



John's Column

By John Darden
Chapter President

Status of National Agreement

The implementation of our new National Agreement has met with a snag from Treasury. As you have probably already heard, National NTEU leaders met with the management bargaining team for an informal conversation about options on settling the contract.

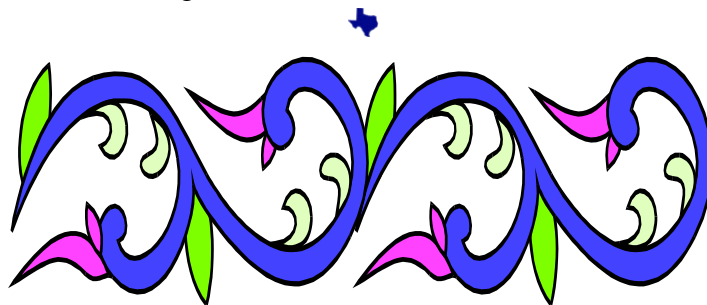
As the discussion played out it became clear that the next step will be to reconvene the negotiation teams for at least a week. Both NTEU and management agree that the AWS portion of the contract needs to be polished and both NTEU and management have a handful of other contract provisions that needs to be clarified. Some of the dates in the contract now have to be adjusted since the contract will not be ready to be implemented on August 2 as we had previously expected. Don't be surprised when you start hearing from management that the contract is at least postponed. Management has already started to cancel its training briefings on the new contract.

Overshadowing the problem we are facing with IRS management is the fact that we now appear to be caught in the middle of a power struggle between Treasury and IRS. On the up side, you should be happy to know that the IRS did not corner the market on bad managers. You know the ones I am talking about. These are managers who are arrogant, petty and just plain stupid. It appears that Treasury was able to recruit its own fair share of managers that also excel in these traits. So now Treasury is getting in the act and asserting its authority over IRS labor relations. It seems now that at least according to Treasury, word-

ing that has been in the contract for years has now been "disapproved." On top of that, Treasury does not believe it has a need to even bother to explain why all of a sudden it has decided to disapprove the language in question. The issues Treasury has disapproved in the term contract make little or no sense. From all appearances, Treasury may have anticipated that NTEU and IRS would make some superficial changes in wording in order to meet Treasury's fictitious legal demands and the matter would be over.

By disapproving the contract, Treasury has now blocked the changes that management dearly wanted, from going into effect. For example, management wanted to automate the promotion ranking process, but cannot now because Treasury's LR staff that expressions such as "OPM qualification standards" must be replaced with the expression "OPM requirements." IRS needs to deal with Treasury and the fact that Treasury's actions have caused all the IRS management initiated changes to be put on ice.

I will keep you informed as the process continues on the national agreement.



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Membership

By Sharon Wilson
VP Membership

Picnic in the Park

I said it last year, and I will say it again this year **“WOW”!** NTEU Chapter 46 General Meeting was just remarkable! On Saturday June 13, 2009, the fun started at 4:00 p.m. and continued until 8:00 p.m. Members of the National Treasury Employees Union Chapter 46 and their families gathered for a fun filled evening at River Legacy Park in Arlington, Texas for our chapter picnic.

John Darden (Chapter President), Jim Littlejohn (National VP District 3), and Larry Elliott (Communication Coordinator), grilled an abundance of hamburgers and hot dogs for the hungry crowd. Fount Rowel (VP Legislation) and Jim Harris (Sec/Treas) added a taste of New Orleans by preparing a large bucket of crawfish boil and a huge mountain of beans and rice for our members. There were other treats such as chips, cookies, popcorn, candy apples, sodas, along with plenty of cold water. There were also whistles, rings, Mardi Gras beads, washable water base tattoos, stuffed animals, and balloons that all of the kids loved.

The youth enjoyed playing games such as: the sack

race, sack race relay, three legged race and the softball toss. The winners of these events were:


The 1st place winners are Zoe Langford, Kartez Rowel, Amanda Cardenas, and Koze Rowel.

The 2nd place winners are Chiante, Gianna, Tyra, Cannedy Collins, and Jordan White.

The 3rd place winners are Tamyra, Koze Rowel, Jordan White, Keland and Ryan.

Honorable mention for these events goes to: Calon, Stormy, Sir Joshua, Taylor, and Rachael. Each participant received a first second, or third place ribbon and a prize. Those who did not wish to participate in the game had loads of fun in our bounce house there was also plenty of music and dancing.

While the youth were having fun, the adults were playing their own games such dominos, cards, and chess. Chapter 46 also gave away a case of NTEU glass mugs and T-shirts.

We enjoyed visiting with everyone who attended and missed those of you who were not able to attend. I would like to say thanks to Chapter 46 stewards Andrea Hardwick, and Leslie Brown for help keeping our children safe in the bounce house. Also, I would like to thank James Rucker, Alvin Smith, Fount Rowel, and Candis Cardenas for assisting our members with their meals, and a very special thank you to those of you who stayed behind to help with the clean up. We had a splendid time. If you missed it this year, hopefully we will see at our next event. 

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Standard Form No. 1187
Revised June 1990
Office of Personnel Management
FPM Chapter 550

REQUEST FOR PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS FOR LABOR ORGANIZATION DUES

Privacy Act Statement

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 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.

1. Name of Employee (Print—Last, First, Middle)	2. Employee I.D. Number (SSN or Other)	3. Timekeeper Number
4. Home Address (Street Number, City, State and ZIP Code)	5. Name of Agency (Include Bureau, Division, Branch or Other Designation)	

Name of Labor Organization (Indicate Local, Branch, Lodge or Other Appropriate Identification)

National Treasury Employees Union
Chapter No. 46

*--- % For Grade
And Step On National
Chart + Chapter

I hereby certify that the regular dues of this organization for the above named member are currently established at \$_____ per (biweekly pay period) (~~calendar month~~).
(Strike out whichever period is not appropriate, based on arrangement with the employee's agency.)

Signature and Title of Authorized Official National President	Date (Month, Day, Year)
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Section B—Authorization By Employee

I hereby authorize the above named agency to deduct from my pay each pay period, or the first full pay period of each month, the amount certified above as the regular dues of the (Name of Organization) NTEU Chapter No. 46 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 above 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; and that, if for a monthly deduction, it will become effective the first full pay period of the calendar month 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 above are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. However, they may be tax deductible under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

Signature of Employee	Date (Month, Day, Year)
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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
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- PERMANENT
- WAE

Legislative

June 25, 2009

MEMORANDUM

RE: House Passes FERS Sick Leave and Other Federal/Retiree Provisions

SUMMARY: On June 24, 2009, the House passed H.R. 2990 which included the FERS sick leave bill and the federal employees/retirees package that had been dropped by the Senate as part of the tobacco bill.

Previously I informed you about the disappointing developments in the Senate when it dropped the federal employees/retirees' provisions from the tobacco regulation bill. I pledged that NTEU would look for other avenues to advance these provisions. I am pleased to now report that NTEU fought to bring the measure up again and to help develop a strategy that gives it a better chance in the Senate.

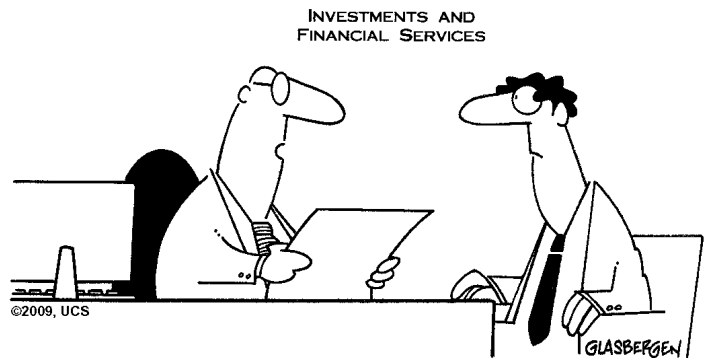
Yesterday the package was passed by the House again as part of H.R. 2990, a bill pertaining to veterans and military benefits. H.R. 2990 passed 404-0. Subsequently NTEU backed a key procedural effort to attach H.R. 2990, to the larger Department of Defense (DOD) authorization bill, H.R. 2647. The procedural vote passed 222-202 and when the underlying DOD authorization passes the House, the federal employees/retirees' package will be a part of it. The House may finish the larger bill today or tomorrow, and it is expected to have a better chance in the Senate.

While this can be legislatively complex, the bottom line is that the previous NTEU-backed provisions for federal employees and retirees are still included. These include allowing unused FERS sick leave to be counted toward the retirement calculation as is done for CSRS employees; fixing the CSRS part-time anomaly so those who choose to go part-time at the end of their careers will have their pensions calculated correctly; allowing the FERS redeposit changes; and allowing those federal employees in Alaska, Ha-

waii, and U.S. territories to participate in locality pay as federal employees do.

While there are many steps before this package is enacted, NTEU believes we are in a better position now. Congress usually finalizes the DOD authorization bill by the end of the year, and I am hopeful that it will do so again this year.

Colleen M. Kelley
National President



"You're going through a stressful time, but things will get better. Pretty soon you won't have any money left to worry about!"



"You're more than just an employee here. You're 'overhead'."

June 16, 2009

NTEU Welcomes Congressional Letter Seeking Administration Action on Partnership

Washington, D.C.—The head of the nation’s largest independent union of federal employees today supported the call of three members of Congress for President Obama to re-establish, by executive order, partnership in the federal sector. The letter was issued by Rep. Edolphus Towns (D-N.Y.), Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-Mass.) and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.).

“This trio of lawmakers has vast experience in federal labor-management issues and they understand that when agencies and employees work collaboratively the true beneficiary is the American taxpayer who sees more efficient service delivered in a cost-effective environment,” said President Colleen M. Kelley of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU).

Rep. Towns is chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee; Rep. Lynch chairs its subcommittee on the Federal Workforce; and Delegate Norton is a member of both the committee and the subcommittee.

The congressional members specifically asked the president to issue an executive order reestablishing the National Partnership Council, set up by a Clinton administration order in 1993. Federal labor-management partnership, as it was then called, operated until it was ended by the Bush administration in early 2001.

“Partnership, collaboration, cooperation—it does not matter what it is called,” President Kelley said. “The idea is that a mechanism be established by which employees’ voices can be heard in a non-adversarial forum where everyone retains their rights and where the objective is raising and talking through ideas that address ways to reach common goals.”

“Frontline employees not only have good ideas about

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Thumbs down to Gov Trip. With our ever improving system going from paper travel vouchers to TRAS to Gov Trip, the process is now taking as long to complete the authorization and approval process as the actual trip takes.

what will make their agencies work better,” President Kelley said, “they want the same result their managers want—a smooth-functioning operation that serves the public effectively.”

The House members wrote that “union leaders with whom we have spoken agree that labor-management partnership recognized the importance of employees and their employee representatives to smooth, collegial decision-making in the government.”

Moreover, they said, the Partnership Council served the essential purpose of maintaining communication between the heads of executive agencies and the president to better serve the public.”

NTEU included a return to labor-management partnership among its recommendations to the Obama transition team last November. Since then, President Kelley has made clear she supports the development of a mechanism that seeks to solve problems at the lowest possible level and that includes employees and their representatives in the conversation in meaningful ways.

