



Vol. 3 No. 43 December 2018



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**Out with the old....**

2018 was a challenging year. The Dept of Education issued a contract it didn't bargain. The President's Executive Orders (EO's) could have been a death blow to federal unions. The judge who heard our lawsuit barred implementation of many provisions of the EO's but upheld others; the government is appealing that decision. The VA sparked more litigation when it unilaterally decided Title 38 labor reps could no longer use official time. And those are just some highlights (lowlights?) of the past year. There was much more, and it's not over yet.



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**Www.afgedistrict2.org**  
 Like us on FB: AFGE 2nd District

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# 2019 AFGE EVENTS CALENDAR

**For more information or to sign up for events, go to [www.afge.org/events](http://www.afge.org/events)**

**Jan 18-21**, AFL-CIO Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil and Human Rights Conference, Washington, D.C.

**Jan 29-31**, Financial Officers training webinar.

**Feb 8-10**, DEFCON Conference, Washington, D.C.

**Feb 10-14**, AFGE Legislative Conference, Washington D.C.

**Feb 13-15**, Financial Officers Training, Washington, D.C.

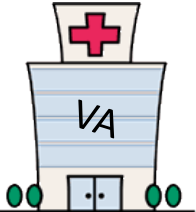
**Mar 13**, Workers Compensation Appeals webinar

**Mar 18-21**, Financial Officers Training, Washington, D.C.

**Apr 23-25**, Financial Officers Training, Washington, D.C.

**May 20-23**, Financial Officers Training, Washington, D.C.

**Jun 18-20**, Financial Officers Training, Washington, D.C.



## CELEBRATE



**July 22-25**, Financial Officers Training, Washington, D.C.

**Aug 10-17**, 2019 Diversity Week, New Orleans LA.

**Aug 26-29**, Financial Officers Training, Washington, D.C.

**Sep 17-19**, Financial Officers Training, Washington, D.C.

**Nov 10-15**, 23rd Triennial National VA Council Convention, Denver, CO

### Your Input Wanted in 2019 - A Few Words from the Editor

Greetings! I'm a National Rep & also the editor of our 2nd District newsletter. In the past months unusual representational work such as that related to the Executive Orders interrupted regular production of newsletters. To help solve that problem for 2019 here are cutoff dates for submissions: **April 4, July 26, Nov 1**. Newsletters will be produced ASAP after the cutoff dates.

Submit your photos, information, or topics at any time; anything received after a cutoff date will be held for consideration for the next issue. Please submit through your Local or other group you represent (Council, Committee, etc). Photos are great; please be sure to say who is in the picture and what the occasion was. Thank you for all that you do!



**In Solidarity, NR Robin Johnson**



# NVP NOTES



Happy holidays, brothers and sisters.

As 2018 draws to a close I want to thank all of you for what you have done this year. From day to day representation and Local administration to rallies on Capital Hill, AFGE 2nd District was there. That’s why we’ve had the successes we’ve had in 2018 despite unprecedented attacks on Labor in both the private and public sectors.

As you know, the fight is not over and 2019 will bring new challenges. To not merely survive but to overcome and move our members forward we must increase our power individually and collectively. And not just for our own sake. Labor rights are civil rights and civil rights are human rights, and all are essential to democracy. I am asking each of you to make a commitment to step up even further in 2019, directly and by reaching out to others. Look at page 4 in this issue for some suggestions on how we can all contribute in little ways for bigger results.

It is my honor to serve the members of the 2nd District and I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the coming year.

In Solidarity,

Vincent R. Castellano  
NVP, AFGE 2nd District



## Are You Using Your Moneysaving Union Benefits?

Our members who do save on travel, technology, Financial services, Home needs, Entertainment, Education, Health, Automobiles, Moving, Retirement benefits, Legal Services not related to work, and much more!

For more information go to <https://www.afge.org/member-benefits>! Local benefits coordinators can also find benefit materials here.

We also have life, disability, and AFLAC insurances available through our partnership with Benefit Architects.

## How MEMBERS LIKE YOU Can Make Your Union Stronger & More Effective

**We all want our Union to be as powerful as possible.** The bigger the challenges we face, the more we all count on that strength. Fortunately there are little things we can all easily do that add immensely to our collective strength. Here are a few for you to consider. What other things would YOU suggest?

- **Sign up to receive AFGE text alerts by texting AFGE to 225568.**
- **Find out when your Local meetings are. Put them on your calendar, and attend.**
- **Become a member of AFGE Y.O.U.N.G., either as a young unionist or as a mentor.**
- **Go to [afge.org](http://afge.org) regularly and READ about issues, benefits, press releases, etc!**
- **Read materials you receive from AFGE, such as the Government Standard, AFGE News, etc. If you don't receive these via hard copy or email you can find them on the website under Publications.**
- **Use a Union benefit and tell others about it. Editor's note: I saved \$88 per night using the hotel benefit, compared to the lowest rate available for the same hotel & dates thru popular online discount travel sites.**
- **Go to [afge.org](http://afge.org) and update your profile. Make sure your contact info is current.**
- **Read your Local's bylaws.**
- **Know your contract and enforce it. Let the Local know if you see violations or if changes are made in your workplace.**
- **Participate in AFGE conference calls.**
- **Ask a nonmember to join the Union.**
- **Mention the Union in your workplace: your contract, your Local events, your benefits. Make "Union" a household word in your workplace!**
- **Vote on your Local's annual budget and each Treasurer's report.**
- **Participate in Local events.**
- **Support other Unions & Locals. Take part in their rallies and informational pickets. Strength in numbers!**
- **Be Union **OUT LOUD!!** Write letters to the Editor and to elected officials on Labor-related issues; talk to people about what's happening with federal workers.**
- **Sign up for E-dues.**
- **Run for Local office or volunteer to help on a committee.**



How else can you strengthen your Union?