



The Defense **14**



The Fight Continues...Are You In?

February 2015—Volume 4

Chapter 14 Leaders Storm The Hill At The 2015 NTEU Legislative Conference



On February 2nd, 2015 Chapter 14's Legislative team arrived in Washington D.C. to begin what would be an intense week of marching around the Hill making sure our Congressional Leaders know the hard work, and sacrifices each and every one of our members gives in serving our Country. Well aware that we were now in hostile territory, we made sure we were well armed with facts, personal knowledge, and most importantly a passion for protecting the rights of our members. We met with many Representatives from both Missouri and Illinois to make sure our voices were heard for you. We talked about all of the issues that worry us the most. Federal Employee Pay, Federal Retirement, Sequestration and Agency Funding, as well as Employee Rights in the Federal Workplace.

Contract Ratification And Membership Meeting

For more than a year we have fought to protect the provisions that make our contract one of the best in the federal sector. Please join us to learn about the new IRS/NTEU Contract, and to ratify it.

Our very own Chapter President Pamela Sturm fought hard as a member of the negotiations team to safeguard your rights!

Please see the attached flyer for the exact date, time and location of our membership meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there! Remember, without you, we have no voice!

This Month's Highlights!

- 2015 Legislative Conference
- Membership Meeting
- Letter to the Editor
- Sequestration
- Employee Pay
- Federal Retirement
- Employee Rights



Letter to
the Editor

**We want to hear
from you!**

Do you have a great idea you think would be great for our newsletter? Do you have something you think would benefit our members? Please send any ideas for our newsletter to our email address, we would love to hear your feedback!

nteu14@gmail.com

Sequestration And Funding



As all of you are well aware of at this point, The Budget Control Act of 2011 capped federal spending and mandated sequestration. These draconian across-the-board cuts total \$1.2 trillion between 2013 and 2021.

These poorly thought out cuts have resulted in furloughs, hiring freezes, and a drastic scaling back of employee training, which is severely undermining the ability of our agency to fulfill it's mission.

These cuts were temporarily halted in 2014 and 2015, but they are poised to return in 2016. We spoke with your representatives in Washington D.C. to urge them to end sequestration and provide the IRS with appropriate funding for 2016.

Employee Rights

Several Bills from the previous Congress sought to limit due process rights for federal employees, restrict or eliminate your collective bargaining rights, and end independent reviews of major personnel decisions.

We made our voices heard on the Hill and advised our Congressional Leaders from Missouri and Illinois that we firmly oppose any efforts to eliminate or weaken your contract rights, which are help to prevent the politicization of the civil service.

Federal Employee Pay



Pay is such an important part of our life. It's how we support our selves, our families, and our future dreams. Over the past five years, federal employees have received a total of 2 percent in pay increases, during a period where private-sector salaries have risen 6.3 percent.

We had all cost of living raises withheld from us in 2011, 2012 and 2013. We were ecstatic to learn we would be getting an increase in 2014, only to find out it would be a paltry 1%, only to have this repeated 2015.

While we are thankful to be receiving an increase at all, such small amounts further drive the gap between public and private wages even further in the public favor. Without competitive wages, we lose our ability to be a competitive employer, and if we can not recruit or retain talented professionals, we run the risk of becoming an employer of last resort.

Federal employees have contributed \$159 billion toward deficit reduction through this pay freeze, as well as higher contributions to pensions from incoming hires. We feel enough is enough and are pushing to broaden support for the FAIR act, which would give workers a meaningful 3.8% pay raise for calendar year 2016.

Federal Retirement



None of us came to work in federal service to become rich. None of us expect to be able to retire to a private tropical island and spend our golden years in the lap of luxury.

What we do expect is a modest pension, that we have worked for our entire career.

Most of us are under the FERS system, a fully funded and financially sound retirement system with no unfunded liabilities. Since 2010, federal employees have contributed \$21 billion towards deficit reduction under the guise of higher retirement contributions place upon our new hires by Congress.

Recent proposals have worked to weaken FERS by changing the benefits formulas and ending the annuity portion of our system. In D.C. we urged our members of congress to oppose any further reductions and to eliminate higher contributions for new hires.

Legislative Leaders Meet With Congressman Clay



VISIT OUR
WEBSITE

www.nteu14.org



Connect with Facebook

www.facebook.com/NTEUChapter14