

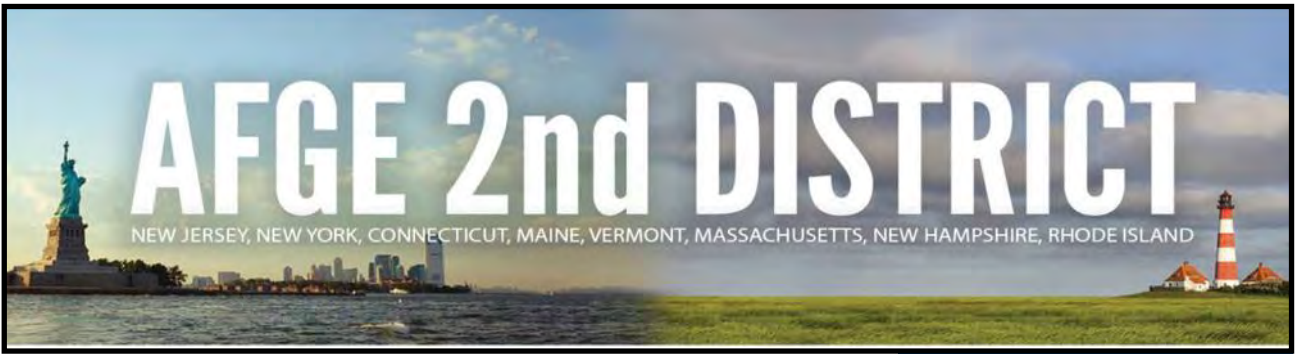
AFGE



2nd DISTRICT

AFGE 2nd DISTRICT

NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, CONNECTICUT, MAINE, VERMONT, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, RHODE ISLAND



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AFGE Solidarity!



AFGE 2nd District:
732.828.9449

2nd District 2 fax:
732.828.9215

Benefits Hotline:
888-844-2343

Local 219 President Don Melanson, Secretary Meghan Sullivan, and Treasurer Peter DiGeronimo walked the picket line with StopNShop workers and brought them refreshments. Solidarity brought the strike to an end after 11 days.

Memorable Labor Quote



“We have your back. Stand strong, brothers and sisters. The entire labor movement is standing with you.”

—AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka (UMWA) to striking UFCW members

Please submit newsletter input or suggestions to robin.johnson@afge.org!



Upcoming Events

For more information, go to www.afge.org/events.

Does your Local have events to share? Let us know!

National Executive Council (NEC) meetings at AFGE HQ, Washington, D.C.:
June 10-13; Nov 18-21.

June 8, Capital Pride Parade. June 9, Capital Pride Festival. Washington, D.C.

2019 Diversity Week—Aug 9-17, New Orleans, LA

2019 P.O.R.T. Leadership Academy—Oct 5-11, National Harbor, MD

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

Financial Training

All Executive Board members have fiduciary (financial) responsibilities.

Each Local Treasurer and President should attend Financial Officers' Training, followed by other EBoard members.

This training is offered at District trainings, and as shown to the right.

In D.C.: May 20-23

July 22-25

Aug 26-29

Oct 21-25

Webinars: Jun 25-27,
Sep 17-19

Looking Ahead to 2020

Feb 9-13, Legislative Conference, D.C.

May 29-30, 2nd District Caucus, Hilton Meadowlands hotel, East Rutherford NJ.



Contributions to AFGE-PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Your voluntary decision to contribute more, less or not to contribute at all will not result in any favor or disadvantage in your relationship with AFGE.

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The first 3 months of this year have been tumultuous. From the 35 day government shutdown to the wait for the 1.9% pay raise to finally be authorized, federal employees have had a long winter. We united and spoke with one voice, and as a result, we were able to end the longest government shutdown in history. We also came together to put pressure on the White House to finally authorize our well-deserved pay raise, retroactive to January 1st of this year.

You should all congratulate yourselves on these accomplishments, but this is not the time to become complacent. The most recent 2020 budget proposal to come out of the White House spells trouble for federal employees. If enacted, federal employees would see health and retirement benefits slashed. Federal agencies like HUD, DOL and EPA are looking at massive cuts to their budgets. Right wing ideologues continue their war against Social Security, and the Department of Veterans Affairs continues to remain under threat from privatization.

The only way for us to defeat those who seek to harm our interests is to unite and join the AFGE PAC. By contributing to PAC, you allow us to make financial contributions to supportive members of Congress. These members of Congress are our only hope to push back and defeat the proposed 2020 budget proposals coming out of the White House. **We have over 23,000 dues paying members in District 2. We need as many of those members as possible to make a monthly contribution to our PAC.**

We currently have over 200 members who contribute to our PAC, and that is not nearly enough if we are going to defeat the current 2020 budget proposal coming out of the White House.

Contributing to our PAC is equally as important as paying your monthly union dues. It is because I feel this way that I currently contribute \$50 per pay period to the AFGE PAC. As a union member and as a veteran, the last thing I want to see is our Department of Veterans Affairs privatized. I want to see the 49,000 vacancies at the VA filled as soon as possible, and I want a Congress that is going to force this White House to fill those vacancies. I want to see Title 5 Bargaining Rights for TSA Officers. It is because I want to see all of these things and more that I contribute to our PAC, and I encourage you to do the same.

To sign up for our PAC, please go to www.afge.org/mypac and log into our secure system. You will then be able to set up a monthly allotment using your debit or credit card. **Any amount you are able to contribute goes a long way.**

If you have any other questions about signing up for our PAC, please contact the District 2 LPO Gabriel Pedreira at 202-445-5782 or via e-mail at gabriel.pedreira@afge.org. He will be able to answer any PAC-related questions you may have.

This is not a time to remain on the sidelines- we need as many of our members as engaged and energized as possible this year. Thank you for your continued service to our great country.

In Solidarity,

Vincent R. Castellano Sr., National Vice-President, AFGE District 2

AFGE 2nd District



AFGE Y.O.U.N.G. Committee members met with AFGE instructors in Washington, D.C. prior to LegCon to take part in leadership training.



AFGE 2nd District Y.O.U.N.G. Coordinator Vanessa Barrow and Member At Large Jennifer Ramirez participate in Dominican Day, a first-ever event on Capitol Hill to highlight challenges facing Latin communities and what can be done to overcome them. The event was coordinated by Congressman Adriano Espaillat, D-NY13.



L3369 showed solidarity With TSA Workers at JFK During Shutdown by providing a lunch & learn and bags of non-perishable foods. Congressman Meeks is shown on left with AFGE reps.



YOUNG members at 2018 Convention.

Goals of the AFGE Y.O.U.N.G. Program

- Create tools to organize and mobilize young AFGE members and encourage non-members to join AFGE.
- Encourage mentors over the age of 40 to join the AFGE Y.O.U.N.G. Program to educate and prepare young members for leadership roles.
- Encourage Local & District leadership to select a Y.O.U.N.G. Representative.
- Educate members on the importance of AFGE Y.O.U.N.G. and the young workers movement as a whole.
- Include a AFGE Y.O.U.N.G. meeting/training or social event at major AFGE conferences.

Y.O.U.N.G. = Young Organizing Unionists for the Next Generation

AFGE Y.O.U.N.G. Women's Empowerment Gala

The AFGE YOUNG hosted its second annual Women's Empowerment event on Friday, March 15 at Kingsbridge VA Hospital.

Featuring a theme of 'Beautifully Made,' the all-black attire event was held in solidarity with the #MeToo movement.

Vanessa Barrows,
2nd District
Y.O.U.N.G.
Coordinator,
addresses
attendees.



Local 3369 President Edwin Osorio, Congressman Adriano Espailat & Jennifer Ramirez.



(L-R) 2nd District NVP Vincent Castellano; LP 1168 Evelyn Padilla; Vanessa Barrow; Jeremy Lannan, NVP AFGE Women & Fair Practices; Jennifer Ramirez; LP3369 Edwin Osorio; Jim Rihel, AFGE National Y.O.U.N.G. Chair. Photo by Miriam Quin.



Congressman Espailat (back, 4th from right, blue tie) & AFGE.



Congressman Espailat addresses the attendees.

Keep in touch with Y.O.U.N.G.

Contact 2nd District Y.O.U.N.G.
[Vbarrowyoung2@gmail](mailto:Vbarrowyoung2@gmail.com)
jenniferramirezafge@aol.com

Facebook:
 AFGE District 2 Y O U N G

Who are WE?



Under the leadership of President Angela DiGeronimo (left, against the wall with her arm up), Local 2369 kicked off its “One Voice” campaign during a Town Hall meeting in early April. The meeting was attended by the Executive Board, onsite & alternate onsite representatives. During the “One Voice” campaign the Local will educate & empower their bargaining unit with information. The focus will be on contract negotiations, which are currently at impasse. The goal is to mobilize Employees to unite in One Voice to stand strong in united action against attacks from the Administration and the Social Security Administration.



Local 3343 President Pedro (Pete) Aviles and Chief Steward Adam Pellatier met with Rep Paul D. Tonko. (D-NY20).

Each Wednesday, AFGE members wear red in solidarity and post photos to social media using #RedForFeds, #Solidarity and #EOHellNo. Pictured is 2nd District National Representative Valyria Lewis



AFGE!



(L to R) 2nd District New England Retiree Coordinator Carol Kilbride, Congresswoman Lori Trahan (D-M3) and retiree Janet Walker.

Kilbride and Walker met with Trahan to discuss the 3 Trump Executive Orders affecting Labor, the negative impacts of government shutdowns, and the well-deserved pay raise for Federal em-

Union Dictionary: SOLIDARITY

From Vocabulary.com

When you see a group of citizens protesting something on the news, marching in a group, holding signs, and chanting slogans, you know they are in solidarity with each other, or united behind a common goal or purpose.

Any time you express support of a group or the people in it, you're showing solidarity with them. The word is used most often to describe a sense of unity with a political group, a group of striking workers, or people who have been deprived of their rights in some way. You might show your own solidarity by signing a petition, joining in a protest, or simply flashing a thumbs up.



AFGE Learn

Field Services and Education



AFGE Learn is our new Learning Management System and one-stop-shop for all things training at AFGE. At AFGE Learn, you can:

- Link to all our online toolkits
- Enroll in self-paced online classes to learn essential skills
- Access our growing digital library of free training materials and publications
- View a schedule of upcoming online webinars and training events
- Earn badges for completing courses in AFGE Learn
- Create a personalized learning profile and record of your course completion



To access AFGE Learn, visit our website and log into your MyAFGE.org account. <https://www.afge.org/Learn>

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO



Albany Protest of the Government Lockout and Shutdown turned into a rally as the news came in of a temporary end to the shutdown. There was a good turnout including VP3343 Adam Pellatier (pictured) and LP3432 Cindy VanderWerker.

Make Your



Better with UNION BENEFITS!



When you join the union, you have access to these AFGE benefits. These benefits are backed by the collective strength of over 10 million members of AFL-CIO unions. By using one or two of the programs, many members save as much as their annual dues.

At afge.org you will find information on these benefits and MORE!

Travel discounts

Car Rentals
Hotels
Endless Vacations
Hawaiian Airlies
Hershey Park Tickets
Choose a Union Hotel
Williamsburg, VA

Entertainment Discounts

Broadway & Cirque Du
Soleil
Six Flags
Theme Parks
Tickets at Work
Union Sportsmen's
Alliance

Member Experience—Hotel Discount

"I found great hotel rooms in D.C. for only \$92 using my Union benefit! A friend pointed out they were \$88 on a popular discount site so I went online the next morning to book thru them. Their price was now almost \$100 more per night! I went back to the Union site and got the same room for under \$100! It PAYS to be Union!"

Member Experience—Tickets At Work

"Friends of mine wanted to see Jersey Boys on Broadway & found a discounted price. They were amazed when I got our tickets for \$20 less EACH than their discount program using my Union benefits! What a great time we had!"

For additional information on benefits go to afge.org or contact your Local, your National Representative directly or at 732-828-9449, or Tom Leonard at 860-985-8300.



Benefit Architects is approved to offer money-saving benefits to AFGE members in 2nd District. The BA reps offer life, disability, and professional liability insurance, as well as dental insurance outside the Healthplex coverage area.

- Unlike FEGLI, this life insurance is whole life coverage that does not end if an Employee leaves government service. The cost does not increase as you age, nor does coverage decline.
- The disability insurance covers pregnancy if not pre-existing.
- Professional liability insurance can be crucial to Employees.

Information on the myriad of benefits available to all AFGE members is available online at afge.org. However, some benefits, such as Dentcare/Healthplex Dental Insurance are available only in our District and thus are not on the National website.