

AFGE Local 3313 Spotlight



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Feds Rock the Red, a Day of Action

AFGE Local 3313, was represented by Eugene Johnson, Gary Shoemaker, Stacy Gray, and Milton Poole on a muggy, hot, yet overcast afternoon on July 25, 2018. The National AFGE Union leadership, and hundreds of federal employees met to protest concerns over recent Executive Orders (EOs) that may encroach upon Congressional authority. During the rally, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., said Trump has not followed through on campaign promises to champion working families, by stating:

“You (Trump) are not a champion of working families when you sign anti-labor executive orders that make it easier to fire union workers and take away their rights to bargain collectively.”

Gerry Connolly, D-Md., told the crowd: “We’re here to say we have rights as federal employees and they’re going to be respected.” House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said of the executive orders, “We must roll all of that back, and we will, when we win in November.” Federal workers are standing up for the right to legitimate representation, due process, and a meaningful workplace voice. The *Day of Action* pressures Congress to do right by workers. Attacks include attempts to eliminate pay raises, cut salaries, reduce pensions, increase health insurance costs, reduce employer contribution to retirement, reduce official time set aside to represent employees, and eliminate jobs. Workers and lawmakers rallied behind the cry of *Red for Feds*, as protesters showed collective support by wearing red and calling the EOs an assault on the civil service and a threat to democracy. Employees from across government held signs that read “EO hell NO” and “These executive orders are illegal!”

*In Solidarity,
Eugene Johnson,
AFGE Local 3313, President*



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

LOCAL 3313 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Eugene Johnson

VICE PRESIDENTS (VP)

Gary Shoemaker (Executive VP)

Jennifer Rodes (VP for OST)

Kay McIver (VP for PHMSA)

Sheila Wilson* (VP for FMCSA)

Derrell Lyles (VP for NHTSA)

Cynthia Cox-Grollman (VP for FTA)

TREASURER

Oranous Tavoosi

SEARGENT AT ARMS

Eugene Kinard

*Denotes Past President

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By law, you have the right to form, join, and assist any labor organization (statute:7102 & 7114).

AFGE 41st Annual Convention

Jennifer Rodes, Sheila Wilson, and Eugene Johnson represented the local at the 41st National Convention, held the week of August 13th. The convention is held every three years, and is designed to accomplish two things: (1) elect three national AFGE officers, and (2) vote on about 100 resolutions. Resolutions are initiatives to change the way AFGE or locals conduct business. There are two types of resolutions: (1) constitutional (which require a 2/3rds vote), and (2) other resolutions, like Internal Policy, Union Building, or Legislative which require a majority vote. Resolutions are vetted through multiple committees before the convention starts. The committee proposal for the now vetted resolutions (proposals for change) are then deliberated upon, and voted on by a larger workshop made up of delegates. The original proposals along with any committee amendments are discussed. Here, *Roberts Rules of Order* are taken to task, and passions run high as favorite resolutions/desires are squashed or upheld. The biggest matter was a resolution to increase per capita (the part of our dues that goes to national initiatives) by \$7.80 per member per month, and an additional \$2.50 assessment for every member. Three years ago, during the 40th National Convention, the per capita rose \$1.16. The current National budget is about \$91M, and each increase of \$0.25 equates to about \$1.0M in funds generated. In other words, a \$7.80 increase would raise over \$29M.

The proposals and amendments are presented to the entire assembled National Convention which exceeded 1,500 delegates. The body ultimately decided **to not approve any increase**. At issue, was a lack of transparency and a concern that the locals will bear most of the cost/pain, so they need to keep their resources.

More than 533 locals attended the convention to cast their votes, and the current National President, J. David Cox was re-elected; District 5 National Vice President, Everett Kelley, was elected to the office of National Secretary-Treasurer (via a run-off victory over former National Secretary Treasurer, Jim Davies); and Jeremy Lannan overtook civil rights icon Augusta Thomas for the office of National Vice President for Women and Fair Practices. All officers retain their offices until the next convention in three years.



Jennifer Rodes (VP for OST), Eugene Johnson (Local President), and Sheila Wilson (Past Local President)



Elected AFGE National Leaders: J. David Cox, Everett Kelly, and Jeremy Lannan (the 3 men in suits)



Jennifer Rodes and the NVP for Women and Fair Practices, Jeremy Lannan



Impact of Recent Executive Orders

Gut Union Representation on the Job

Recent executive orders target “official time” - the time your union representatives use to defend grieved employees who are in need of a response to an unfair labor practice or adverse management action (unfair termination or suspension). Here’s what the EO did:

Attack on Representational Time

Drastically cuts or eliminates the hours union representatives are available to respond to your needs. Bars union representatives from handling employee grievances on duty time.

Unsafe Workplaces

Makes your workplace less safe and secure by prohibiting employees on official time from exposing dangerous working conditions to members of Congress. If this EO had been in effect last year, Bureau of Prisons correctional officers wouldn’t have been able to win passage of a life-saving pepper spray law.

No Union Workspace

Forces unions out of the building, not even letting them use space to prepare for agency meetings, making it almost impossible for employees to get the help they need when/where needed.

Workplace Harassment

When things like discrimination, intimidation, or harassment come up in your workplace, union reps will have fewer or no hours to respond and aid you in filing grievances or other ways of fighting back.

Judge Ruling Favors Unions, Puts EOs on hold

On Saturday, August 25, a federal judge struck down key provisions of three executive orders aimed at weakening the Unions’ capacity to represent federal employees. U.S. District Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson in Washington, presented a 122-page decision which took issue with key elements of each order and immediately barred the administration from enacting them. Jackson found that the president lacks the authority to impose many of the measures, which she said interfered with the right to good-faith collective bargaining that Congress laid out for civil servants in 1978. Judge Jackson ruled against provisions reducing official time.



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