



Proud To Make
America Work

AFGE *Advocate*

September 2009
Vol. 10, No. 3

President's Remarks

Hello and Happy Fall! It's incredible to believe that Summer has already passed us by! And while it was personally a tumultuous one for me, with the loss of three loved ones and some personal health issues, the work and success of your Union continued to roll along. An unfortunate snag in our Contract approval process has put us on hold while we iron out some issues with Field Advisory Services (which is the Agency tasked to review all Federal Contracts). The issues are minor, and we should soon be under the new Agreement, which is an excellent one. Your overwhelming support in ratification (95% approval) indicates that you agree.

Of course, NSPS (the beast that will not die) STILL continues to be an issue. While we were confident that it was going to be put to rest, like a cat with nine lives it has managed to survive. Rest assured the National AFGE Office still has this as a major initiative. Our Local just completed a petition signing indicating our position, and I had a "spirited" talk with Carl Levin's Office last week where I once again relayed your opinions and recommendations.

2009 was election year for our National Officers. I am happy to say that National President Gage was re-elected, and I believe he will continue to provide strong leadership for our great Union. The other big issue at the Convention deals with a dues increase, but I am VERY HAPPY to report that with sound fiscal management and a good budget (approved by YOU, the Membership), we will be able to absorb the increase.

2009 is also an Election year for our Local. Nominations will be accepted at the October General Membership Meeting. An official nominations notice outlining the procedure will be sent to all Local 1658 members by the Election Committee.

It hasn't been all work over the summer. Another highly entertaining bus trip to see the Detroit Tigers (Division Champs?) play was a great time, and once again, Local 1658 was a participating sponsor of the Command's Organization Day.

And, one final note on our membership efforts - I'm very happy to report that we have signed up over 200 new members on our way to yet another record year! As always, call or email me if you have questions/issues. Take care! In Solidarity,

Dan

Meeting Notice



Our Next Scheduled General
Membership Meeting:

Wednesday

October 21, 2009

Detroit Arsenal

Building 229 Basement Cafeteria

4:00 p.m.

New Scholarship for Veterans

AFGE



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Local 1658 is proud to present the 1st Annual Veterans College Scholarship! This special scholarship honors the brave men and women who honorably served our great nation. A total of \$1000.00 is available for 2009; individual award amounts will be based on the number of applications received, but will not be less than \$250 a person.

Applicants can be an AFGE 1658 Local Member/Veteran or spouse, child or grandchild of an AFGE Local 1658 Member/Veteran sponsor. For more information, contact our Veterans Coordinator Michael J. Johnson, afge1658@comcast.net



**Applications must be postmarked by
October 15, 2009**

Combined Federal Campaign 2009

By Mary Jo Winfield, Executive Vice President

Autumn is here! The leaves are changing color (already!), there is a slight chill in the air, and the Combined Federal Campaign is about to start! The 2009 theme is iCan - Now More Than Ever” The lowercase “i” symbolizes that as individuals, we are never more important than the good we can do.

This year’s CFC Kickoff Rally will be held on October 6 at 0830 in the Building 200 Auditorium and the CFC Agency Fair will be the same day in the main hall of Building 230 from 0900 to 1500.

Most residents of Southeastern Michigan continue to suffer through tough economic times. Federal employees in the area have fared much better than private sector workers. Here at the Detroit Arsenal, we are fortunate - new construction, new employees, new opportunities are all around us. But one step outside the gate, across the road, GM employees are suffering through layoffs, reductions in pay, and loss of retirement benefits they worked a lifetime for.



iCan
Now More Than Ever.



Now is the time for all good Federal workers to come to the aid of our Country! iCan - CanU?



Field Trip!!!

Summer in the Detroit Area would not be complete without at least one trip to the ball park to see the Tigers in action! Over a hundred Local 1658 members agreed and loaded buses for a Friday night Summer Field Trip to Comerica Park. We met at the VFW Minge Post for a hot diggity dog and sausage dinner, enjoyed a spirited bus ride to the ball park, followed by a terrific baseball game (Tigers beat the Cleveland Indians 5-1) and a fantastic fireworks show! GO Tigers!!!

Contract News

Summer events for our Local also included a June ratification vote on a brand new Bargaining Agreement between AFGE Local 1658 and Detroit Arsenal management. The contract was ratified by members, an official signing ceremony was held, and we were ready to go.....except for the final mandatory review by DoD. We received word back from DoD that several sentences or phrases in the agreement were not in compliance with laws, rules and regulations, and suggestions were offered to correct the issues. As neither management nor our Local fully agreed with the suggestions, we re-looked the identified areas and developed our own solutions to the issues.

We are now in the process of coordinating with DoD to get OUR contract to say what WE want it to say. Unfortunately, this means that the contract effective date has been delayed and that we are still operating under the old 1991 contract. We expect to resolve all the issues soon, very soon. Stay tuned....

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New Website Established for Vets Returning from Iraq/Afghanistan

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the launch of a new “Returning Veterans” web site that will focus on the specific needs of troops returning home from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The web site features videos, veterans stories, and a blog where vets can post feedback. The site also restructures the traditional index-of-benefit format on other VA pages into question-based, categorized and easily navigated links by topic.

Check out www.oefoif.va.gov

VA Pledge to Women Veterans on Women’s Equality Day

Women’s Equality Day is celebrated on August 26th each year. This year, to commemorate the occasion, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki made a pledge that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will work to ensure the nation upholds its obligation to meet the needs of our Veterans - including women Veterans.

“Our Veterans deserve the very best care. Anything less is unacceptable,” Secretary Shinseki said. “If we are to transform VA into a 21st century organization, we need to continually improve our services to women Veterans.”

Although VA has long provided equal benefits to women Veterans, the Department has embarked on new initiatives to meet their unique needs. These initiatives include staffing every VA Medical Center with a Women Veteran Program Manager, creating a mini-residency on women’s health for primary care physicians, supporting a multi-faceted research program on women’s health and improving communication and outreach to women Veterans.

Women Veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the Veteran population. They comprise 7.5 percent of the total Veteran population and nearly 5.5 percent of all Veterans who use VA health care services. The VA estimates that women Veterans will constitute 10 percent of the Veteran population by 2020 and 9.5 percent of VA patients.

For more information about VA programs and services for women Veterans, visit: www.va.gov/womenvet/ or www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth

Events, Workshops, Support Groups

One of the great things about working at the Detroit Arsenal is the variety of events held to educate, involve and provide support to the workforce. We encourage you to take a break from your normal schedule and take advantage of these programs.

October 6 CFC Rally in the Bldg 200 Auditorium 0830, CFC Agency Fair in Bldg 230 Main Hallway 0900-1500

October 13 Domestic Violence Awareness Program in the Bldg 200 Auditorium 1200. The Honorable Judge Ruth Carter, 36th District Court, Detroit, MI, will speak about Domestic Violence in our Society Today. Special guests will include Victim Advocates from the Macomb County Prosecutor's office, representatives from Turning Point Inc, and counselors from Macomb Family Services. Refreshments will be served in the lobby. Purple tulips will be distributed for attendees to plant in recognition of Domestic Violence Prevention month.

October 28 Veteran Health and Benefit Fair, Bldg 230 Main Hallway, 0900-1500 Featuring: Wounded Warrior Project, Traumatic Brain Injury Association, Women's Veterans Initiative from the John Dingle Medical Center, VA Cemetary Benefits, Always a Soldier, County Service Veterans Officers, and other Veterans Groups Representatives. AFGE Local 1658 will have a table with information on our AFGE Cares Soldier Package Program - donations will be accepted! Most requested items: beef jerky, candy (non-chocolate), crackers, and powdered drink mix singles.

Employee Assistance Center Programs - call x46808 to register:

October 21 The Stimulus Package, The Market, The Stimulus and Taxes, 1100, Bldg 231 John Bruce Conference Room

October 22 Managing Finances and Reducing Debt, 1100, Bldg 231 John Bruce Conference Room

Workshop Series on Anger & Stress Issues, Enhancing Personal Relationships
Four classes on Thursdays at 1430, next series begins Oct 29

Workshop Series on Buying and Selling Housing Thursdays 1130-1230
Oct 15 Rent vs. Buy, Nov 5 Affordable Neighborhoods, Nov 12 Government and Bank Loan Programs, Nov 19 Down Payment Assistance

Weekly Support Groups: AA and Al Anon Meetings

Monthly Support Groups: Grief & Loss due to Death or Catastrophic Illness - Begins Oct 7, Grief & Loss due to Divorce or Separation - Begins Oct 14 (1030)

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Convention Report: National Dues Up..... Local Dues Remain The Same

By Mary Jo Winfield, Executive Vice President

Every three years, a National Convention for the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) is convened to hold National Officer elections and to address resolutions. This year, AFGE's 38th National Convention was held in Reno, Nevada. Your elected delegates to the convention were President Dan Martin, Executive VP Mary Jo Winfield, and Area VPs Robert Graham and Vernessar Morris-Lee.

The beginning days of the convention deal mostly with the National Officer elections - nominations for office, acceptance speeches, campaigns, election voting, and (more frequently than not) run-off election voting. Awards for legislative efforts, newsletters, political action and human rights are also presented during the first few days. Our Local was honored with a prestigious award for Political Action. The last days of the convention are focused on resolutions - proposed changes to the way AFGE is funded, does business, supports causes, etc, with the most important and highly controversial issue always being the per capita increase resolutions.

The Convention is the only opportunity that the Federation has to adjust the amount of per capita tax the Locals pay to the National office. The reasons for increases are pretty much the same every three years - inflation, funding of AFGE employee pay and health care benefit increases, etc. In addition, there are requests for increases for items like organizing, additional EEO lawyers or bargaining contract support and training. This year, there were increases requested for a variety of programs that could have increased per capita \$4.00 per member/per month for the next three years. After much debate, the convention body agreed upon a much lower increase: \$1.25 increase per member/per month effective January 2010, no increase for 2011, and an additional \$0.25 increase per member/per month in 2012.

Upon our return, we had a Local decision to make - which is always a difficult one. Do we pass on the increase to our members, and if so, how much of it? We considered the fact that our Local is financially stable - we operate under a budget approved by the membership every year; a budget that is conservative in projecting income and frugal in allowing expenses. We considered the fact that we have consistently carried over an increasing amount of extra money each year. We also took into consideration the economic times and realize that although we, as Federal workers, still have jobs, there are many of us that have spouses that are unemployed, some with little hope of ever returning to their previous jobs. We are very pleased to have come to the conclusion that **we will not be raising Local dues** to cover the increase in per capita to the National office. Local 1658 dues will remain \$12.50 per pay period, one of the lowest amounts in the Federation!



AFGE Local 1658

Detroit Arsenal
6501 E. 11 Mile Road
Building 230, Room 136W
Warren, MI 48397-5000
(586) 574-6102
www.afge1658.org



Roster of Union Representatives September 2009

Dan Martin, President.....	574-6102
Mary Jo Winfield, Executive Vice President.....	574-5295
Ed Klein, VP, Bldg 231.....	574-6807
Martin Robinson, VP, Bldg 231.....	574-5343
Paul Veselenak, VP, Bldg 230.....	574-7632
Deborah Durr, Steward, Bldg 230.....	574-4116
Wes Crickard, Steward, Bldg 230.....	574-7042
Vernessar Morris-Lee, VP, Bldg 229.....	574-7228
Karen Pate, Steward, Bldg 229.....	753-2766
Robert Graham, VP, Bldg 200, 201, 210, 212, 215, 252.....	574-8968/6175
Ron Grigsby, VP, Bldgs 203, 205, 219, 232, SANGB.....	574-5564/5295
Bruce Storace, Steward, Police.....	574-5564
Denise Woods, Steward, SANGB.....	307-2621
Darrell Ball, Steward, Lima Tank Plant.....	(419) 221-9543
Joe Manning, Steward, Commissary.....	307-4124
Fred Napier, Steward, Fire.....	574-6021
Louis Opalka, Senior Director of Labor Relations.....	574-5307
Jane Gabler, Women's/Fair Practices Coordinator.....	574-7759
Mike Johnson, Veterans Affairs.....	574-7518

Internal Union Officers:

MaryAnn Rheaume, Treasurer.....	574-7923
Mary Lee, Secretary.....	574-6706
LeeAnne Filary, Trustee.....	574-7407
Malcolm Simpson, Trustee.....	574-7935
Greg Donahoe, Trustee.....	574-6001
Echo Hunt, Office Manager.....	574-6102

REQUEST FOR PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS FOR LABOR ORGANIZATION DUES

Form 1187/Revised April 2004

Section 5525 of title 5 United States Code (Allotments and Assignments of Pay) permits Federal agencies to collect this information. This completed form is used to request that labor organization dues be deducted from your pay and to notify your labor organization of the deduction. Completing this form is voluntary, but it may not be processed if all requested information is not provided.

This record may be disclosed outside your agency to: 1) the Department of the Treasury to make proper financial adjustments; 2) a Congressional office if you make an inquiry to that office related to this record; 3) a court or an appropriate Government agency if the Government is party to a legal suit; 4) an appropriate law enforcement agency if we become aware of a legal violation; 5) an

organization which is a designated collection agent of a particular labor organization; and 6) other Federal agencies for management, statistical and other official functions (without your personal identification).

Executive Order 9397 allows Federal agencies to use the social security number (SSN) as an individual identifier to avoid confusion caused by employees with the same or similar names. Supplying your SSN is voluntary, but failure to provide it, when it is used as the employee identification number, may mean that payroll deductions cannot be processed.

Your agency shall provide an additional statement if it uses the information furnished on this form for purposes other than those mentioned above.

Please print in BLOCK UPPERCASE LETTERING using black ink.

1. LAST NAME FIRST M.I.

2. HOME ADDRESS APT. OR SUITE NO.

CITY STATE ZIP + FOUR

3. EMPLOYEE SSN 4. DATE OF BIRTH 5. HOME PHONE NUMBER:

6. NAME OF AGENCY

7. OFFICE PHONE NUMBER AND EXT. EMAIL:

ENTER YOUR EMAIL TO RECEIVE THE FREE AFGE ACTION NEWS

Section A—Authorization By Employee

I hereby authorize the agency named above to deduct from my pay each pay period, or the first full pay period of each month, the amount certified below as the regular dues of the (Name of Labor Organization and Local #):

L

and to remit such amount to that labor organization in accordance with its arrangements with my employing agency. I further authorize any change in the amount to be deducted which is certified by the below named labor organization as a uniform change in its dues structure.

I understand that this authorization, if for a biweekly deduction, will become effective the pay

period following its receipt in the payroll office of my employing agency. I further understand that Standard Form 1188, Cancellation of Payroll Deductions for Labor Organization Dues, is available from my employing agency, and that I may cancel this authorization by filing Standard Form 1188 or other written cancellation request with the payroll office of my employing agency. Such cancellation will not be effective, however, until the first full pay period which begins on or after the next established cancellation date of the calendar year after the cancellation is received in the payroll office.

Contributions or gifts (including dues) to the labor organization shown at the left are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. However, they may be tax deductible under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

GENDER (OPT.) M F DATE SIGNATURE OF EMPLOYEE

MM/DD/YY

FOR COMPLETION BY AGENCY ONLY—The above named employee and labor organization meet the requirements for dues withholding. (Mark the appropriate box. If "YES" send this form to payroll. If "NO" return this form to the labor organization.) YES NO

Section B—For Use By Labor Organization

Name of Labor Organization (Indicate Local)

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO, LOCAL: I.D. CODE:

I hereby certify that the regular dues of this organization for the above named member are currently established at \$ _____ per biweekly pay period.

SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL DATE COUNCIL #

MM/DD/YY C

REBATE RECEIPT

RECRUITER LAST NAME: FIRST M.I.

RECRUITER SSN: DATE

MM/DD/YY

Check here and complete if your address has changed: Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

