

# I am Woman

AFGE 2nd District National Women's Advisory Coordinator Newsletter

August, September, October 2016

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Local Women Coordinators are encourage to submit articles of things you are doing in your local and it will be published for others to read.

Let others know the great things you are doing in your locals. *Each One Teach One.*

Deadline for article's for the next Newsletter will be October 2016. Send your articles by email. Looking forward to hearing from you.

CRJ, Chief Editor

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## A word from the Women's Coordinator

*Hello Union Sisters and Brothers,*

I hope you are enjoying these Newsletters and are sharing them with your local membership. The summer months came and went, but workers rights, women rights, and human rights, never take a vacation.

During the month June many of the VA's held "Keep the Promise" rallies. These rallies were held to inform veterans, workers and the general public of the proposed action coming from congress to privatize some VA's and shut down others. VA's across the country held these rallies in front of the hospitals holding signs and chanting: "Staff the VA's", "Veterans for a Strong VA", "Do Not Shut down Our VA", and "Keep the Promise". At many of the sites, media coverage was present to inform the community of the proposed actions that may take place in there neighborhood. We must not stop with the rallies, but continue to inform our members and ask them to write their politicians about the importance of keeping VA hospitals open for our veterans.

In August The Women's / Fair Practices Department held it's Diversity Training in Harbor Maryland at the beautiful Gaylord Hotel/Conference Center. From August 12-19, 2017. Classes on many subjects were offered. From the Y.O.U.N.G. departments kick-off on Friday evening thru the rest of the week, was filled with outstanding facilitators and classes. Conflict

Resolutions, Racial Justice, EEO I&II, Workplace Bullying, and The Flint Michigan Water Crisis, were some of the courses offered. NVP Augusta Thomas and her staff did an outstanding job.

Over the past couple of weeks, I have received emails from employees about workplace bullying tactic being done by management. Sisters and Brothers this is real. The union must take a stand against these type of actions.

### Recognizing workplace bullying:

- \*Threatening, humiliating, or intimidating**
- \*Work interference — sabotage — which prevents work from getting done**
- \*Is driven by perpetrators' need to control the targeted individual( s).**
- \*Undermines legitimate business interests when bullies' personal agendas take precedence over work itself.**

**No employees should have to endure workplace bullying. Please seek help from your union if this is happening to you.**

## AFGE VA Rally



AFGE Members and Veterans rally outside Manhattan and Brooklyn VA's, New York City, to stop the privatization of VA hospitals. Congress please "Keep the Promise" made to our Nations Veterans

## *What's Going On.....*

**August 26th: Women's Equality Day:** The **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)** was a [proposed amendment](#) to the [United States Constitution](#) designed to guarantee [equal rights for women](#). The ERA was originally written by [Alice Paul](#) and [Crystal Eastman](#). In 1923, it was introduced in the [Congress](#) for the first time. The ERA has always been highly controversial regarding the meaning of equality for women. It was "feminist against feminist", said historian Judith Sealander; the result was the eventual defeat of the ERA.<sup>[1]</sup> Middle-class women generally were supportive. Those speaking for the working class were strongly opposed, arguing that employed women needed special protections regarding working conditions and hours. In 1972, it passed both houses of Congress and was submitted to the state legislatures for ratification. It seemed headed for quick approval until [Phyllis Schlafly](#) mobilized conservative women in opposition, arguing that the ERA would disadvantage housewives Congress had set a ratification deadline of March 22, 1979. Through 1977, the amendment received 35 of the necessary 38 state [ratifications](#). Five states later rescinded their ratifications before the 1979 deadline. In 1978, a joint resolution of Congress extended the ratification deadline to June 30, 1982, but no further states ratified the amendment and it died. Several organizations continue to work for the adoption of the ERA.

**September 5th: Labor Day:** Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

**September 17th: Constitution Day & Citizenship Day-**Constitution Day (or Citizenship Day) is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. It is normally observed on **September 17**, the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia.

**September 22nd: Emancipation Day-** The Emancipation Proclamation was a presidential proclamation and executive order issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863. In a single stroke, it changed the federal legal status of more than 3 million enslaved people in the designated areas of the South from "slave" to "free". It had the practical effect that as soon as a slave escaped the control of the Confederate government, by running away or through advances of federal troops, the slave became legally free. Eventually it reached and liberated all of the designated slaves. It was issued as a war measure during the American Civil War, directed to all of the areas in rebellion and all segments of the executive branch of the United States.

**October 2nd: NATIONAL CUSTODIAL WORKER'S RECOGNITION DAY** -This is a day set aside to show appreciation to custodial workers across the nation. Custodial workers work behind the scenes and are often unappreciated for the hard work that they do day after day keeping schools, hospitals, office buildings, museums, churches and other buildings clean and well maintained. These people are an important part of the success of many businesses because a clean, well maintained and operational building is a reflection on the business itself. *Won't stop, Can't stop, because the union makes ....us STRONG.*

## *Did you know?*

AFGE Women's Department supports a broad spectrum of issues of priority to today's women and working families. Such as family/medical leave, Equal pay, Child care, Sexual harassment, Domestic violence (and its impact at the workplace), Health care reform, Nursing mothers (lactation rooms), Paid parental leave, Advocacy and training to name a few.

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## *Contact Me...*

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*We're in this together...*