



## What a Clinton or Trump White House Means for You

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## A Message from AFGE's National President *J. David Cox Sr.*

**T**he 2016 general election promises to be one of the most expensive and chaotic races we've ever seen.

This environment comes with many risks for our union: Anti-government billionaires and the politicians they bought will do everything they can to swindle the public into cutting your pay and benefits, taking your job, dismantling the VA, and more. The Koch Brothers alone are spending \$900 million this election to elect their anti-government pawns. The stakes could not be higher for us and our families.

*But times of great risk also present great opportunities. You've heard me say many times that AFGE is at its finest when we all work together to shape our own destiny. Starting today, as you read this, is your chance to step up and do your part to protect your family and your future.*

Just one short month ago in June, hundreds of concerned AFGE leaders from across the country came together in our nation's birthplace, Philadelphia PA, to forge a bold path forward for our union. They brought their best ideas to the table, looked at what's working and what's not, and developed local game plans for making our union Big Enough to Win at all levels – in 2016 and beyond.

One of the main subjects was the upcoming election, and how we can build solidarity with our AFGE brothers and sisters to win. Whether we're Independents, Democrats, or Republicans, we all face the same decision this election, and the choice is stark.

Donald Trump has called for eliminating the Department of Education and Environmental Protection Agency, killing 20,000 jobs in the process, in addition to his plans for dismantling the VA. He said that American workers' "wages are too high" and has openly opposed union drives for low-wage workers at his companies' properties. On the other hand, Hillary Clinton has promised regular pay increases for public servants, committed to preserving our pensions, and stop shutdowns before they begin. She's against shuttering the VA and supportive of working with AFGE and

veterans' groups to make it better for veterans and workers. She traveled the country promoting the importance of unions to a thriving middle class.

I know many of you have strong feelings about one candidate or the other. But when you enter that voting booth, or put up your hand to volunteer, I'm asking you to vote for the pocketbook issues that matter most to you and your union family every day. Ignore the hot air and distractions that our opponents keep using to divide us.

Change begins in America when working people speak together with one voice and demand something better for their future. AFGE will do everything we can to elect Hillary Clinton as the next President of the United States, and we need you to be a part of our fight for a better tomorrow. Visit [www.afge.org/ElectionCenter](http://www.afge.org/ElectionCenter) for more information about candidates for office. I'll see you on the campaign trail.

In Solidarity,

### AFGE—THE GOVERNMENT STANDARD

Vol. LXXXV, No. 4 July/August 2016. AFGE—The Government Standard (USPS 003-219, ISSN 1041- 5335) is the official membership publication of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, 80 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20001. Phone: 202.737.8700, [www.afge.org](http://www.afge.org).

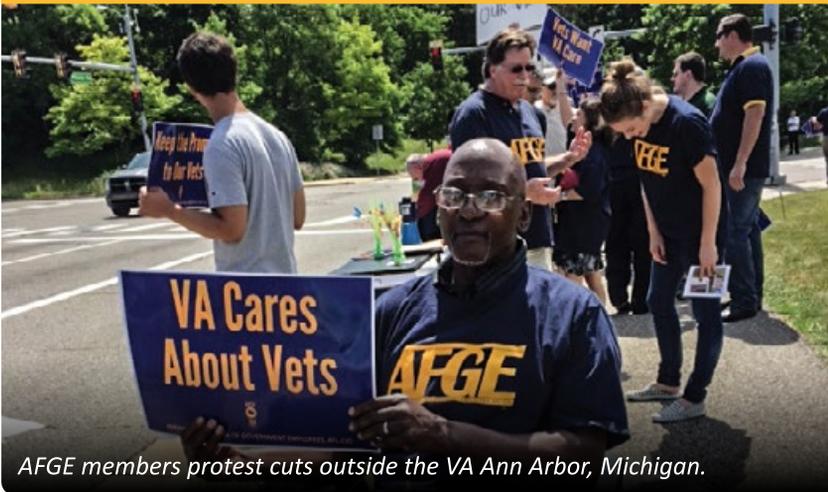
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## VA Employees Rally Against Proposed Closing of All Veterans Hospitals



AFGE members protest cuts outside the VA Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Veterans Affairs employees held 38 rallies outside VA hospitals in June to protest plans to privatize veterans' health care and shut down VA hospitals and medical centers.

"VA employees across the country are speaking out against these corrupt business interests with a clear message: it's time to put people ahead of profits," said National President J. David Cox Sr., who was a VA registered nurse for 20 years.

**"Veterans should not be reduced to a line item on a budget sheet. They served our country with honor and distinction, and their medical care shouldn't be left to the whims of profiteers."**

AFGE organized the rallies to draw public attention to the Commission on Care, a group that was created by Congress to recommend ways of improving veterans' health care. The Commission is due to release a final set of recommendations in July that would significantly weaken the VA's world-class health care system and pave the way for privatization and future closures of VA medical centers, sending veterans to for-profit hospitals for care.

The Commission on Care includes four high-level private hospital executives who would profit from privatization and not a single mainstream veterans service organization. It also includes a representative of the Koch Brothers' fake veterans

group, Concerned Veterans for America. Actual veterans' groups are unanimously opposed to any proposal that would close VA hospitals.

"Even though the vast majority of veterans oppose privatizing the VA, there are many people who would benefit financially from dismantling the VA and forcing veterans into a network of for-profit hospitals and insurance companies," Cox said.

Along with the rallies, AFGE co-organized a summit on VA health care in Washington D.C. on June 21. Leading experts on veterans care discussed the causes of the 2014 waitlist scandal, actions that the VA has taken to increase staffing and reduce wait times, and other ways that the VA can continue to improve access and quality of care.

The summit was co-hosted by the Roosevelt Institute and the AFL-CIO's Union Veterans Council, which President Cox leads as chairman. VSO representatives discussed how eliminating the VA health care network their members rely on would amount to breaking our nation's promise to those who have borne the battle.

**"We're not opposed to choice. But don't give someone a card and say 'Here, thanks for your service. Good luck,'"** said Garry Augustine, Executive Director of Disabled American Veterans.

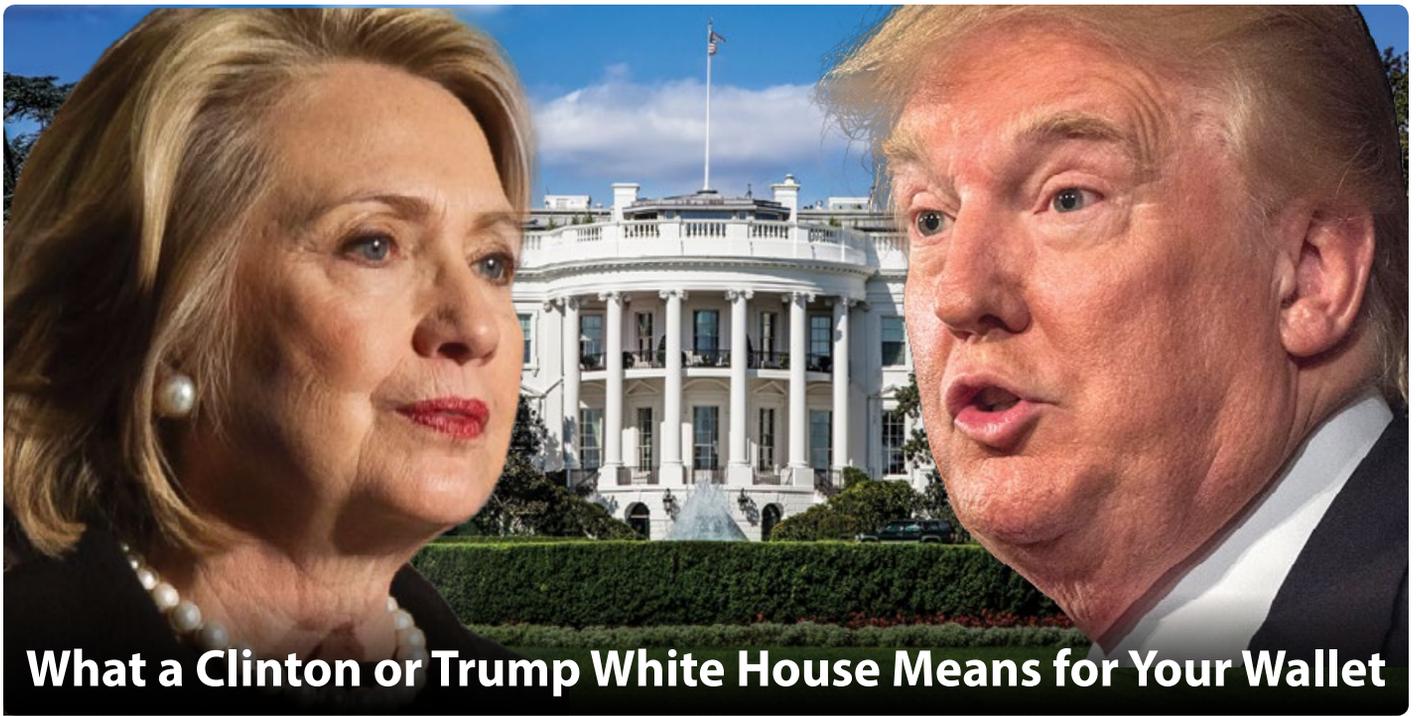
View photos from some of the rallies at [www.afge.org/VAallyphotos](http://www.afge.org/VAallyphotos).



AFGE members gathered at Canandaigua VA medical center to rally against the proposed closing of VA facilities nationwide.

**Take Action to Save the VA at [www.afge.org/keepthepromise](http://www.afge.org/keepthepromise)**

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## What a Clinton or Trump White House Means for Your Wallet

**T**he presidential race is set and it's time to seriously measure the candidates against each other. Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have outlined vastly different visions for government workers and our country at-large.

Public servants know the damage of sequestration and across-the-board budget cuts and the harm they've done to our country. Trump thinks the cuts haven't gone far enough.

**In a February debate, he promised to cut the federal budget so much that “your head will spin.” Clinton, in her response to AFGE’s presidential questionnaire, said big budget cuts and government shutdowns “disrupt lives for everyday Americans, undermine the ability of the U.S. government to operate, and hurt economic growth.”**

Trump loves to position himself as a champion of workers, but his career reveals a much different story. Over the last 30 years, his business empire has been served with 3,500 lawsuits that allege Trump never paid employees – from janitors to the law firms who represented him – for their work. He's also racked up 24 violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act for not paying employees minimum wage or overtime pay. Government employees aren't likely to see a pay raise in a Trump administration.

Clinton knows government workers have their own bills to pay and families to support. She told AFGE she “would work to ensure that federal employees are paid fairly, including providing appropriate pay raises.”

The gap between Clinton and Trump grows even wider on union rights. Trump said that he “loves” right-to-work laws and thinks wages are “too high.” One of his senior advisers worked on the Koch Brothers' union-busting strategy in Wisconsin. Clinton believes the “right of workers to organize is a fundamental right” and would oppose any legislation that limits the ability of workers to choose what they can automatically deduct from their paycheck – whether it goes to a charity or union dues.

**Donald Trump’s entire career has been solely focused on making money – while that isn’t bad in and of itself, it seems he has forgotten, discarded or mistreated those who helped him make his fortune. Much like AFGE members, Hillary Clinton’s career has been focused on serving others and our country.**

It's clear this election will have a big impact on public servants and their right to work together for a better future. Which future do you choose?

Visit [www.afge.org/electioncenter](http://www.afge.org/electioncenter) for more information on the candidates.

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Donald Trump	Issue	Hillary Clinton
In a televised debate, said American workers' "wages are too high"	<b>Government Employee Pay</b>	Believes pay increases for public servants haven't been enough
In a televised debate, Trump said he would cut the federal budget so much "your head will spin"	<b>Eliminating Agencies/ Contracting Out</b>	Wants to end over-reliance on contractors and return jobs to government positions
Engaged in union-busting at his hotels and favors "Right to Work" laws	<b>Union Rights</b>	Said "Labor will always have a seat at the table in my White House— Labor built the table"
Has been cited 24 times for violating Fair Labor Standards Act minimum wage and overtime laws	<b>Workers' Rights</b>	Believes paid family leave, earned sick days, fair schedules, equal pay, and affordable childcare are critical for working families
Said he would shut down the government if women's health care funds weren't cut by \$528 million	<b>Government Shutdown/ Sequestration</b>	Will work to avoid any shutdown, but promises full back pay should one occur

## Retirement Didn't Slow this Activist Down



AFGE Retiree Director Julie Tippens and Local 1148 VP Marlena Slaughter

It's the first Tuesday of the month and Marlena Slaughter is excited as she heads to a Golden Corral in Columbus, Ohio, for a gathering of 25 AFGE retirees. The group enjoys plentiful food and good conversation about issues that matter.

Some are excited about the monthly speaker; others are passionate about ending attacks against unions in their lifetime. Many have been long-time friends, and worked at various agencies until they retired.

*"It makes my heart soar when I think about how appreciated our retirees are in this role. I want what we do to make a mark— we have to stay strong, so we are constantly on the move."*

*Marlena Slaughter, Local 1148 Vice President*

For Slaughter, moving around was nothing new. She's raised children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She took in both of her parents until they passed, and has remained active all along.

After retiring Slaughter remained committed to serving others. She continued her role as Local 1148's executive vice president and was recently elected to another term. She also leads her local retiree group. Slaughter is a shining example of how the fight for justice has no retirement date.

Local 1148's retiree group has more than 350 active retirees who discuss government programs and news, and take over administrative duties while others are training. They also educate and mobilize members of their community, and speak on issues that impact government workers.

"I don't know where we'd be without our retiree members," L1148 President Robin Menafee explains.

**Ready to Join AFGE Retirees? visit [www.afge.org/retirees](http://www.afge.org/retirees)**

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750 additional officers this year. But that’s like putting a Band-Aid over a gunshot wound – it’s a superficial fix to a problem that goes much deeper.

**The permanent solution is clear: TSA needs funding for an additional 6,000 full-time officers to quickly and safely screen passengers.**

## The Real Story Behind TSA Lines and How to Fix Them

**A**fter years of budget and staffing cuts, high turnover, and low employee morale, the Transportation Security Administration finally ran out of gas.

Public outrage this spring over growing waits to get through airport security – up to three hours at some airports – forced TSA to admit what its employees have known for years: reckless budget cuts by Congress have left the agency running on fumes.

While record numbers of passengers take to the skies, TSA’s staff is smaller now than it was at the start of the decade. **Instead of providing the agency with additional money to hire much-needed staff, Congress has slashed nearly \$1.3 billion from TSA’s annual budget by raiding the security fee all passengers pay as part of their airline ticket.** That money should have gone toward TSA’s operating expenses but instead was used to pay down the federal deficit – leaving TSA with a massive employee deficit of its own.

“Over the last 4 or 5 years, our staffing has gone down, but we’re getting more passengers [and] airlines are booking more flights,” Transportation Security Officer Victor Payes told KCBS-TV in Los Angeles in May. “We want people to get through as quickly as possible, but we’re also not going to compromise their security.”

To stop the bleeding, the Department of Homeland Security shifted funds from other areas to hire about

“It’s time for Congress to stop the waiting games and give TSA the resources it needs to meet growing demands at our nation’s airports,” AFGE National President J. David Cox Sr. said after AFGE took out a full-page ad in *The Hill* newspaper urging lawmakers to pass the staffing increase.

The ad built on the tremendous amount of news coverage that AFGE members have received around the country. TSA officers at airports in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas and elsewhere explained to media that long lines were preventable with proper staff, and how they’re working diligently to keep up while balancing speed and security.

TSA currently has about 42,000 officers on the job, down from 47,000 in 2012. At the same time, the volume of passengers has risen 15% from 643 million to 740 million travelers. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the number of air travelers is projected to exceed 800 million this year.

**But it’s about more than just staffing. TSA workers have some of the lowest pay, morale, and workplace freedom of any federal agency.**

Both travelers and TSA employees feel the crush of long lines. Understaffing takes its toll on employees, causing lower morale and higher turnover. In fact, TSA workers’ morale is among the lowest of the entire federal workforce.

TSA officers also are among the lowest paid federal

workers and don't have the full rights, protections, and benefits afforded to other civil servants. Many are hired as part-time workers, for just 20 hours a week, meaning they have to pick up other jobs to make ends meet.

**Every week, TSA loses more than 100 screeners. In 2014, the agency lost more than 4,600 employees yet hired just 373 new screeners.**

In addition to hiring new officers, TSA needs to focus on retaining the qualified staff it currently has. That's why AFGE has called for TSA to provide officers who have been on the job at least two years with an immediate 5% longevity pay increase, which would match the 5% increase paid to employees with less than two years of service in 2015.

AFGE also is urging Congress to provide full Title 5 rights and protections to the TSA workforce, which would require TSA to follow the same workplace rules as most other agencies in the federal government.

*AFGE ad published in The Hill.*

## Congress: Stop the Waiting Games



**It's time to end long airport security lines for good: Support emergency funding for 6,000 new TSA screeners.**



Learn more at [www.afge.org](http://www.afge.org)

Paid for by the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO



**TAKE ACTION AT**

**[WWW.AFGE.ORG/STAFFTSA](http://WWW.AFGE.ORG/STAFFTSA)**

## Buying Cookies? Check the Label and Buy American!

**O**reo, Chips Ahoy, Ritz, and Premium crackers have one thing in common: they are made by a company that puts profits over people.

Over the past 20 years, hundreds of Americans have lost their jobs because Mondelez International, maker of Nabisco snack products, shut down production factories in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Texas, California, and Canada in favor of opening operations in Mexico.



Last year the company announced it would double down on its Mexico operations, which will result in 600 people losing their jobs in Chicago. That's why the Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM), which represents nearly 4,000 members at the company, launched a campaign called "Check the Label" that encourages Americans to support American jobs by buying snack products that are produced in America.

Standing in solidarity with the workers, AFGE's National Executive Council recently passed a resolution to support our BCTGM sisters and brothers in their campaign to preserve good-paying American jobs. Join the fight at [www.fightforamericanjobs.org/check-the-label](http://www.fightforamericanjobs.org/check-the-label).



# Transforming our Union One Member at a Time



**A**mericans believe in opportunity. Opportunity to get ahead. Opportunity to make life better for ourselves and our families.

In order to protect that opportunity for generations to come, hundreds of AFGE leaders met three years ago in Orlando to draft what became “Big Enough to Win,” a strategic plan that empowers us to win the future of our choice.

The success of your strategic plan has been clear: we’ve topped 300,000 members and prevented the wholesale privatization of our members’ jobs. We’ve won locality pay increases for public servants in 13 new cities and dozens of counties. We’ve retained due process rights for VA workers and halted attempts to take away our voice at work throughout the government. We’ve secured better protections for victims of data breaches, won health coverage for children with autism spectrum disorders, and we secured pepper spray for our correctional officers, just to name a few.

The plan also allows us to build our capacity to become stronger. For example, we added over 600 LPCs to advocate for members. We increased access and provided extensive training for union reps. We expanded our media outreach and social media footprint. And we invested more in organizing.

No matter how successful, every plan needs to be refreshed to stay effective. That’s why in Philadelphia this June, the minds met once again to evaluate our progress and make the adjustments needed to give us the best shot at winning every fight.



*Mary Kay Henry, President of SEIU, was a keynote speaker at the National Leadership Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.*

Leaders and activists in attendance identified best practices and refined our strategy through a collaborative process using iPads to gather, share, and make decisions on collective ideas. After four days of work, attendees decided that we needed to put even more energy and resources into organizing, improve coordination across the Federation, and focus on building more effective locals. We also need to mobilize more of our brothers and sisters in the

fight for better pay and rights at work, get serious about growing our PAC, and take full advantage of technology and social media to promote our cause.

“We’ve made tremendous progress as a union and won some major victories along the way, but we cannot rest now,” said AFGE President J. David Cox Sr. “We must always keep our eyes on the future and build a stronger movement for our children.”

**Visit [www.afge.org/win](http://www.afge.org/win) to see what you can do to advance our movement.**



Members from all agencies and backgrounds shared their thoughts on AFGE's future at the National Leadership Meeting.



Members used iPads to organize and share their ideas to ensure that all voices were heard.

## Served Your Country? Now You Can Serve Your Fellow Veterans



Our veterans have served our country with distinction all over the world. But let's face it – when many veterans come home to their families, their needs aren't being met. They need jobs. They need quality, affordable health care. They need a strong voice to stand up to the lawmakers and shadowy billionaires trying to destroy the VA health care system.

In short, they need people like you in their corner to make sure our country honors its promise to

those who have served.

As AFGE Veterans, we believe that being “pro-veteran” is determined by action and deeds – not just a patriotic soundbite. Being pro-veteran means raising our voices together and taking real action to make a difference for veterans and their families. But to do this, we need strong voices to join us.

If you're a veteran and a member of AFGE, we want YOU to join!

**Join AFGE Veterans Today**  
[www.afge.org/veterans](http://www.afge.org/veterans)

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.

# Have You Been to the Upgraded AFGE.org?



## 2 Get Connected with Your Union

**AFGE Groups:** Everyday, AFGE members are working together to make the government a better place to work. Groups like AFGE Veterans, Y.O.U.N.G., and Pride connect you with other like-minded union members to take your activism to the next level. Check out the AFGE Groups page here: [www.afge.org/groups](http://www.afge.org/groups).

**Join the AFGE Action Network:** Want to get important AFGE news and alerts delivered right to your inbox? Subscribe to AFGE Action News today: [www.afge.org/subscribe](http://www.afge.org/subscribe).

You can also join our text message list by texting **AFGE** to **225568** on your personal cell phone.

## 3 Things You Need to Know

You've probably noticed that AFGE.org has changed a bit recently (and looks better than ever on your tablet or smart phone). Here's a breakdown of what's new and where to find some of the most useful pages on AFGE's official website:

### 1 Register Your Profile

When you first enter the site, you'll have to update your login information. But don't worry — remembering your username and password for your official AFGE.org account just got a lot easier. By using your personal email address as your username, you can easily reset your password should you ever forget it. It's a one-time registration process that only takes a couple of minutes.

Access your personal AFGE.org account at [www.afge.org/registration](http://www.afge.org/registration).

### 3 Bookmark These Pages

Want quick access to some of the most useful areas on AFGE.org? Bookmark the pages below for easy access.

Member Benefits

[www.afge.org/memberbenefits](http://www.afge.org/memberbenefits)

AFGE Store

[www.afge.org/store](http://www.afge.org/store)

Contact Information

[www.afge.org/contactus](http://www.afge.org/contactus)

The Government Standard

[www.afge.org/governmentstandard](http://www.afge.org/governmentstandard)

AFGE News

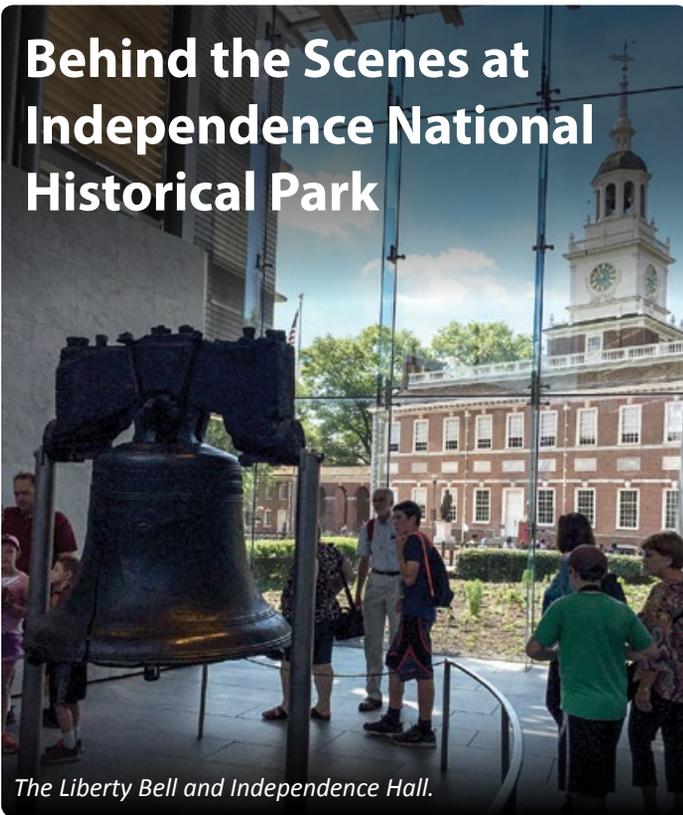
[www.afge.org/news](http://www.afge.org/news)

AFGE Calendar

[www.afge.org/calendar](http://www.afge.org/calendar)



## Behind the Scenes at Independence National Historical Park



*The Liberty Bell and Independence Hall.*

The National Park Service (NPS) was created 100 years ago to preserve our national parks for the enjoyment of generations to come. AFGE is celebrating a century of the National Park Service by recognizing the 22,000 civil servants who keep them running. As national parks are considered by many to be America's best idea, there's no better place to start the celebration than America's birthplace: Philadelphia.

The Independence National Historical Park spans 55 acres on 20 city blocks and comprises much of our nation's historical landmarks such as Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and Old City Hall. The park welcomes more than 4 million domestic and international visitors each year.

It's not easy to run a park of this size and significance, and it's all possible because of the outstanding work of the 200 NPS employees AFGE proudly represents.

### Meet the Park's Guardians

If you step into Independence Hall in the middle of August and it's nice and cool, that's because David Fitzpatrick is on the job. As a chiller plant operator, David makes sure all 25 buildings in the park have

the right temperatures and humidity levels. But you won't see him in action. His office is tucked away in the basement of a federal building, far away from the historical sites. He controls the whole park from his computer screen. With many buildings as old as the country itself, it's crucial that the temperature and humidity levels are right.

When you walk around Independence Hall and look up, you'll see security cameras and fire alarms all over the building. They are operated and monitored by the park's electronic mechanic, Scott Drake. Scott's job is to make sure all the alarms work and the building is safe and secure. He checks the alarms and fixes whatever he needs to fix to get Independence Hall and other buildings ready before the first visitor walks in.

See the guy in olive green pants, a khaki shirt, and a ranger hat talking to visitors? That's Ed Welch. As a park ranger, he gives visitors historical tours of the park and helps them navigate it. Ed starts off his day with a morning briefing to receive that day's assignments. He could be at the Liberty Bell first thing in the morning and Independence Hall next.

David, Ed, and Scott love their jobs. They are proud to help preserve the park for generations to come.



*Park Ranger Ed Welch helps visitors navigate Independence National Historical Park.*



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF  
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO**

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