



Help Us Help You



Kill Bills...

H.R. 1230 H.R. 1658 H.R. 1137

The Target: Federal Employees

Got a burn in your pocket and need some fast cash? NTEU Chapter 14 wants to GROW your voice in both the workplace and bargaining table with greater membership. Our 2016 Recruitment Campaign will run from June 6, 2016 through September 30, 2016. Chapter 14 will pay \$50 for every new Form 1187 signed by a bargaining unit employee during our campaign period.



FEGLI Open Season

As we shared last summer, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will be holding an Open Season for the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI) September 1-30, 2016. Unlike other federal employee benefit programs that hold annual Open Seasons, such enrollment opportunities are fairly (*continued on Page 2*)

It is the age-old position that Federal employees just have too much going for them. This can be taken in both good and bad ways. Taken in a good way, we have great employees with long work histories, a wealth of knowledge and unmatched dedication to the people we serve. Taken in a bad way, we are overpaid, highly incentivized, insensitive, vampires out to gain every drop of blood there is from a taxpayer. Okay, perhaps that last part was a bit too graphic for the average reader but we are sure you get the point. The bills, shown above, are targeted towards the average federal worker as if we are the ones making the laws. This game needs to stop. We are calling upon YOU, both federal and non-federal employees, whether employed or unemployed to stand with us and fight off these crazy pieces of legislation. We are sick and tired of what are supposed to be government servants who look to balance the budgets on the backs of hard-working, civil servants such as the federal employees of the IRS. Stand with us by visiting our website at: www.nteu14.org and we will help you speak out! Our letters communicate the upset and un-rest of federal pension changes, limited pay increases and harmful actions to eliminate official time for your Union. If we lose official time for your Union, you lose your voice in that matters most as a Federal Employee.



Just a friendly reminder to please FILE & PAY all of your Federal and State Tax liabilities timely. Do not let time fly by without checking!

Lunch Need a Home?

Un-Organized Calendar?

Get yours today! Lunch Bags (\$3) and the Messenger Bags (\$5)! The Pen & Calendar Sets are \$2. Purchase YOURS today!



This Month's Highlights!

- Recruitment Drive 2016
- Kill Bills NOW!
- FEGLI Open Season Reminder
- Tax Compliance
- FEEA Funds to FSAFeds
- 2016 Lunch & Laptop Bags
- Legislative Information



FEGLI Open Season Continued

rare for the FEGLI program with the last one occurring in 2004. Please note that any coverage changes made under the upcoming FEGLI Open Season will take effect October 1st, 2017, and the Open Season is available only to current federal employees. All election changes should be provided to the employee's HR office at their employing agency. Additional information can be found from OPM at:

<https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/life-insurance/open-season/>

OR See the video about Open Season at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfO2x1Xc5uE&feature=em-uploadmail>

Authorized by law, FEGLI is a life insurance program for federal and postal employees and retirees. OPM is charged with administering the program and setting premiums, and contracts with Metropolitan Life Insurance (MetLife) to provide the insurance coverage. In fiscal year 2015 over 76,000 death and dismemberment claims were paid, totaling \$2.9 billion in benefit payments. Chapter 14 wants to make sure that our members are aware of this upcoming FEGLI Open Season, which will allow federal employees who are not currently enrolled in the FEGLI program to elect coverage without needing to pass a medical exam or answer any health questions.

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FSA
FEDS



**HELP
WANTED**



Chapter 14 calls your memory of our last newsletter where we talked about the black-out periods of the FSAFEDS, and how claims would not be satisfied. Because federal employees will still have deductions taken from their pay but will not be able to submit claims for reimbursement from FSAFEDS during the transition from one contractor to another administrator, NTEU wrote to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) about finding other possibilities to relieve financial hardships on employees created by the black-out period. In a June 29th memo, NTEU related that OPM did not believe it had any options to help FSAFEDS enrollees. NTEU then contacted the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA) and received an immediate reply. "FEEA is willing to help employees who are severely affected

by the FSAFEDS black-out period. We will make no-interest loans to employees who cannot meet the basic needs of their families because of the delay in reimbursement," wrote Steven Bauer, FEEA's Executive Director. These loans will be set up for the employee to repay FEEA in full when their delayed reimbursement is received by them from FSAFEDS. Facts about the upcoming blackout can be found at:

<https://www.fsafeds.com/GEM/BulletinBoard/GetClientBulletinBoardById?ClientBulletinBoardId=45>

To apply, employees can utilize the existing emergency assistance application available at www.FEEA.org by clicking on the "Get Help Now" button on the home page.



From the Desk of Our Legislative Coordinator

Passed in 1939, the **Hatch Act** is the law that restricts the partisan political activity of civilian executive branch employees of the Federal Government, District of Columbia Government, and some state and local employees who work in connection with federally funded programs. In short, we can not talk "politics" in the workplace. Also, if you have moved, please update your voter registration (in your respective states). Last day to register for the general election in the state of Missouri is October 12th, 2016 and for the state of Illinois, October 11th, 2016.

- Sharon E. Wilbert



NTEU Has Saved You Thousands of Dollars

Members of Congress have recently proposed legislation that would cost federal employees and retirees thousands of dollars each year. NTEU's legislative efforts on Capitol Hill have been successful in stopping them.

Congressional Proposal	Potential Impact on Employees	Per Year
H. Con. Res. 125 (T. Price, GA-16) would have required federal employees to contribute roughly 6% more of their salaries toward their retirement , with no increase in benefits	A GS-9, Step 1 employee's take home pay reduction to cover the increased pension contributions	= \$2,500
H. Con. Res. 125 (T. Price, GA-16) would also have capped the government's share of FEHBP premiums at the rate of inflation rather than the current amounts that reflect the actual cost of premium increases	FEHBP premium increase for an employee enrolled in BCBS Standard Family Plan	= \$3,800
H.R. 1230 (B. Westerman, AR-4) would calculate retirement benefits based on the average of the highest five years of an employee's salary versus the current highest three	Pension benefit loss for a GS-9 FERS covered employee	= \$485
H.R. 22 (R. Davis, IL-13) passed by Congress in 2015 considered lowering the TSP's G Fund's rate of return as a way to help fund the measure	Average FERS employee's TSP account loss	= \$2800

Total Annual Pay and Retirement Losses Stopped by NTEU = \$9,500

Join NTEU to help us keep your pay, benefits, and financial future secure.
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