



With More Than 30 Years of NTEU Service National President Sets For Retirement



After 33 years of dedicated service to NTEU, National President—Colleen Kelley has announced that she will not be seeking re-election for a fifth term. Colleen looks to dock her tenure on Retirement Island in her hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Colleen served as an IRS Revenue Agent & CPA for a little over 14 years, spending the last 8 of those years as an International Examiner. Of those 14 years, she spent 5 of them as an NTEU Chapter President in Pittsburgh. Shortly after, she took positions on the NTEU National Staff for 8 years, and then became National Executive Vice President for 4 years. The height of her career came in August of 1999. She was victorious in claiming the seat as National President of the largest independent non-postal federal labor union for 16 years. Colleen has always been gracious about accepting our invitations to visit St. Louis.—**Continued on Page 2.**

Contract Ratification Passed!

We are extending a huge “Thank You” to attendees of our membership meeting that participated by voting to ratify our new contract! Our negotiating team has worked countless hours and it finally paid off. The national results are in and our contract has been ratified! This passage is scheduled to take effect on October 1st, 2015!

Did You Know?

Did you know that the agency looks to bring on volunteers for the very work we are paid to do? This might be shocking news considering we are in the heart of sequestration. Job announcement number: 15CS6-LBX0047-0512-SV is certainly something to laugh about. Credits—Chapter 60 of NJ

This Month’s Highlights!

- Colleen Kelley Retires
- Contract Ratified
- Letter to the Editor
- Performance Awards
- Furlough Cancelled
- Did You Know?



NTEU
 The National Treasury Employees Union
 Chapter 14 • St. Louis, Missouri



Letter to the Editor

Are YOU a newly hired employee?

We would like to know if any of our newly hired employees would like to have a meeting regarding your working environment? Are you being treated with dignity? This meeting would be scheduled for April 1st, 2015 around 6pm, should you be interested. We are looking to gauge how much of an interest there is for planning purposes. Send your responses to our e-mail address, we would love to hear your feedback!

nteu14@gmail.com

Colleen Retires *Continued...*

We appreciate how she always took the time to talk to many of our employees one on one on her visits to St. Louis and conduct after work meetings for our members in the outlying PODs. NTEU Chapter 14's President sat down with *The Defense* to recount her experiences with Colleen:



"I am proud to say I have known and worked with Colleen for well over a decade. Her leadership and people skills have taught me a lot, as have the numerous opportunities she has given me over the years to witness the inner workings of National NTEU. It has been my honor to serve on the many bargaining teams, each time she selected me, including twice on our national contract and most recently the bargaining to stop the 2-day IRS shutdown for this year. So to Colleen I say 'On behalf of our stewards, officers, and members *Thank you!*'. Thank you for always being just a phone call or e-mail away. Thank you for always getting back to us in record time—whether it's Negotiations, Public Relations, Legislative—she moved.



You've always been there for us and it's appreciated! You've made our work life bearable and championed dignity and respect in the federal workplace, and for this we are forever grateful." - *Pamela A. Sturm*



Service Wide Furlough Days Cancelled

We are exceptionally pleased to announce that as of March 18, 2015 Commissioner Koskinen announced that there will be no need for additional service wide furlough days due to the budget cuts for 2015. This announcement came after extensive bargaining by NTEU on behalf of our members. We know that each unpaid day for our members has many unintended consequences. Missing just one day of work can be the difference between making the rent or mortgage payment, or being able to fill your refrigerator for the week, and we used everything in our power to ensure you would not have to suffer that again this year.



"Starving the Beast" is an unfortunate side effect of the current political climate. As we administer certain regulations which are controversial, our budget is a great target for those who wish to make sure those regulations disappear. With cuts of this nature, everyone suffers. We are forced to do less with less, offering less services, with less people, horribly impacting the lives of the taxpayers who need us the most. While this is certainly a win for us, it's just a Band-Aid on a much larger wound, please visit the Legislative Action Center at www.nteu14.org to see what you can do to help today!

Performance Awards

What happened to my Award?

As most of you are aware IRS decided again in 2014 not to pay our employees their Performance Awards. NTEU battled back hard because our employees earned and were promised these Awards. After extensive negotiations we were able to secure 1 percent of salaries and an agreement on how 2015 would be handled. We've heard from many employees that they were happy that we were able to secure their awards but who are also saddened at the state of affairs our agency has fallen to due to sequestration. An employee who normally receives an award of 40 hours time off and a little bit of cash is now reduced to about 27 hours and no cash. It looks this year as the only employees that received the full 40 hours and a cash payment only did so in lieu of a QSI.

Why is it soooo small?

The reason for this – The awards were previously funded at 1.75 percent. They were reduced down to 1 percent. Out of that 1 percent we had to go back and pay the QSIs from 2013 that were postponed in addition to the 2014 QSIs that were due this year. The awards pool took an additional hit because we settled two National Grievances in the negotiations as well. There were several employees that took a QSI and were not promoted timely. They were also paid from this pool. In short my hope is the 2015 awards might be slightly higher since only one year of QSIs will come from the pool and with any luck IRS got it right and we won't have a grievance to settle by December when they're due.



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