



Local 899

TSO Reporter

An occasional news and information report from the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 899 for Transportation Security Officers in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Labor donated.

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www.AFGElocal899.org

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In Year 2014: New Members, Wins, & Cash in Bank

From January 1 to December 31, 2014, membership in our Local 899 increased from 228 to 346.

Despite the bias of the system stacked against us, 3 cases sent to arbitration in 2014 were settled to our satisfaction in 2015 and 3 more are still pending. We were able to save the jobs of 5 members that management originally proposed to remove.

Also in 2014, we gained independence from trusteeship, established a functional financial budget and accounting system, acquired laptops and software for grievance work, trained 8 new stewards, and presented a 2015 budget to membership for ratification before year end.

Already, in 2015, we have 5 new cases in arbitration.

During 2014, cash in the bank increased from \$28,505 to \$51,449 (including the Reserve Fund).

The income for the year was \$56,300:

Membership dues—\$33,635

Recruitment Rebate reimbursements - \$13,181

Events—\$1,055

Other and Merger with AFGE Local 804 - \$8,426

Expenses for the year were \$40,851:

Regional Labor Affiliation - \$ 1,500

Contract Enforcement Reserve Fund - \$7,500

New member Rebates and Organizing - \$20,589

Occupancy, Equipment and Supplies - \$ 3,803

Training and Travel - \$7,393

Other - \$65

Federal Workers Face Pay Cuts Next Fiscal Year

By Sara Kuntzler, AFGE Legislative and Political Organizer

As you know, federal employees and our families have made extraordinarily harsh financial sacrifices in the past several years during various budget crises. We have suffered a three-year pay freeze, followed by two years of 1% pay increases that were well below the recommended baseline, and federal employees hired since 2012 have seen massive contribution increases to retirement. In addition to these lost earnings, 750,000 workers also lost up to eight days of pay because of sequestration in 2013. Federal workers' total sacrifice to date is \$159 billion over ten years.

Unfortunately, the majority of the Senate and House members do not feel we have given enough. They recently passed their budget resolutions and **federal employees are in the crosshairs** once again. They want to **increase the amount we pay** toward our pensions by **eight**

times the current amount [without increasing the pension pay-out]. That's a **6% pay cut** for federal employees – 40% of whom are veterans. They're also proposing to **rob \$60 billion from the FEHB** (health care coverage) by turning it onto a voucher program, and **laying off 10%** of the entire non-security workforce. In all, **they want to take \$318 billion** from our wallets. We need to **act now to stop it**.

Please call your member of Congress at **1 (844) 913-7574** and urge them to vote against any legislation that takes more from federal workers. You can get more information or email your lawmaker directly from the AFGE website at the [Budget Action Center](http://BudgetActionCenter.org) at afge.org/ to find the most up-to-date information on what is happening on Capitol Hill and how you can help make a difference.

A Tale of Two Cities --

TSOs Stop Privatization Attempt at Orlando International, Florida

After over 18 months of tireless efforts to push back against unnecessary security privatization, AFGE Local 556 members at Orlando Airport have finally seen the fruits of their labor. The Greater Orlando International Airport Authority (GOAA) recently chose to maintain federal security screeners at the airport checkpoints rather than hiring private, for-profit contractors.

TSA officers have done an outstanding job protecting the flying public in Orlando and around the country. Close to 98,000 passengers travel through Orlando International Airport every day, and over 35 million do so annually. TSA's record of excellence in securing the safe operation of Orlando International Airport for over 13 years speaks for itself.

Congress Members Alan Grayson (D-FL) and Corrine Brown (D-FL) wrote a guest column in the Orlando Sentinel newspaper stating, "Security, not profit, should be the primary concern whenever screening decisions are made." (March 18, 2015).

Local Congressman Helps Orlando Stanford (Florida) Go Private

Rep. John Mica (R-Fla) said he plans legislation "one way or the other" to privatize all federal screeners within 2 years. (USA Today 1/14/2014). "[Making] no secret of his hatred for [TSA, Mica] ... called the agency 'the little bastard child I created.'" (ABC News 3/30/2011). At the time Orlando Sanford Airport became interested in privatization, his daughter headed up the airport's Strategic Communications. In the year 2013, only 100 Comments Cards were turned in — 6 were complaints about TSA, the rest were positive. (Flying With Fish blog, 1/24/14). Over the years, Mica's campaign got contributions from the president of a private aviation security company in his district that benefited from privatization. (WFTV.com 9, 5/41/2012).

A week after private screeners took over in February 2015, there was a breach there for the first time in the past 5 years. (WFTV.com 9, 2/11/2015).

Help Wanted.

Our Local is doing well — but too few are doing too much. A union is an association of co-workers who are pitching in together for mutual aid and support.

Yes — we all pay our dues, but we need folks with some time and skills for the following tasks - call Celia or Neal:

- 1) Editing and producing this newsletter.
- 2) Tending the Bulletin Boards, especially MSP T2.
- 3) Web design and up-keep; coordinating social media.
- 4) Member social events coordinator.
- 5) Delegates to regional labor assemblies.
- 6) Local Political Coordinator.

No pay—but satisfaction. It'll look great on your resume!

Tough News



As most of you may know, we lost a fellow MSP TSA officer and AFGE member Craig Peterson, 33, to cancer in March. Members offered Craig personal support and helped his family raise emergency funds for him in the months before his death. More here:

<http://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries/Craig-Peterson-2#!/Obituary>



Again, we have a fellow officer and AFGE member facing a similar battle with serious cancer — Jeff Hayden at MSP. Jeff has been our Vice-President for the past year and a half, has filled numerous grievances for members, and recruited a large share of new members.

A Benefit is planned June 14, 2015 at the VFW Hall at 111 Concord Exchange South, South St. Paul from 4 to 11 PM. More here:

[Help Hayden! on Facebook®](#)

Stewards:

Stewards for Local 899 are fellow TSOs trained to help you protect your employee rights as outlined by TSA Policies and Directives under the terms of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.

MSP	Celia Hahn, President—(651) 503-0043 Celia.afge899@gmail.com
MSP	Jeff Hayden, Vice-President—(651) 302-4908 irish505191@hotmail.com
MSP	Todd Wendt, Secretary—(952) 356-2147 Toddwendt@yahoo.com
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