



# TECHNICIAN COUNCIL 164

AFGE Guard/Reserve Technician Council

December  
2003

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## From Your “NEW” President

by Michael Dennis, President AFGE Technician Council 164

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### Fellow Members,

I would like to thank all the member locals attending the 2003 Council 164 Convention in Las Vegas. As always, participation in all council functions is important and we had 82% of the locals represented. Since our council is an “informational council”, it is critical that we communicate with each other and with the council leadership. Unless we spread the word to each other, we might as well give up and save ourselves the time and money of trying to maintain Council 164.

To help meet this challenge, the council leaders will be in constant contact with the POC of your local to ensure that the information we share is the latest and greatest. In the future, I will be contacting the member locals to verify their individual POC. We will be asking for any news from your local pertaining to grievances, ULP's, arbitrations, and any political actions pertaining to legislation affecting the council. Please assist this process by being pro-active and sending all information to us without requiring us to beg.

I look forward to meeting the challenges facing the Council in the future, however, I cannot meet this challenge on my own. Please contact me anytime I can be of assistance.

Together we can make a difference.

Michael Dennis  
New President, AFGE Council 164

John Esposito  
Former President, AFGE Council 164

## John Esposito Steps Down

by Michael Dennis, President AFGE Technician Council 164

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Since its conception, John Esposito has been at the forefront of the efforts to form Council 164. In the beginning, it started as a coalition, and slowly elevated to a Council recognized by AFGE National Office.

John Esposito (Continued on page 2)

# John Esposito

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My first experience with John was in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1986 where John was the guest speaker. He addressed the statewide local and spoke of the issues facing technicians. His passion for the importance of banding together persuaded the Nebraska local to sign on as a member of the coalition.

After many other meetings, the member locals met in 1990, in San Antonio to formally establish the coalition as AFGE Council 501 as recognized by AFGE. Shortly after, the name was changed to AFGE Technician Council 164, because there was already a Council 501.

Since then, John has tirelessly fought for the rights of all technicians. He has testified before Congress, negotiated with the National Guard Bureau, USARC, and AFRES headquarters. Through close ties in the House and Senate Arms Sub-Committees, he helped maintain the rights we have, while making advances where possible.

John's presence on the Executive Board of the council will be missed, but he has expressed a willingness to continue to help the council strive to protect the rights of all technicians. Good luck John!

## Website Information

by Michael Dennis, President AFGE Technician Council 164

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Discussed at the convention was the fact that the website information is not updated frequently. This is primarily because I don't get any new information from you. That's right you, the one reading this article right now!

Please send me information on items like grievances won, ULP's, contract language, FSIP rulings in your favor, or even bad things that you want to warn others about. This is an "informational council", so we need more information to share.

Many of the issues are very timely and cannot wait for a newsletter to be published. So check the website often. If you see something wrong, let me know right away.

**Just Do It!!!**

## 2004 Meeting

by Michael Dennis, President AFGE Technician Council 164

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As the annual meeting/convention for Council 164 closes, we need to look forward to next year. Always remember that these meetings are "your" meetings. They are where you help guide the council and be a part of how it functions. Last year the Executive Board of Council 164 decided to hold the annual meeting in April at St. Louis, MO. This was a cost saving effort, as St. Louis is centrally located, airfare is reasonable and lodging was far less expensive than Washington, D.C.

One Sure Way To Help Save Your Job  
**LOBBY CONGRESS**

## **2004 Meeting**

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Also, the majority of the member locals were not going to be present at the AFGE Legislative Convention and the political climate was not in our favor; any legislation that we hoped to move, would die in committee. Also, a meeting in February might not allow for ample time between meetings.

With the annual meeting rapidly approaching, this decision must be considered again. I will be contacting each of the member locals to determine their position on this matter.

### **From Your Vice-President**

**by Jeff Tanner, Vice-President AFGE Technician Council 164**

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As your newly, elected Vice-President, I would like to take the time to give you a little bit of my background. I've been in the military for a little over 17 years. I've been a technician for over 15 years. I am a Communications Technician in the Ohio Air National Guard in Columbus, Ohio. (My area of expertise is radios). Thanks to a couple of RIF's, and also a few career advancements, I've been fortunate enough to experience a few different career opportunities. I've worked in specialties such as electronic warfare, communications and navigations, and being an aircraft mechanic.

I became a steward in late 1991. The following year I took over as VP for my installation in Columbus. I served as VP until becoming the Secretary-Treasurer in 2000. In 2003, I was elected as president for Local 3970.

I look forward to meeting and working with many of you in the near future. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me anytime.

### **Choose To Retire**

**by John Esposito, Former President AFGE Technician Council 164**

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As all should be aware by now, due to my anticipated retirement in 2005, I chose not to seek reelection to the position of Council 164 President. I am writing to all now to thank all affiliated local and their members who joined our Civilian Technician Council. Without you the Council would not exist.

I need to also make it unequivocally clear that it is my firm belief that without the Council and the active support/participation of locals and it's members since 1977, civilian technicians would simply not exist today. The entire technician program would have been abolished and the full-time workforce for all components (with the exception of the Air Reserve) would consist of today strictly Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) personnel. Additional, and most important, is the fact that together we have been able to make significant, positive changes to our condition of employment over the years. While we have together made great achievements to date and should be extremely proud of this fact, it is imperative that we continue to remain united and actively involved. We must all now, work together, with the newly elected Council officials, to not only successfully defeat negative proposed Congressional legislation each year, but we must also aggressively lobby our Congressional leaders to obtain favorable changes to our working conditions.

I ask that all give your new Council officials, as I will, your complete support in the upcoming years whenever called upon to do so. In closing, I want to say I am proud to have been able to serve all of you.

John Esposito

# Constitutional Changes

by Michael Dennis, President AFGE Technician Council 164

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With the annual meeting rapidly approaching, it is time to consider any changes to the Council 164 Constitution and By-Laws. As per the existing Constitution:

## **ARTICLE XV AMENDMENTS:**

**Section 1.** This constitution and any amendments thereof shall become effective and remain so when it is approved by a two-thirds vote of the delegates of this council, present and voting at a regular or special meeting, and subsequently by the AFGE National Executive Council.

**Section 2.** Any proposed amendment to this constitution shall be submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer in writing not less than forty-five days prior to a regular council meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer shall notify all member locals of the proposed amendment no less than fifteen days prior to the date on which action will be taken to amend.

**MAKE IT HAPPEN!!!**

Help Nebraska return to AFGE

It has been brought to our attention that some members of the Nebraska Air/Army Guard have expressed an interest to leave ACT and return to AFGE. While I am trying to assist this process, it would be very helpful to get support from anyone out there who knows someone in the Nebraska Guard. If you do, contact them and find out how we can help. Have them contact me (Mike Dennis) immediately.

**RECRUIT!!!**

## **Got A Problem? Need Some Help?**

by Michael Dennis, President AFGE Technician Council 164

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Previously the council would assign requests for assistance with issues unique to a particular branch of service to certain members of the executive board. At this time, feel free to contact any of the Technician Council 164 Officers for assistance. We will contact individuals who have expressed a desire to get involved with assisting member locals with finding solutions to the issues. These members are from your respective branch and understand the issues of your branch. (ANG, Army Reserve, etc).

We will do our best to help you find the answers. **GET INVOLVED!!!**

# AFGE GUARD RESERVE TECHNICIAN COUNCIL 164

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by Ron Liwo, Sec/Treas. AFGE Technician Council 164

Sunday, August 17, 2003  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Robert Eide led the Pledge of Allegiance

**Roll Call:** All Officers present.

## **Delegate introduction**

### **Credentials Committee:**

Richard Smith, L-2077 Chairman  
Mike Walsh, L-3004  
Dave Ames, L-1882

Credential Committee report 13 delegates were seated.

### **Election Committee:**

Dave Ames, L-1882, Chairman  
Richard Smith, L-2077  
Ray Sprague, L-3004

Minutes of April 13, 2002 were read and accepted.

Motion by Jeff Tanner, L-3970  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Buteau, L-2986  
Motion carried

Finance Report was read and accepted.

Motion by Mark Buteau, L-2986  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Reynolds, L-1709  
Motion carried

Council 164 Minutes (Continued on page 6)

# Council 164 Minutes

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(Continued from page 5)

## Nominations

### President:

John Esposito nominated by Brent Reynolds L-1709 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Walsh (L-3004) John Esposito declined the nomination.

Mike Dennis nominated by Brian Takifuji L-1213; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Reynolds L-1709

### Vice President:

Mike Dennis nominated by Ray Sprague, L-3004, 2<sup>nd</sup> by X  
Mike Dennis declined the nomination.

Mike Walsh nominated by John Esposito. L-1900,  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Sprague, L-1709

Jeff Tanner nominated by Brent Reynolds, L-1709,  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Greg Shafer, L-3970

### Secretary Treasurer:

Ron Liwo nominated by Brent Reynolds, L-1709  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike McDonnell, L-3593

Mike Walsh was nominated by John Esposito, L-1900  
2<sup>nd</sup> By Ray Sprague, L-3004

Mike Walsh withdrew

### Newsletter Editor:

Robert Eide was nominated by Mark Buteau, L-2986, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Reynolds, L-1709

Jeff Tanner, L-3970 made a motion to close nominations; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Sprague, L-3004. Motion carried.

There was a review of last year's legislation no of the bills passed.

Council 164 Minutes (Continued on page 7)

# Council 164 Minutes

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(Continued from page 6)

## **Constitutional Amendments:**

**Article I Section 1.** To change the Council number to 164 from 501. Motion to accept by Mike McDonnell, L-3593; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Walsh L-3004. Motion carried.

**Article I Section 2.** The headquarters of the council shall be determined by the Council President. Motion to accept change by Brent Reynolds, L-1709; seconded by David Ames, L-1882. Motion carried

**Article VIII Section 2.** Duties of Officers, proposed change “It shall be the responsibility of the Vice President to coordinate the Branch Committees and ensure the committees receive the necessary resources to operate effectively. The Vice President shall keep the Executive Board informed of all issues and the disposition of those issue presented to the Branch Committee. Motion to accept the change by Jeff Tanner, L-3970 seconded by Mark Buteau, L-2986. Motion failed.

**Article IX Section 4.** Expenditures by an executive board member, with exception of budgeted items, in excess of \$500.00 per month, must have prior approval of the Executive Board. Motion to accept by Jeff Tanner, L-3970 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Reynolds, L-1709. Motion carried.

**Article IX Section 6.** The Executive Board shall determine which reserve component each board member will be assigned the duties of point of contact. It shall be their duties to provide information to Locals regarding issues specific to the respective reserve components and respond to Local inquiries. Each Board member will provide timely information to the web master for the website. Motion to accept by Richard Smith, L-2077, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Ames, L-1882. Motion carried.

**Article X Section 2.** Establishing the Branch Committee. Motion to accept by Mark Buteau L-2986; 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Ames. Motion carried.

**Article X Section 4.** Defining duties of the Branch Committee. Motion by Jeff Tanner, L-3970; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brent Reynolds, L-1709. Motion failed

## **New Business:**

**Newsletter:** There was a discussion of the newsletter and the lack of response and input from the field. There are a few Locals that provide input but the newsletter is generated by the executive board. Robert Eide was praised for the work he has done on the newsletter.

## **Legislation:**

HR 331 no support. Motion by Mark Buteau; 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Ames. Motion carried

Council 164 Minutes (Continued on page 8)

# Council 164 Minutes

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S-15/HR865 support. Motion by Mike Walsh; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Smith. Motion carried.

HR 742/S1035 support. Motion by Jeff Tanner; 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Ames. Motion carried.

HR 1836 no support. Motion by Mark Buteau; 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Ames. Motion carried. Letters should be sent to conferees.

HR 217 support. Motion by Mark Buteau; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Sprague. Motion carried.

Rumsfield documents were reviewed

## Reduction in Force

**Adverse Action.** A draft of the National Guard Bureau Adverse Action plan was distributed to the members. It was provided under National Consultation and; members were asked to provide their comments on the proposed plan prior to leaving the convention.

Richard Smith L-2077 made a motion to pay the expenses of President John Esposito for a period of 11/2 years for consultation with the executive board. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Buteau L-2986. Motion carried.

AFRAC is allowing three hours per week for physical training.

Brian Takifuji made a motion to purchase a gift for President John Esposito in recognition of his service to the council; cost not to exceed \$500.00. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Buteau, Motion carried.

## Election:

There were three uncontested offices.

President Mike Dennis

Secretary Treasurer Ron Liwo

News Letter Editor Robert Eide

David Ames cast one vote for each of the candidates and they were elected by acclamation.

The results on the election for Vice President were as follows.

Mike Walsh 4 votes

Jeff Tanner 9 votes

Jeff Tanner was elected as Vice-President.

President John Esposito administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected officers.

Motion to adjourn; Richard Smith L-2077.

# **NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED**

by Michael Dennis, President AFGE Technician Council 164

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Due to recent events Robert Eide will no longer be able to fulfill the duties as Newsletter Editor. Therefore, Council 164 will be holding nominations/elections for Newsletter Editor at our next scheduled meeting.

The Council would like to thank Mr. Eide for all of his efforts and contributions for the betterment of all Council 164 members.

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## **AFGE TECHNICIAN COUNCIL NATIONAL OFFICERS**

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**President:**

Michael Dennis  
Voice: (515) 256-8367  
Fax: (515) 256-8421  
DSN: 256-8367  
E-mail: [Michael.dennis@iadesm.ang.af.mil](mailto:Michael.dennis@iadesm.ang.af.mil)

**Vice President:**

Jeff Tanner  
Voice: (614) 506-8925  
Fax: (614) 492-4358  
DSN: 696-3712  
E-mail: [jeff.tanner@ohcolu.ang.af.mil](mailto:jeff.tanner@ohcolu.ang.af.mil)

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Ron Liwo  
Voice: (419) 666-3258  
Fax: (419) 666-3362  
E-mail: [RJLiwo@aol.com](mailto:RJLiwo@aol.com)

**Newsletter Editor**

vacant