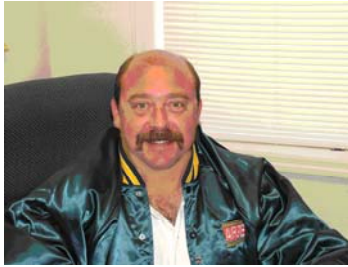


## Presidents Corner

### Meet your new President.....



Newly Elected President Dan Grausso says, "Thank You to the Membership for electing me as your President and your vote of confidence in me to keep your Union Office up and running to its full potential." "I will do my best to continue the high level of service to the members of AFGE Local 1869." "I am proud to head this fine organization, and I urge all of our members to step forward and help their Local grow stronger." Thank you again, and please come by anytime, my door is open."

Dan a native of Spring Valley, New York joined the Air Force in 1987 and returned to civilian life in 1995 after serving his country for eight years.

While on active duty here in Charleston; Dan met his wife, Linda. Linda and Dan have been married for twelve wonderful years and have two children ages seven and fifteen.

Dan became a Civil Servant in 1997 working in the Liquid Fuels shop for the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron. Shortly after being hired Dan made the decision to join AFGE Local 1869. He has served as Secretary/Treasurer and Shop Steward. He eagerly accepted the nomination for President when the call to step up arose.

### Challenge Reminder.....

### We are on our way!

We have signed up 33 members since the contest started! We have done a great job so far but still have a ways to go. Get on the band wagon and sign up a new member, TODAY!

AFGE National and the Fifth District are once again offering **BONUS BUCKS** beginning 6 November through 28 February. That means for each member you sign up you receive \$40.00 from the National office. What a great way to help your Local and at the same time pay for Christmas.

I have asked the Executive Board to extend our Membership Drive contest through 28 February to match the BONUS BUCKS drive. This gives you our members a great opportunity to invite your co-workers to join your Local and increases your chances of winning some serious money. Sign up 10 new members and get \$400.00 in **BONUS BUCKS** plus \$500.00 for winning our Membership Drive puts \$900.00 in your pocket. The potential is only limited by the amount of effort you put into recruiting new members!

Again, our goal is 400 members! We have from now until February 28th to reach this goal.

#### Here are the rules:

- 1) This is open to all current and new members
- 2) The member who signs up the most new members will receive \$400.00.
- 3) The 400<sup>th</sup> member to sign up will receive \$400.00.
- 4) The member who signs up the 400<sup>th</sup> member will receive \$100.00.
- (5) The Local President is not eligible to win.

Membership numbers will be classified information until the day that we reach 400.

Go out and show pride in your membership in *your* Local. Spread the word, sign up new members and earn some spending cash. You have the potential to put \$900.00 or more in your pocket.

We could reach our goal today if each member would just sign up one new member!

### Monthly Membership Drawing

## Joyce Owens

**A retired member missed out on \$400.00 in the December monthly meeting drawing.**

**Next months drawing will be for \$500.00**

**Our retired members are always welcome and encouraged to attend any function of this Local.**

## Legislative Corner

New Democratic Congress, now we can relax?

Wrong! We need to start over making a case for our causes with the new Congress.

While we should be hopeful with Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), an advocate for worker's rights and a friend of civil service employees, will become the House Majority Leader. It does not mean that we can drop our guard.

We can not rely solely on the efforts of Labor friendly Democrats; we must also cultivate Labor friendly Republicans. We must be concerned with the administration's role in setting public policy. The Democratic majority by itself will not be able to override presidential vetoes.

The new Congress has many, many problems to deal with. They will have several hard decisions to make, not the least of which is the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, an out of control budget and homeland security.

All Union Brothers and Sisters need to take an active role in keeping the lines of communication open with all of our Congressional representatives. This is especially true here in South Carolina where the Democrats did not fair as well as in the rest of the country.

It is our responsibility as civil service employees and Union members to speak up to protect our jobs, benefits, retirement and our rights!

## Legislation Issues

NSPS is still the major issue facing civil service employees. While we await the outcome of the appeal filed by the Department of Defense we do not need to become complacent.

As Union members we need to keep this issue in the fore front of our minds and openly discuss the issue with our co-workers.

As many of us draw closer to retirement we also need to be involved in issues such as "Premium Conversion" which would allow federal retirees to pay for health insurance with "pre-tax" dollars. Then there is the GPO, Government Pension Offset and the WEP, Windfall Elimination Provision;

both of which affects our Social Security benefits by penalizing us for our federal service. Even if we worked in the private sector and paid in our required quarters to qualify for Social Security benefits. It could even cause our spouses to lose part of their Social Security benefit when they receive an annuity from

These are just a few of the issues facing us as federal employees and future federal retirees. Get involved and communicate with your Congressional representatives, let them know what you want them do!

---

The appropriations committees of Congress are being reorganized by the new leadership, in part to end a situation that existed in the last several years in which the House and Senate had different numbers of subcommittees on those panels. As part of the reshuffle, there will be a change in jurisdiction over federal pay and central management agencies such as OPM, OMB and GSA, as well as appeals agencies such as MSPB and FLRA. That will be moved from what had been the Transportation-Treasury subcommittee to a new Financial Services and General Government subcommittee, which also will oversee financial and regulatory agencies. The effect could be to somewhat raise the profile of federal employee issues in the appropriations panels, since those issues often were overshadowed by major transportation, housing and judicial issues that were under the jurisdiction of the Transportation-Treasury panel. The chairman of the House subcommittee will be Rep. Jose Serrano, D-N.Y while Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., will head the Senate subcommittee.

## Thank you "New House of Representatives"

The new House of Representatives has passed a bill that repeals an authority granted in the 2001 Aviation and Transportation Security Act giving the TSA chief the ability to reject collective bargaining.

Then-TSA Administrator James Loy exercised that authority in 2003, prohibiting collective bargaining because of screeners' role in national security.

Now it is up to the Senate to pass a similar bill. Please contact you senators and urge them to introduce and support a bill

giving these 56,000 federal employees the right that they were wrongfully denied.

## Representation

FANTASTIC!!!!!!!!!!

### AFGE Local 1869 does it again!

MSPB has ruled in our favor against the wrongful termination of the commissary employee at the Naval Weapons Station store.

The employee was made whole and received back pay from October 2004 when she was terminated through January 14, 2007. Her leave was reinstated and her records were cleared of any mention of the incident. She was offered reinstatement of her position but she declined the offer.

This makes two employees which Local 1869 saved their jobs and two fourteen day suspensions overturned.

Local 1869 has repeatedly shown what they can do for you the employees, now step-up and help strengthen Local 1869.

---

More good news!

We filed two ULPs against Support Services of America (SSA) the base cleaning contractor and recently received notice from The National Labor Relations Board (private sector) that they have issued a charge against the company. This means that our claims against the company of failure to bargain and reverse bargaining were founded by the agency.

Now the company has to answer the charges and negotiate a settlement with the Local. More to follow!

---

437 AMXS has given yet another notice of intent to reorganize. They have proposed moving aircraft mechanics from building ?? and consolidating them with the mechanics in building ??

Local 1869 has answered with a letter of intent to negotiate. Our negotiating team is busy planning and will soon meet to set the rules for the negotiations.

It seems that AMXS is constantly reorganizing. I wonder how they accomplish any work accomplished? It must be dedicated employees!

---

The issue of Charleston County Sheriff's Department patrolling CAFB has yet to be settled

Management has not replied to our last offer to compromise. Until they do, we will consider this issue settled in our favor since the sheriff is not patrolling on the base. You most probably will see them outside the Rivers gate area, though.

## Keep up the pressure!!!!

## Are We Under Attack? (the continuing saga)

### Disclaimer:

All comments in this column are made to raise the awareness of our members. By no means am I trying to tell anyone what to think or do. I am only attempting to bring to the forefront issues that I feel should be of concern to us as union brothers and sisters. There is much for us to gain in solidarity and much to lose without it.

### YES, On all fronts!

Wednesday January 10, 2007

How many of you listened to the President's speech?

Did you hear the part about civil service employees? It was just one sentence but it could have a huge effect on your lives!

*We also need to examine ways to mobilize talented American civilians to deploy overseas, where they can help build democratic institutions in communities and nations recovering from war and tyranny.*

I believe this was tried by the British many years ago. They called it colonization.

### What's a Contractor Worth?

The 100,000 government contractors working in Iraq are earning an average of \$98,387 a year, according to [a survey](#) of about 2,000 contractors done by ClearanceJobs.com.

Contractors in Iraq have seen a 6.4 percent salary increase over the last six months, however, ClearanceJobs.com points out that the \$98,387 figure does not include signing bonuses, tax-exempt status, and additional danger pay.

Do you the civil service employee get a signing bonus? Additional danger pay?

No, you get your regular pay plus \$3.58 per diem for incidentals.

**Pentagon Officials REDUCE** the size of the Pay Pool funding for senior executives.

Last year performance based pay awards were capped at 15%. This year they will be capped at 10% with a possible 12% on a limited basis.

It should come as no surprise that these senior executives are not happy.

Yes, it is beginning; just as we have predicted! One of the major goals of NSPS and Pay for Performance was and is to reduce the federal payroll.

Stay tuned, this will not be the end of this type of action.

### **Charleston AFB, SC.....**

**Many of you are aware that the non-bargaining unit employees on Charleston AFB have already been converted to NSPS/P-4-P (Pay for performance). We have all read the propaganda put out by the administration that most of these employees received an increase in pay or stayed the same.**

**Here is the "Rest of the Story".** What the administration has failed to share is that some employees actually now make less due to the conversion.

Remember we were told that this would not happen!

Here on Charleston we know of at least one GS- that was converted to IL and is taking home \$200 less a month.

### **Big Business sucking up your tax dollars, again!!**

The property and casualty insurers have their hand out seeking are looking for tax payers to pay their insured losses in the event of a terror attack.

This is after the industry realized a record profit of almost \$60 Billion in 2006. How have they managed such a feat? They have systematically overcharging consumers, cutting back on coverage, underpaying claims and getting the tax payer to pick up some of the tab on high risk losses.

This is quite evident here in the coastal Charleston area as we all pay higher premiums for our dwellings to help cover the insurer's losses in the event a hurricane wipes out any of the millionaire mansions on the beaches of our coast.

### **NSPS NEWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**We continue to work diligently on NSPS issues. Please do not get complacent about NSPS just because we persevered in Federal Court. That was only the first battle; the war is far from over. We still need to be in constant contact with our representatives to assure a fair system over all.**

### **FOURTEEN Months and counting!**

### **DoD still refuses to answer AFGE's formal Request for Information!!!!**

AFGE filed a formal request regarding the implementation costs for NSPS. DoD refused our request under 5 USC 7114. AFGE still has a Freedom of information request in the works.

We now have Congress asking questions about the costs. Keep writing and calling your congress persons and let them know that you also want to know how your tax dollars are being spent. You are a tax payer, besides being a government employee. You have a right to know!

They have replied to our request but want us to pay over \$34,000.00 for the information.

### **MEMBER'S Library**

2006 CSRS Retirement Guide  
2006 FERS Retirement Guide  
2006 Turbo Tax Deluxe

How to write a federal resume  
2005 Federal Employees Handbook (on CD)  
2006 Federal Employees Almanac (on CD)  
Federal Manager's Handbook  
Estate Planning Guide for Federal Employees  
Retired Military Personnel Handbook  
Health Insurance Guide for Federal Employees  
Military to Federal Career Guide (1)  
2006 Federal Personnel Guide  
Federal Employees Legal Survival Guide  
Real Estate Guide for Federal Employees (on computer)  
Understanding the Federal Government's Survivor Benefits \*  
\* = New

### **Turbo tax state and federal available for use in the office!!!!!!!!**

All of these publications are available for you our Members to use. You may sign them out anytime. If there is something you would like for us make available, please let us know.

**(1) Let the military troops that you work with know about this new book. They are welcome to sign the book out to help prepare for a civil service career. They are potential members!**

### **Regular Business Meetings**

Regular monthly business meetings are held the **second Tuesday of each month at 4:30PM**, in the union office located in Building 636, 205 W. Stewart Avenue, Charleston Air Force Base, SC.

For more information, please contact the union office at (843) 963-5765 or 552-8249.

**January Anniversaries**

Mr. Jerry L. Thomas	1977
Mr. Willie Walker	1977
Ms. Thelma Grate	1980
Ms. Catherine Green	1980
John Henry Rollinson	1980
Ms. Rose Alvarez	1983
Mr. Johnson B. Freeman	1995
Mr. James Giddens	1992
Mr. Curtis Pigford	1992
Mr. Malachi Simmons	1992
Ms. Trudy Pendergast	1994
Mr. Robert Klopp	1995
Mr. Oree Beaufort	2002
Mr. Thomas Cantley	2002
Mr. Jerry Goodwin	2002
Ms. Gerri Johnson	2003
Ms. Paulette Burden	2003
Mr. Duane Combs	2003
Mr. Jaun Luciano	2004
Mr. Clayton Seufert	2004
Ms. Jana Raksins	2006
Ms. Jolene Rugg	2006
Ms. Lavern Wright	2006

**Stay informed!**

- <http://afge.org> [www.aflcio.org](http://www.aflcio.org)
- <http://www.unionvoice.org>
- <http://www.showusthejobs.com>
- <http://www.charlestonlaborcouncil.org>
- <http://www.unionblog.com>
- <http://www.govexec.com>
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com>
- <http://www.retiredamericans.org>
- <http://www.thenation.com>
- <http://www.democrats.org>
- <http://www.laboreducator.org>
- <http://narfe.org>
- <http://www.FedSpending.org>
- <http://spewingforth.blogspot.com>
- <http://www.publiccitizen.org>

South Carolina Fair Share 803-252-9813  
Stay on top of the issues at the state house and how they affect you!

Know what your state representatives are doing, saying and how they are voting!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Remember:**  
**Together we have a strong collective voice as individuals we are but a tiny weak squeak!!!!**

**Urge your friends and co-workers to join and get involved!**

**Keep in touch with AFGE Local 1869**

<http://www.AFGElocal1869.org>

- The union office is now on the Charleston AFB LAN. Our E-mail address is :
- [CHARLESTON.AFGE@CHARLESTON.AF.MIL](mailto:CHARLESTON.AFGE@CHARLESTON.AF.MIL)
- If we are out of the office, send an email with your concerns or problem. We will have a written record of your inquiry and will get right back with you.

<p><b>AFGE Local 1869</b>          Building 636, 205 W. Stewart Avenue          Charleston AFB, SC 29404-4465          (843) 963-5765 (843) 552-8249          Editor's E-mail: <a href="mailto:afge1869@netzero.com">afge1869@netzero.com</a></p> <p>Newsletter Editor: Del Davids          Staff: Jennifer Page and Joe Rackley</p>
<p><b>President's E-mail:</b>  <a href="mailto:Delmar.Davids@charleston.af.mil">Delmar.Davids@charleston.af.mil</a> or <a href="mailto:afge1869@netzero.com">afge1869@netzero.com</a></p>

Talk with your Representatives!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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**Representative James Clyburn**

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