



The Defense **14**

The Fight Continues...Are You In?

May 2015—Volume 7

As Colleen Kelley Steps Out Tony Reardon Steps In



Chapter 14 has a history of drawing NTEU National Leadership to it. This year we will be continuing this trend by bringing Executive Vice President Tony Reardon to meet with our membership! With the support of Chapter 14, and various other Chapters across the nation, Tony is just a short vote away from holding the seat of the National President of NTEU.

Come Meet With Tony on June 16th !

We hope you will join us in showing him our appreciation for all he does as he visits our annual Labor Recognition Celebration on June 16. We look forward to celebrating with you! Labor Recognition this year will be on the second floor in the Grant and Truman rooms just like last year. We will be offering a delectable selection of chicken and sides, with fabulous gifts for our members! We are doing this earlier than normal in an effort to accommodate our Seasonal Employees who are not yet on furlough.

TAS Journey Level Increases to GS-11!

NTEU has pressed for years to recognize the increased complexity and higher grade level of Case Advocates work during focus group meetings, and during various midterm bargaining initiatives. On May 7th of this year, National Taxpayer Advocate Nina Olson announced an increase in the journey level of the Case Advocacy position from GS-9 to GS-11.

This increase comes after a Desk Audit was conducted in December of 2014 to determine if the increase was warranted.

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This Month's Highlights!

- Labor Recognition
- Letter to the Editor
- TAS Journey Level
- Chapter Picnic
- New Locality Pay
- Notebook MOU
- Feds Feed Families



NTEU

The National Treasury Employees Union

Chapter 14 • St. Louis, Missouri



Letter to
the Editor

We want to hear from you!

Do you have a great idea you think would be great for our newsletter?

nteu14@gmail.com

Six Flags Picnic Update

Don't forget about the picnic on June 13, 2015. We're looking forward to a fun day in the sun with you! Thank you to all our members that chose to attend this year!

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We are very pleased to learn that our years of advocacy seeking such an increase in the journey level has helped bring this change.

We are now working with TAS to make sure that all qualified Grade 9 Case advocates are transitioned to the updated Position Description.

While we celebrate this success for our hardworking Taxpayer Advocates, this in no way means we are not hard at work advocating for our other members. We haven't forgotten about our Revenue Officers, Agents, TCO's, Secretaries, and CSR's who work hard every day for America's Taxpayers.

Our mission is to seek improvements and protections for every employee. Sometimes these gains come in bits and pieces and benefit select groups. We take the wins, and keep pressing on behalf of the other employees we represent.

We have raised arguments over the appropriateness of the journey level on multiple occupations in the past, and we continue to do so, but we cannot force the IRS to reclassify jobs. We push, and encourage, and fight to have them look with us on these issues "jointly".

We also want our members to be aware that under the negotiated terms of our contract, we can seek a temporary promotion when an employee spends more than 25% of their direct time on higher graded work. This works to indirectly pressure the Agency to fill higher graded positions if they want more higher graded work done.

In the end, the IRS must support upgrades, and to date, they haven't. As a result we have raised these issues again with the Agency.

New Locality Area Proposed For Saint Louis



OPM has proposed new rules in the Federal Register that could create 13 new GS locality pay areas, of which St. Louis is one.

While this does not mean that these rules have become law yet, it is a solid step in the right direction in granting our area a locality pay.

Currently these rules are in the public comment period, and following that a final regulation would be issued to establish any new locality pay areas in January 2016. We would also like to stress that no decisions on pay increases for the new locality pay areas have been made.

The President sets locality pay percentages each year by Executive Order, so locality pay percentages for the possible new locality pay areas will remain unknown until the President issues an Executive order implementing January 2016 pay adjustments. These are normally issued in the latter part of December.

We are very active on the Hill to ensure that our representatives and the decision makers are very aware of our hopes and concerns with these possible localities are.



SBSE Signs Notebook MOU In Employment Tax

IRS and NTEU have signed an MOU regarding the implementation of Notebook in SB/SE Employment Tax.

Notebook is a new tool that is intended to be used with IMS for RA's, Tax Specialists, Exam Techs, Tax Examining Techs, RO Examiners, Analysts, and Senior Employment Tax Specialists.

Please expect meetings prior to implementation. We have been advised that training will be given per Article 30, to include CENTRA or Live Meeting modules, and written guidance will be distributed prior to implementation.

We have also secured additional training for Super Users who are charged with providing support.

If there are any questions or concerns with this program, please contact your local Chapter leader.

Feds Feed Families

Please see the attached flyer regarding the Feds Feeds Families 2015 Food Drive. Chapter 14 will be offering a 10 dollar gift certificate for NTEU Chapter 14 Merchandise to whichever of our members can bring in the most Canned Goods to the blue barrel located in our Office!



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