizing Metro
- July 9-20 LA Organizing Metro
- Aug 9 NEC Meeting Las Vegas
- August 13-17 National Convention Las Vegas
- Sept 10-21 Northern CA Organizing Metro
- Nov 26-30 Tucson Organizing Metro
- **Nov 6 Election Day**
- Dec 3-7 Phoenix Organizing Metro
- Feb 10-14 2019 AFGE Legislative Conference



The California Labor Federation Pre-Primary Convention

The California Labor Federation Pre-Primary Convention was held on Thursday, April 12, 2018 in San Jose, CA. and AFGE District 12 was there front and center. The largest AFGE delegation ever, met in San Jose to nominate candidates running for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Governor, State Legislative Offices, and Statewide Ballot Measures. During the breakfast hosted by NVP George McCubbin, III our very own Legislative Political Organizers Ryan Mims and Ian Hoffmann explained the convention rules to the new delegates, and the AFGE recommendations.

The AFGE delegates in attendance understood that the threats to our movement are greater than

ever. These threats include the Janus decision, the National Right to Work Movement, and most importantly the attacks to the federal workforce by the Trump Administration. The administration has proposed such actions as:

The Congress passed and the President signed into law a \$1.3 trillion spending bill that funds the government through September 2018; but now the administration is taking steps to slash the increases they disagree with.

Also, after months of hostility at the bargaining table, the Department of Education management told AFGE Council 252 that it was no longer willing to negotiate. Refusing to set up any

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AFGE Members Attend NV AFL-CIO Pre-Primary COPE Conference

The 2018 federal elections will be the most important in the history of AFGE, and perhaps no state has more eyes on it than the Silver State. Nevadans will vote on all statewide constitutional offices and voters will also be voting on a key United States Senate race and at least two tight congressional races.

The Nevada AFL-CIO once again plans to lead the way, after very successful 2016 results in the state, and held their 2018 Pre-Primary COPE Conference in Reno on April 16 and 17. With so much on the line for AFGE members, a team of three locals were present to make their voices heard. AFGE Local 1978 (DOI-BOR-Hoover Dam) President and LPC Mike Guerrissi, LPC Billy Riley and Local 2152 (Reno VA) Chief steward and LPC Eric Gerken attended the Conference which provided a terrific opportunity to meet with multiple congressional, gubernatorial and other candidates. LPO Ian Hoffmann also joined as a delegate for AFGE Local 1224 (Las Vegas VA). Thanks to AFGE Local 1224 President Linda Ward-Smith for ensuring Las Vegas VA employees were represented.

A highlight of the conference must have been hearing congressional candidates single out AFGE members for the work they do and the attacks they're seeing from the current Administration and majorities in Congress.

Thanks to Mike, Billy and Eric for making sure AFGE continues to have a seat at the table and lead the way in the Silver State!

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more meetings management threw out the contract that the AFGE Council 252 had previously bargained – which was still in effect – and replaced it with an anti-union directive that strips 3,900 workers they represent of all previously negotiated rights and protections.

These threats have never defined us. Because, in California, we're about one thing: building power. We build power with every conversation we have with our members. We build power with every pro-worker candidate we elect. We build power together, because we know that no matter the threats we are faced with, if we stand together, we get stronger. We also know when working people have a union, it changes our lives. A union is the path to the American Dream.

The AFGE delegates left the convention with a commitment that this year, we will use these attacks on us to build a stronger labor movement. To build unity. To build power. And to win big in November!

OPM Directed to Request Cuts to Federal Employees Pensions by 143.5 Billion

On May 10, 2018 at the request of the President, OPM sent a letter to the Speaker of the House calling for 143.5 billion dollars in cuts to Federal Employee Retirement benefits. These savings for the Federal Government will come through a series of specific actions OPM is asking Congress to take.

- Elimination of Federal Employee's Retirement System Annuity Supplements
- Increase CSR or FERS Average Pay Period to Five Years

- Increased Contributions to Federal Employees Retirement System
- Reduction or Elimination of Retirement Cost-of-Living Adjustment

If you would like to receive the full copy of the letter to share with your members please e-mail, text, or call Ryan Mims at mimsr@afge.org or 202-341-0470. Your membership needs to know what cuts have been proposed to their pensions.

OPM Adopts Anti-Union Language on Official Time

In a May 17, 2018 press release, OPM released a statement contrary to a decades long belief that the use of official time served in the interest of taxpayers helping to provide checks and balances in the federal government to protect services and ensure accountability. The press release attacks official time by using the most anti-union description of the work done on official time. This release is a new attempt at redefining official time. OPM states, "'Official time', more accurately referred to as 'Taxpayer Funded Union Time'", before listing its misguided attacks on Official time. The press release finishes with a statement by OPM Director that should concern every union representative in the federal government that has ever had to bargain a contract, or help a co-worker, or stand up as a whistleblower protecting the American taxpayer. OPM Director Jeff T.H. Pon says, "The data shows that Taxpayer Funded Union Time is at a steady increase. This Administration is passionate about protecting hardworking Americans and the use of their tax dollars.

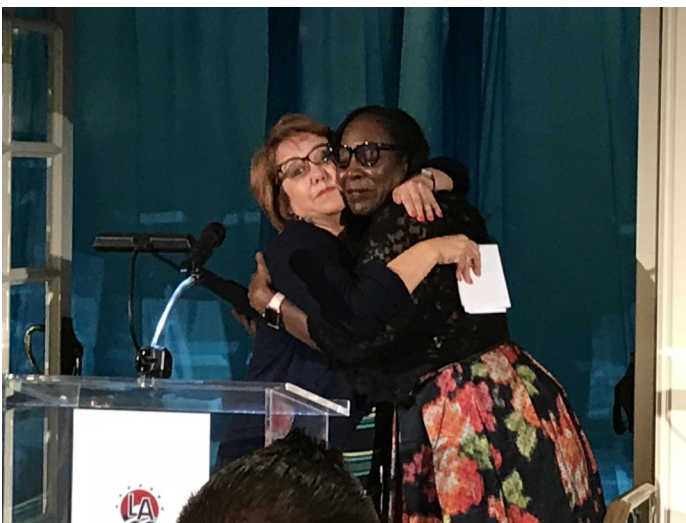
The full press release can be found: <https://www.opm.gov/news/releases/2018/05/fy-2016-official-time-report-highlighting-taxpayer-funded-union-time-released-by-the-us-office-of-personnel-management/>

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District 12 National Representative Yvonne Wheeler Honored at 2018 JFK Awards

On Sunday May 20, our very own Yvonne Wheeler was recognized by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party for her work championing the rights of working people. She was giving the Miguel Contreras Leadership Award for outstanding work done over her career as a union president, as the President of the Los Angeles and California State chapters of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, an organizer with the AFL-CIO, and a National Representative with AFGE.



Yvonne's work helped bridge gaps and relationships between people of color, unions and the Democratic party to help working families achieve the American Dream.

The Leadership Award named after the legendary union leader Miguel Contreras who reinvigorated the LA labor and oversaw a period in which union membership grew by 150,000 members. Is awarded annually to honor leaders in the LA County Labor Movement.

AFGE Local 3969 Puts Up Billboards to Wake Up Congress



AFGE Local 3969 has put up 20 billboards throughout Southern California. These billboards express concerns over the staffing cuts in congress that create unsafe conditions in federal institutions. With the recent assaults on staff and the mismanagement of safety regulations, we need congress' support to help us get properly funded and staffed.

You can assist your union brothers and sisters in the BOP by Calling 202-224-3121 and telling Congress that Bureau of Prisons budget cuts are dangerous.

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You won't stand for subpar service, should they?

Veterans wait an average of **6.5 days** from their preferred date of care to see a primary care doctor, compared to **19.5 days** for non-VA patients.



Call your Senators at (833) 480-1637 and say #NOMISSIONACT

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