

# AFGE LOCAL 3313

**PROUD TO MAKE AMERICA WORK**  
**American Federation of Government Employees**  
**United States Department of Transportation American**  
**Newsletter Volume IV, Issue 4 (December 2022)**

Hello brothers and sisters,

First, I'd like to greet you in solidarity and wish you a blessed day and a very happy holiday season! Where did this year go? It seemed like only yesterday that we were under the lockdown protocol, and if you are like me, find yourself still adjusting to the concept of "return to normal operations." Our Union is bracing to deal with the issues flowing out of this reality. For some, the "new normal" means you get to work remotely, for others it means you are required to come into the office as little as one day a week. Your Union is working with managers to secure a future that includes sufficient flexibility that quality of life and Agency recruitment and retention goals, can simultaneously be met.

Let us know what's on your mind. We will accommodate you if you wish to be kept anonymous; desire a one-on-one discussion; or want to hold a group discussion. Let us know if your organization would like us to facilitate a virtual town hall meeting to discuss the "new normal" or some other topic. Town hall sessions are most effective when the group shares with me and/or the other Union Officers which issues concern you the most. Common issues include "dealing with bad supervisors, confusing workplace rule(s), frustration with promotions, the new USA performance, or a lack of training opportunities. Let us know, we are here for you. In the meantime, your Officers will be working to update the existing collective bargaining agreements to address the new normal as well as other concerns you may have.

As a member of the Union, you are no longer a faceless entity in the crowd. You are part of a greater whole. The Union needs you to recruit your co-workers to join AFGE Local 3313. The Union is strengthened by its membership; the more members we have, the more resources will be made available for professional legal support, and the more likely Congress will stand with us as we forge a formidable voting coalition, and management will be more inclined to support our needs.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the fact that this "new normal" was born out of the worse pandemic this world has seen in almost a century. Many of us lost loved ones, and many of us were afflicted or know someone who was seriously impacted. I'd like to take a respite from the holiday season to reflect solemnly on our pandemic experience(s) and yet thank God for a blessed future season to all of you and your families.

In Solidarity,

Jennifer



Jennifer Rodes  
President, AFGE Local 3313





## AFGE (Highlights and Recent News)

### AFGE LOCAL 3313

**PRESIDENT**  
Jennifer Rodes

### **VICE PRESIDENTS** (VP)

Gary Shoemaker  
(Executive VP)

Melinda Riddick  
(VP for OST)

Kay McIver  
(VP for PHMSA)

Bernadette Walker  
(VP for FMCSA)

Robin Morrison  
(VP for NHTSA)

Cynthia Cox-Grollman  
(VP for FTA)

**TREASURER**  
Eugene Johnson

**SECRETARY**  
Tom Coleman

**SERGEANT AT ARMS**  
Eugene Kinard

**Human Rights and Youth**  
**Director**  
Milton Poole

### Remote Work and Return to the Office

AFGE continues to advocate for expanded telework options. At the national level, AFGE successfully worked with the National Science Foundation (NSF) to expand telework and remote work in its new [contract](#). Under the new contract, about 150 managers and non-managers are currently allowed to do remote work, which is defined as not needing to come into the NSF Headquarters more than twice per year. Before the new policy, only eight people were allowed.

Here at DOT, AFGE is keeping the pulse on remote work and return to the office. As information becomes available, we will share it.

- As of November 25, 2022, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) had 24% of its workforce approved for remote work.

- The FTA Union Group continues to fight the good fight for Bargaining Union Employees (BUEs) to protect and defend their federal rights and partner with management on agency policies and procedures that impact their conditions of work and other related matters.

### Congress and FY 2023 Funding

Congress has not yet passed a full fiscal year 2023 (FY23) appropriation. AFGE is urging Congress to pass a full-year funding that includes AFGE members' priorities. The current Continuing Resolution (CR) runs through December 16, 2022. AFGE Urges Congress to Fully Fund Government. Some important facts to consider:

- Do not assume how a lapse in appropriations will affect your position.
- Changes in funding stemming from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) may mean your position has multi-year funding.
- Check with your supervisor how a lapse would affect your position and plan accordingly.





## AFGE News Summary

Some highlights of AFGE’s good work since our last newsletter:

- [AFGE Reaches Major Settlement with Department of Education](#): Restoring payroll dues deductions incorrectly removed, and creating a new mutual AFGE-management collective bargaining agreement.
- [AFGE-Backed Bill Granting Full Retirement Benefits to First Responders, LEOs Injured on the Job](#): bill to become law.

## 2023 Pay Increase

It’s that time of year when we’re waiting for a pay raise in 2023. AFGE continues to advocate for higher pay, especially in light of inflation and rising cost of living nationwide.

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is expected to publish the final pay tables, indicating locality pay area, grade, step, and new salaries in December. President Biden initially proposed an average 4.6% pay increase, split across 4.1% across the board and a 0.5% average increase based on locality.

## Help Us Recruit!

Help us recruit. In doing so, both the new member and the recruiter will get \$60 for every new member that signs-up! AFGE is only as strong as its membership—our success depends on you! Note, only bargaining unit members will be able to attend the virtual Town Hall.

## Why I Am Grateful to be in AFGE 3313

I joined AFGE in the Fall of 2021. Since that time, the network has been both welcoming and empowering. I am grateful to be a part of an effective union. Not all positions are eligible, and some that are extremely inactive. I am grateful to have an effective voice larger than my own. AFGE is constantly advocating on our behalf with management. I am grateful for peace of mind. At the end of the day, being a part of AFGE lets me rest a little easier knowing I have an institution backing me up. If I am asked why someone should join AFGE, these are just some of the reasons I give.





## **Administrative Leave for COVID-19 Booster(s)**

This winter, COVID is back in the news. Who among us doesn't know someone who has or recently contracted the virus? Remember to take advantage of administrative leave!

As of December 2022, you may be able to use up to four hours of administrative leave to obtain a COVID-19 booster. If you are interested, consult with your OAs human resource official if you are eligible, and how to code these hours in your timekeeping system (Castle).

## **AFGE Members Get Access Membership Benefits**

Members have access to college scholarships, college test preparation discounts, insurance savings, free budget and credit counseling and 10-15% discounts on almost everything. Visit [www.afge.org](http://www.afge.org) or call 1-888-844-2343 to learn more. A benefits flyer can be found at:

<https://www.afge.org/globalassets/documents/flyers/afge-membership-flyer.pdf>

## **Membership - You get a voice on Capitol Hill by Joining AFGE**

Without Union members, you have no voice and no advocate. With AFGE, you are stronger than negotiating or advocating on your own. AFGE has over 700,000 members nationwide. AFGE's large size makes the organization a heavyweight in Congress. Lobbyists employed by AFGE National, the largest Federal employee Union, work with other organizations to defend our pay, benefits, and job security. Through lobbying, AFGE has saved jobs and stymied adverse legislation from passing. AFGE strengthens our voices through a powerful grass roots lobby. The more you participate at the grass roots level, the more likely we will win the fight.

## **How Can Someone Join AFGE?**

Email your relevant mode's contact and complete the required paperwork. Steward modal contacts are:

Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) - [matt.chambers@dot.gov](mailto:matt.chambers@dot.gov)

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) - [paul.veltri@dot.gov](mailto:paul.veltri@dot.gov)

National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) – [johnny.gibson@dot.gov](mailto:johnny.gibson@dot.gov)

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) – [william.fink@dot.gov](mailto:william.fink@dot.gov)

Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) – [michael.evans@dot.gov](mailto:michael.evans@dot.gov)





## **Bargaining Unit Employees (BUEs) and Union Members**

As of October 2022:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION - 106 of 462 Union Members (23%)

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION - 78 of 242 Union Members (32%)

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION - 45 of 243 Union Members (19%)

PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION - 24 of 178  
Union Members (13%)

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION - 71 of 199 Union Members  
(36%)

TOTAL - 324 of 1324 (24%)

## **Social Media and Contact Information**

**Websites:** <http://www.afge-local3313.org/> and <https://www.afge.org>

### **Follow National AFGE on Social Media:**

Twitter: @AFGENational

Instagram: @AFGEunion

### **Please send us feedback for our next newsletter:**

thomas.coleman@dot.gov; cc: Jennifer.Rodes@dot.gov

