

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS COUNCIL 164 SUMMER 2004



## Annual 2005 Meeting

By Pres. Michael Dennis

The annual meeting of AFGE Council 164 was held at the Hyatt Regency on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2005. A majority of the affiliated locals were represented, however some locals did not have someone present to voice their opinions and concerns. While the Executive Board guides the council between meetings, it is the duty of the body to provide input as to how you want *your* council to operate. The next meeting and council elections will be in August 2006 at the AFGE national convention in Atlanta, GA.

Please take a moment and look over the draft meeting minutes and financial report.

### AFGE COUNCIL 164 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES Washington, DC

Sunday, February 5, 2005

The meeting was called order on February 5, 2005 and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All officers were present.

Brent Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Seconded by Greg Shafer. Motion carried.

Greg Shafer made a motion to accept the Finance Report. Seconded by Brent Reynolds. There was a question regarding the payment to Local 3970; it was explained that it was a repayment for travel expenses for Jeff Tanner's travel expenses for attending the annual meeting. There was a question about the service charge it was explained that it was the service charge for the checking account.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Newsletter Distribution:** The discussion centered on the motion made at the last meeting

regarding the mailing of the newsletter to the individual members of the locals. The motion from the previous meeting was discussed. There was some confusion regarding what action was required by the motion. President Dennis suggested that we send the newsletter to the members. The Secretary Treasurer would have to submit their database to the newsletter in order for that to happen. The subject was tabled to be taken up under new business.

There was no follow-up on the adverse action issue from the previous meeting.

We still need to update some of the contact information on the website. The web site is not being updated in timely manner. We have not been receiving responses to our request for articles and information.

The drill pay split issue is closed; no action.

There was a discussion regarding the best way to communicate with members of Congress.

1. Personal visits.
2. Personal letter
3. E-mail

It was requested that substantive responses from Congress should be included in the newsletter.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **NEWSLETTER:**

It was suggested that we contact NST Davis to determine the locals that have Civ-techs in their locals so we can send a copy of our newsletter to each local.

Brent Reynolds made a motion, that the Council explores the feasibility of paying the cost of mailing the newsletter directly to the members of the locals that request them. The executive board will determine the feasibility, implement as soon possible and report to the locals with thirty days. The cost of returned newsletters for bad addresses will be bore by the locals. Additionally, each member local will receive 25 additional copies to be used in recruiting efforts. Seconded by Mike Walsh. Motion carried.

John Esposito made a motion that a minimum of 2 newsletters be published per year with one newsletter published with 2 months of the annual meeting. The goal will be for four issues per year. Seconded by Mike Walsh. Motion carried.

#### **Legislation:**

HR 4200 Nation Defense Authorizations Act (INFO ONLY)

- FEHB Pay employee portion when individual is mobilized for 24 months for contingencies
- Enlistment bonuses (do not apply to civ-techs)
- BRAC list will be released 16 May 05
- End strengths
- Pay, provision to pay difference when activated was dropped

S-11 Standing with Our Troops Act of 2005 No action by council

S-32 National Guard and Reserve Bill of Rights Act of 2005 Action by council

S-38 Guard and Reserve Enhances Benefits Act of 2005 No action by council

HR-199 Reserves and National Guard Opportunities & Protection of Education Act No action by council

HR-292 Military Death Benefit Improvement Act of 2005 No action by council

HR-294 To Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to Extend To Civilian Employees of the DOD Serving in Combat Zones the Tax Treatment Allowed Members of the Armed Forces. Action by council

Omnibus Bill 3.5% pay increase

HR-3751/S-2657 Dental & Vision Program

HR-4391 Windfall Social Security Provision is in the Social Security Sub Committee. Action by Council

S-593 Pay Security Act Council support

The mileage rate has been increased to .405 cents per mile.

#### **NSPS**

- Title 32 is included in Spiral 3
- Human Resources

**Military Leave**-There was a discussion of the military leave issue. President Dennis will be the POC for this issue. However, VP Tanner will meet with Joe Goldberg, AFGE to discuss the issue and will report back and assist in developing the procedure for military leave claims.

**Mandatory Removal of Commissioned Officers** OCAR's and HQDA G-1's practice had been to extend military technicians officers reaching their Military Mandatory Removal Date (MRD) to age 60 to keep them in an active status as well as keep them as dual status technicians. The authority to extend these individuals was with DA G1. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) now insists on approving/signing authority for each technician packet. ASA has changed the policy and reverting back to the earlier of the two dates: age 60 or eligibility for an unreduced annuity. This policy change has a negative impact on the program. It creates additional Non-dual Statues Technicians, will cause the premature loss of civilian employment for fully qualified Military technicians, and have a negative impact on recruiting and retention. It was originally thought that this policy applied only to the Army Reserves; it was determined that it applies to all reserve components.

**EFAC Committee:** VP Tanner made a motion that a representative from the Council informing the EFAC committee that the Council should be represented on the EFAC Committee or understand that they are violating the impact and implementation process. Seconded by Mike Walsh. Motion carried.

**Physical Fitness:** Technical schools are requiring civ-techs to pass a PT test prior to graduating from the school. President Dennis will discuss this with Colonel Davis.

**NSPS:** Mike Walsh is the new DEFCON Caucus Chair for the council and providing information on NSPS. Richard Smith suggested the Locals make their computers available to their members so they can respond on NSPS issues.

**Website:** The website needs to be reviewed and updated. There is material that needs to be moved to the archives.

**Annual Meeting:** The next annual meeting will be held in Atlanta in August 2006 in conjunction with the national convention. Local will need to elect delegates; credentials will be provided, and the by-laws will be up for review. A notice will be sent out prior to the meeting.

John Esposito was thanked for his contributions to the Council since 1979.

**Comments for the Good of the Council:**

- Treasurers should fill out the memo on the per capita checks or include a note to show the number of members and the month they are paying. This will assist the secretary-treasurer in keeping the locals in good standing.
- Member locals should submit letters for the newsletter.
- All comments should be constructive and not personal attacks.
- The website should include links to the TPR's
- We should attempt to coordinate our schedule for the meetings. This would alleviate any scheduling conflicts for our members.
- Mike Walsh informed the that he was successful in obtaining locality pay for the Cape Cod Region and resulted in a 25% pay increase.

Motion to adjourn by VP Tanner.

**Soon to be! It's, AFGE's Military leave pay-back web site.**

Joe Goldberg and the staff at AFGE) are conducting testing of a web site they have configured for filing claims on the Butterbaugh judgment. It is located at the following link: [www.afge.org/militaryleave](http://www.afge.org/militaryleave)

I will be in D.C. for I will talk with General Counsel and we can move forward.

Jeff Tanner

# DEFCON Mission Statement

Formed in 1997 in Atlanta, Georgia, AFGE's Defense Conference was created to meet the growing challenges faced by federal employees working for the Department of Defense (DoD). Confronted by rampant job losses as a result of contracting out, privatization, public-private partnerships, organizational realignments and reorganizations as well as Base Re-Alignments and Closures (BRAC), AFGE locals representing DoD employees wanted to create a unified force to raise the level of recognition when and where possible and deal with matters of common interest at the service and national levels.

AFGE's DEFCON is com-

prised of agency and service level caucuses. These caucuses deal with agency and service level issues of common interest to individual locals. Each Caucus is represented by a Caucus chair; these chairs serve as the members of DEFCON's Steering Group.

DEFCON serves under the guidance of AFGE's National President and is committed to work as a cohesive group to promote the principles of increasing AFGE's political, legislative, and membership strength; increasing AFGE's capabilities in sharing information and communication; and enhancing our abilities in work place representation. DEFCON recognizes that meaningful change to the

current practice of privatizing the vital services that DoD employees provide to the nation's defense must occur through legislative change. DEFCON is committed to ensuring the passage of AFGE's Truthfulness, Responsibility, and Accountability in Contracting (TRAC) Act. In order to secure passage of TRAC, we must ensure that our union and our efforts surpass those of corporate greed and political favors levied against us by those who benefit from the waste, fraud, and abuses in federal sector service contracting.

Michael P. Walsh AFGE Council 164 Caucus Chair building our union, builds our success.

## Legislation

By Pres. Michael Dennis

As per the recommendations of the body at the recent annual meeting, I will be sending out letters to Congress on the following bills. I am sure that you understand the importance of you also sending your own letters to members of Congress on these and any other issues at hand.

### **S.32**

**Title:** A bill to enhance the benefits and protections for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are called or ordered to extend active duty, and for other purposes.

### **H.R.294**

**Title:** To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend to civilian employees of the Department of Defense serving in combat zones the tax treatment allowed to members of the Armed Forces serving in combat zones.

### **H.R.147**

**Title:** To amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

# Fitness Testing

By Pres. Michael Dennis

On the Guard side of the house, the Air Force started implementing fitness testing on all students regardless if they are in technician status or not. The Association of Civilian Technicians filed a ULP against the National Guard Bureau and reached a settlement.

Under the agreement, NGB is supposed to retract the message dated July 2004 and communicate with training schools to try to get them to back off insisting on technician compliance with fitness requirements pending submission of union recommendations and final action by the Agency. Until the National Guard Bureau can fix this problem here is the interim solution.

If you know of someone who is affected by this, here is the information I need:

- (1) What is the name of the technician who now is at a training school and being ordered to participate in the school's fitness program?
- (2) At what school is this technician?
- (3) What, precisely, has the technician been ordered to do that the technician does not want to do (participate in an 0500 3-mile run in platoon formation?), and who has ordered the technician to do it?

I will call Col. Jimmy Davis at the National Guard Bureau with the above information and get the situation corrected.