



# AFGE Leads Fight to Suspend Contracting Out

Representative **Al Wynn** (D-Md.) introduced legislation in the House of Representatives on February 29, 2000, to suspend contracting out at all federal agencies. The bill number is H.R. 3766 and is entitled the *Truthfulness, Responsibility and Accountability in Contracting Act* (TRAC). Representative **Paul Kanjorski** (D-Penn.) played a leading role in making this legislation a success. "H.R. 3766 is long overdue for federal

employees, taxpayers and the government as a whole," said National President **Bobby L. Harnage**, "and H.R. 3766 will put an end to contracting out as we know it.

"Wynn and Kanjorski are champions for government workers and government accountability," added Harnage. To date, 83 members of Congress have joined Wynn and Kanjorski and co-sponsored H.R. 3766. (Continued on page 7)

## Members Vote to Endorse Gore



National President Bobby L. Harnage with Vice President Al Gore at Iowa endorsement.

AFGE's National Executive Council (NEC) voted on January 14, to endorse **Al Gore** for President. This important and difficult decision was reached only after the votes of AFGE members were recorded and the records of the candidates were thoroughly reviewed. The survey distributed to members in *The Government Standard*, on the AFGE Web site and at union gatherings, tabulated Gore as the winner. (Continued on Retiree News pg.)

### AFGE NEWS FLASH . . . AFGE NEWS

**Members rally at 2000 Legislative Conference**  
See PAC Supplement



Photo: Jocelyn Augustino

## Remembering Oklahoma City

Shortly after 9:00 a.m. on April 19, 1995, a bomb exploded at the **Alfred P. Murrah** Federal Building in Oklahoma City. "The blast blew me over on my back," recalled **Jane Graham** of **Local 3138**. "I saw the roof of the building literally blown off. The next thing I remember

is one of my co-workers calling my name and pulling debris off of me," added Graham.

April 19, 2000, marks the fifth anniversary of the deadliest act of terrorism in U.S. history. (Continued on page 4)

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[D.C. members call (202) 639-6491]

## A Message From President Bobby L. Harnage

# Spring Training Opens for AFGE Activists



**M**ore than 2,000 AFGE activists from across the nation rallied on the steps of the U.S. Capitol on February 29, 2000, to demand that the government **Stop Wasting America's Money on Privatization (SWAMP)**. Our 2000 Legislative and Grassroots Mobilization Conference focused on getting both Blue Collar and General Schedule (GS) federal workers a 4.2% raise for 2001, repealing the 0.5% retirement tax imposed in 1997 for deficit reduction, lowering worker costs for health insurance under FEHBP, and last but surely not least, escalating our SWAMP campaign to expose the waste, fraud and abuse of corporate contractors who are stealing more than just our jobs.

The SWAMP campaign encompasses all of the issues AFGE faces as a union. Recent polls have shown us that our challenge in the contracting out arena is huge. The public is pretty well-disposed to contracting out because they have swallowed a lot of the propaganda put out by the privatizers, the contractors and their friends in Congress and the Administration. Although we have come a long way from the **Reagan** days when everyone and everything associated with government was demonized, we still have our work cut out for us. We need to make sure that we keep our focus on the good in government and on exposing the real culprit—the corporate political agenda that aims to wring the maximum profit out of every single aspect of our society.

Our problems with pay, jobs, health care, retirement and contracting out are the same problems that workers in the private sector and around

the globe face in dealing with these same corporate characters. We can't let them force our campaign into a struggle between us and private sector workers over jobs. AFGE's campaign says there *is* such a thing as government work that should be spared allegiance to a corporation's bottom line. No one wins when workers compete among themselves over who will work for less.

Government should set the standards for the private sector as an employer, not the other way around. Government should administer programs that are designed to serve everyone, rich or poor, in the same way. Government should carry out its own responsibility to protect the public from contaminated foods, convicted criminals and threats to our national security. The government itself should honor its commitment to our nation's veterans, not hire others to do it on the cheap.

This is what our SWAMP campaign is about. You know the drill by now. We'll only make headway on these goals if we have the full participation of our members, and that includes each one of us doing our utmost to bring others into our union and into our fight.

*Union Insights... Union Insights... Union Insights...*

## What events will you be planning with the information you received from the Legislative Conference?



**Joyce B. Young**  
Unit Vice President, Local 1061  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
(VA)  
Santa Monica, Calif.

I'll be planning Lunch & Learns, new employee orientations and will present the SWAMP platform at monthly meetings.



**Alan L. Hollis**  
President, Local 3631  
Environmental Protection  
Agency (EPA)  
Philadelphia

I will continue to meet with our local legislators and get them involved with fighting the wasteful spending by contractors in the EPA.



**Rich Fales**  
Steward, Local 3403  
National Science Foundation  
(NSF)  
Arlington, Va.

I'll promote the Stop Wasting America's Money on Privatization (SWAMP) effort in the Local.

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Bobby L. Harnage Sr., **National President**  
Rita R. Mason, **National Secretary-Treasurer** **P.U. Art from Prev. Kitty Peddicord, Dir., Women's/Fair Practices Depts. Standards**

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## Corrections to Jan./Feb. 2000

The correct Local number for **Deborah Dodd** is **3239**. *Muchas Gracias* is the proper spelling for **Local 3511's** story on page 8—thanks for the correction **Mario N. Vargas** of **Local 1764**.

# BONUS BUCKS 2000

More Money, More Prizes & More New Members

The minute YOU sign up the most new AFGE members is the minute YOU pack for sunny . . .



## Jamaica

*(grand prize/top recruiter, 7-day trip for two)*

. . .or surf the Web with a new . . .

## Personal Computer

*& free Internet service for one year  
(for the second-place recruiter)*



### Other prizes include:

- Free T-Shirts (for the first 50 participating recruiters)
- Free AFGE leather/wool jackets (for the first-place District winners)
- Free AFGE fleece-lined parkas (for second-place District winners)



## Pocket \$20

for each new AFGE member YOU sign up

*(with District incentives, earn up to \$55 for every new member)*

### **BONUS BUCKS FACT:**

Local 1647's John Lynady signed up 221 new members in 1999, winning \$11,050. That's real money.



## What are you waiting for?

**BONUS BUCKS RUNS**

**April 17 - August 6, 2000**

Call Your Local or District Office for Details

# [www.afge.org](http://www.afge.org)

## AFGE & Raytheon Sign Contract



**L**ocal 1744 and Raytheon signed a five-year contract in February that will run through April of 2005. The contract impacts approximately 250 AFGE represented workers at Raytheon's Indianapolis plant.

The final agreement provides for a total wage package of over \$1.35 million, which equates to an increase of \$5,375 per employee over the length of the agreement. The contract also includes the formation of a joint labor/management committee to review and discuss relevant job skills and bidding requirements for model makers, machinists and sheet metal mechanic workers. Raytheon will continue to provide comprehensive health and welfare benefits, with the company picking up 80 percent of the total costs.

AFGE's bargaining team negotiated the highest rates for blue collar workers in the Indianapolis area just months after Raytheon lost one-third of its stock value. "It's a good contract," said **District 6** National Vice President (NVP) **Arnold Scott**, "and the best contract at this time because of Raytheon's financial status."

"Some very good things are in the contract," said **Mike Brinegar**, President of Local 1744. "For example, we now have notification on contracts being subcontracted out and a delegate on Raytheon's safety committee," added Brinegar.

AFGE workers at the Indianapolis plant play a serious role in the defense of the United States. Each worker possesses high-level security clearances to work on state-of-the-art defense guidance systems and controls for launchers and bomb racks.

Pictured in the above photo representing AFGE at the signing are Local 1744's President **Mike Brinegar**, Vice President **Phillip Johnson** and Sergeant at Arms **Michael Lundsford**, District 6's NVP **Arnold Scott** and National Representative **Arvin Byrd**, Committee Member **Rheba Murray** and AFGE National Statistician **Peter Tchirkow**. Representing Raytheon in the photo are Manager of Labor Relations **James Dempsey**, Vice President-Indianapolis **Bryan Even**, Senior Manager-Human Resources **John Chapman**, Senior Manager-Manufacturing **Michael Haden** and Consulting HR Generalist **Paul O'Dell**.

## Every Dollar Will Make a Difference

A number of AFGE members of **Local 3936** at the Air National Guard in Puerto Rico have been fired for their union activity. To ease their burden, the **5th District** has established a special fund. Those wishing to donate should make their checks payable to the **AFGE Local 3936 Welfare Fund** and mail to:

**The Banco Popular de Puerto Rico,  
Cupey Center Branch  
Attn: AFGE Local 3936 Welfare Fund  
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico 00926**

## NEWS NOTES

### Census 2000

Your participation in the 2000 Census is important, safe and easy. Just complete the forms delivered to you in mid-March and return them by April 1, 2000. For additional information, visit the Census Web site at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) or call your Regional Census Center.

## Oklahoma...(Continued from page 1)

The building, owned by the General Services Administration (GSA), housed over 600 people in 14 agencies. There were over 250 visitors in the building at the time of the blast. Of those who worked around Graham, only three survived—a man who sat behind her and two women who were able to grab hold of a ledge when the floor gave way. Lost as a result of the tragedy were 168 men, women and children, as well as the safe and secure feeling of working in a federal facility.

Two men were sentenced for the bombing, **Timothy McVeigh** (who sits on death row after the sentencing on August 14, 1997) and **Terry Nichols** (sentenced to life in prison on June 4, 1998).

## Mourn the Dead, Fight for the Living

Investigations into the bombing revealed that only a single, *contract* security guard was on duty at the time of the blast. In memory of those lost and to protect the living, AFGE has been promoting legislation on Capitol Hill that will strengthen security at federal facilities.

AFGE will never forget the AFGE members who lost their lives from **Locals 2505, 3138, 3506 and 3642**. In 1999, AFGE families and friends completed a handcrafted, 58 square, 12' x 15' quilt (one quilt square pictured above). AFGE is hopeful that the quilt, to be displayed at AFGE's National Convention in Orlando, will find a permanent home in the lobby of the new federal building in Oklahoma City.



## Union Members Earn More Money



The number of union members grew by 265,000 in 1999, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported. The growth of unionists to 16,475,000, was not the entire story for the labor movement last year. The percentage of union workers in the overall labor force held steady at 13.9 percent, halting years of decline. AFGE had a net increase of some 6,000 new members in 1999.

Union members earn 32 percent more than non-union members, BLS said. Median weekly earnings last year for unionists were \$672, compared to \$516 for non-union.

## Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**A** FGE National President **Bobby L. Harnage** and Women's/Fair Practices Departments Director **Kitty Peddicord** joined the Atlanta community and labor members from around the country between January 14 and 18, to celebrate the legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK)**.



National President Harnage (center) joined AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney at the MLK march in Atlanta.

Photo: Page One

AFGE played a key role during this year's five-day celebration. Because of his lifelong commitment to the Civil Rights movement, Harnage was the master of ceremonies for the Annual MLK Labor Breakfast. Harnage also joined AFL-CIO President **John Sweeney** and International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) President **James P. Hoffa** to officially kick off the MLK Day march and rally through Atlanta's streets.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Enter AFGE's Newsletter and Web Site Contests

May 5 is the deadline to submit entries for the 2000 AFGE Editors Association Newsletter and Web Site Contests. For more information, call the AFGE Editor's Association at (202) 639-6419 or visit AFGE's Web site at [www.afge.org](http://www.afge.org).

### AFGE Book Club

Learn about the Internet revolution and how it's changing today's labor movement. Be sure to pick up a copy of *CyberUnion: Empowering Labor Through Computer Technology* by Arthur B. Shostak. M.E. Sharpe, 1999.

### **BOYCOTT** Crown

The lockout of 252 Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical & Energy Workers International Union (PACE) members in Pasadena, Texas, is now four years old. Support PACE workers by boycotting Crown gasoline stations and convenience stores nationwide. To get more information, contact the PACE Special Projects Dept. at (615) 831-6716 or visit [www.crownboycott.org](http://www.crownboycott.org). Be sure to ask for copies of the *Crown Boycott News*.

## AFGE Jobs Secured At Air Force Academy

**T**he Air Force Academy is recognized worldwide as the premier developer of aerospace officers who will one day lead our Air Force and nation. Members of **Local 1867** are a part of that development and will continue to be for years to come—thanks to a recent A-76 win.







AFGE Local 1867 won an A-76 cost comparison on January 5 that saved the jobs of over 200 federal employees. Cooks, bakers, servers and sanitation, subsistence and supply workers—positions that pay between \$9.46 and \$15.33 per hour—fought hard to keep their jobs.

“At military academies, air force bases, forts or depots, AFGE members play a valuable role in readying the leaders and fighting forces of the United States. AFGE will continue to fight for jobs that may fall prey to contracting out and privatization. We can do the job better, faster and for less money than the commercial sector,” said AFGE National President **Bobby L. Harnage**.

Local 1867 represents 3,300 bargaining unit employees at the Academy, as well as members at Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, Fort Carson Army Base, Peterson Air Force Base (AFB) and Schriever AFB. Aircraft and automobile mechanics, parachute packers, locksmiths, carpenters, painters, plumbers, masons, physician assistants, paramedics and firefighters proudly maintain and support military personnel and their families in and around Colorado.

[afge.workingfamilies.com](http://afge.workingfamilies.com)

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Look for more information from AFGE

## 2000 Legislative Conference Picture Perfect

Over 625 AFGE members came to Washington, D.C., by trains, planes, automobiles and buses to attend the 2000 Legislative & Grassroots Mobilization Conference between February 27 and March 1. Centered around AFGE's Stop Wasting America's Money on Privatization (SWAMP) theme, an exciting time of learning, laughing and lobbying was had by all.

Inside the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, AFGE members participated in numerous workshops to increase union strength in the federal workplace. *Effective Union Building Around Legislative Issues*, *2000 Elections & Your Rights Under the Hatch Act*, *Challenging Agencies' Decisions on FAIR Act Lists* and *SWAMP Media Training* were popular workshops. Issue briefings were held throughout the conference on SWAMP, pay, health insurance and retirement. Senators **Paul Sarbanes** (D-Md.) and **George Voinovich** (R-Ohio) and Representative **Dennis Kucinich** (D-Ohio) addressed the conference. Visit [www.afge.org](http://www.afge.org) for more information on the conference and a copy of AFGE's 2000 Issue Papers and Voting Records.



Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.)



Over 625 members registered for the conference.



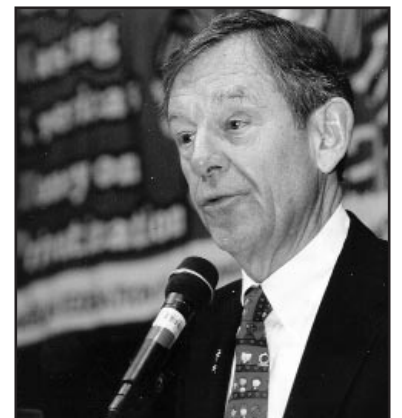
# On The Hill



Members had a great time at the 2000 Legislative Conference.



Members enjoyed a minute before the rally.



Senator George Voinovich (R-Ohio)



Delegates listened closely on how to challenge agencies' decisions on FAIR Act Lists.

Some of the legislators who attended AFGE's Congressional Reception included (pictured from top to bottom) Rep. Lois Capps (D-Calif.), Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), Rep. Ben Gilman (R-N.Y.), Rep. Darlene Hooley (D-Ore.), Rep. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.)



Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) greeted members.

**Congressional Reception** Over 30 members of Congress attended AFGE's Congressional Reception on Feb.29th at the Rayburn House Office Bldg. Special thanks to: Senators **Chuck Robb** (D-Va.) and **Charles Schumer** (D-N.Y.); Representatives **Joe Baca** (D-Calif.); **Sherry Boehlert** (R-N.Y.); **Leonard Boswell** (D-Iowa); **Dave Camp** (R-Mich.); **Lois Capps** (D-Calif.); **Bud Cramer** (D-Ala.); **Chet Edwards** (D-Texas); **Ben Gilman** (R-N.Y.); **Ralph Hall** (D-Texas); **Eleanor Holmes Norton** (D-D.C.); **Darlene Hooley** (D-Ore.);

## Excerpts of House Democratic Whip David E. Bonior's (D-Mich.) SWAMP Rally Speech

Well, I've got some bad news to tell you today. It's real bad news. It's bad news for every privatizing corporation who thinks they can put their profits first and public service dead last. It's bad news for every federal manager who'd rather send work out than show the leadership it takes to contract it in. And, it's terrible news for the folks in this building [Capitol] who think the only problem with privatization is that it hasn't gone far enough...when the truth is that it's gone too far already.

Because, brothers and sisters, the news is that AFGE is mobilizing! AFGE is organizing! You're educating! And, you're agitating! You're telling Congress it's time to stop wasting America's money on privatization! With the right training, the right equipment—and good management—there isn't one single job in this government that a federal employee can't do better, faster or cheaper than any private contractor anywhere.

You know it, I know it and, before we're done, we're going to make sure that Congress knows it, too.

And, I want to tell you something else—we don't have a moment to spare. Because the bottom line is that there are a lot of powerful corporations in this country who are making a whole pile of money from privatization. In fact, DoD alone pays out about \$70 billion every year to some of those companies for private service contracts. And those corporations understand one thing: it's that when taxpayers and federal employees win, they stand to lose.

Well, brothers and sisters, I want you to know that not only can we win this fight, but that we will win. But there's only one way that's ever going to happen. It's by taking your campaign for quality federal services into every community in this nation.

It's by making sure your neighbors understand that there's only one reason why the United States government is able to care for veterans; only one reason why we're able to provide pensions to the elderly; only one reason why we're able to keep our military ready for action and provide the kinds of services our families depend on every, single day.

That's the story America needs to hear—and, I want you to know that, together, that's the story we're going to tell.



Photo: Jocelyn Augustino

## See If You Can TRAC The Savings

By Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), co-sponsor of H.R. 3766



As a former trapper on the Yukon River in Alaska, I often had to track game and animals. An important part of tracking is looking for the definitive signs of the animal. Unfortunately, the privatization of government jobs over the last several years by the Department of Defense (DoD) is a process that just doesn't leave any tracks of savings.

Over the last several years Congress has held hearings and debated the U.S. military's ability to pay for needs in military procurement, modernization and infrastructure. Currently, DoD believes the way to fund the armed services needs is by reducing or privatizing support functions.

The President told the four services to examine options aimed at reducing infrastructure costs—through privatization—in order to fund increasing modernization accounts for each of the services' needs. What does that mean for federal employees? It means that federal employees who provide support for our armed forces were to be reduced and eliminated in the name of privatization.

At bases across the country DoD is undertaking a "cost comparison process" which is being performed in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76. We might as well call it what it is—a reduction in force (RIF). However, the General Accounting Office has found there is no clear evidence that the current DoD outsourcing and privatization effort is reducing the cost of support functions within DoD (high-cost contractors) by simply replacing government employees. Oversight of the contracts and contractors has also created serious problems.

I believe it's time to get serious with the arbitrary use of A-76 to reduce the budget. Just because the President needs to find money for modernization should not result in the overly zealous use of the A-76 provisions. That is why I have become a co-sponsor of TRAC, the *Truthfulness, Responsibility and Accountability in Contracting Act*. It's time to safeguard our federal employees against the noncompetitive and the unfair process of contracting out and privatization thru the A-76 process.

## Co-Sponsors of H.R. 3766

Paul Kanjorski (D-Penn.); Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawaii); Robert Andrews (D-N.J.); John Baldacci (D-Maine); Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.); Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.); Rod Blagojevich (D-Ill.); David Bonior (D-Mich.); Corrine Brown (D-Fla.); Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio); Michael Capuano (D-Mass.); Julia Carson (D-Ind.); Bob Clement (D-Tenn.); John Conyers (D-Mich.); William Coyne (D-Penn.); Elijah Cummings (D-Md.); Danny Davis (D-Ill.); Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.); Norman Dicks (D-Wash.); John Dingell (D-Mich.); Julian Dixon (D-Calif.); Lane Evans (D-Ill.); Chaka Fattah (D-Penn.); Bob Filner (D-Calif.); Harold Ford (D-Tenn.); Barney Frank (D-Mass.); Martin Frost (D-Texas); George Gekas (R-Penn.); Charles Gonzalez (D-Texas); Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.); Tony Hall (D-Ohio); Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.); Baron Hill (D-Ind.); Earl Hilliard (D-Ala.); Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.); Tim Holden (D-Penn.); Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.); Rush Holt (D-N.J.); Darlene Hooley (D-Ore.); Steny Hoyer (D-Md.); Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-Ill.); Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-Texas); Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-Ohio); Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio); Dale Kildee (D-Mich.); Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-Mich.); Ron Kind (D-Wisc.); Gerald Kleczka (D-Wisc.); Ron Klink (D-Penn.); Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio); Tom Lantos (D-Calif.); Sander Levin (D-Mich.); John Lewis (D-Ga.); Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.); Frank Mascara (D-Penn.); James McGovern (D-Mass.); Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.); Robert Menendez (D-N.J.); Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-Calif.); James Oberstar (D-Minn.); Major Owens (D-N.Y.); Frank Pallone (D-N.J.); Ed Pastor (D-Ariz.); Donald Payne (D-N.J.); Collin Peterson (D-Minn.); Lynn Rivers (D-Mich.); Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.); Bobby Rush (D-Ill.); Martin Sabo (D-Minn.); Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.); Janice Schakowsky (D-Ill.); Ronnie Shows (D-Miss.); Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.); Ted Strickland (D-Ohio); Bart Stupak (D-Mich.); Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.); John Tierney (D-Mass.); Edolphus Towns (D-N.Y.); James Traficant (D-Ohio); Robert Underwood (D-Guam); Bruce Vento (D-Minn.); Henry Waxman (D-Calif.); and Don Young (R-Alaska). *NOTE: co-sponsors as of 3/13/00.*

## H.R. 3766... (Continued from page 1)

AFGE's bill, which currently has 83 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives, calls for the temporary suspension of all new federal contracting until five requirements (listed to the right) of federal agencies have been met.

"In the absence of accountability and congressional oversight, the problems caused by indiscriminate contracting out and privatization will grow worse in DoD and other agencies," Wynn stated.

"This legislation is pro-taxpayer because it will provide accountability and oversight of federal spending," added Wynn.

1. Track costs and savings from contracting out.
2. Prevent any work from being given to contractors without public-private competition.
3. Abolish arbitrary personnel ceilings that prevent agencies from taking on work even when federal employees can do it more efficiently.
4. Emphasize contracting in to the same extent as contracting out.
5. Develop a better understanding of the extent to which contracting out undercuts the wages and benefits of federal employees and other workers.

Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-Texas); Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio); Nick Lampson (D-Texas); Mike McNulty (D-N.Y.); Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii); Nick Joe Rahall (D-W.V.); Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.); Ralph Regula (R-Ohio); Bob Riley (R-Ala.); Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.); Martin Sabo (D-Minn.); Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.); Jim Saxton (R-N.J.); Bobby Scott (D-Va.); Norman Sisisky (D-Va.); Bob Underwood (D-Guam); Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.); Melvin Watt (D-N.C.); and Don Young (R-Alaska).



## We're Here To Report What You're Doing

It may not be news to you, but it's news to us! What role do you play in the federal government? Send in your story and a non-digital/non-Polaroid picture to: *The Government Standard*, ATTN: Story & Photo Album, 80 F St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. You can also e-mail your story to us at [communications@afge.org](mailto:communications@afge.org).

Please clearly list the roles and responsibilities of your job and/or Local. Be sure to identify all the subjects in the photos. All photos and stories become property of AFGE.

## Here's To Your Health & Safety

**12<sup>th</sup> District Health & Safety Coord. Howard Egerman** (l) recently met with Asst. Sect. of Labor for OSHA **Charles Jeffress** (r) at the Federal Safety Council meeting in Baltimore. Egerman, who suffers from carpal tunnel syndrome, discussed AFGE's support for the OSHA standard and safety concerns for federal employees.

For more information on carpal tunnel syndrome and other health and safety issues, visit the *Health & Safety Section* of AFGE's Web site at [www.afge.org](http://www.afge.org).



## Welcome Aboard, Local 1983

**Local 1983**, a relatively new Local in Emmitsburg, Md., represents approximately 80 members who are employees of the United States

Fire Administration (USFA), the National Fire Academy (NFA) and the Emergency Management Institute (EMI)—located at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Emergency Training Center (NETC).

"The members of this Local provide outstanding support to the American Fire Service and the Emergency Management Community," said Local President **Ken Kuntz**. Welcome to the AFGE family.

## Local 2609 Partnership Works

Members of **Local 2609** maintain 200 missile silos and 20 launch control facilities over 23,500 square miles at Malmstrom Air Force Base (AFB) in Montana. Sometimes it takes three-and-a-half-hours to drive to one facility.

Aside from doing a top-notch job maintaining silos, Local 2609 is also doing a great job winning A-76 studies. "The secret is we formed a partnership three years ago and it works," said Local President **Ed Reeder**. "Employees get involved in MEO (most efficient organization) as much as possible and it makes a difference," added Reeder.



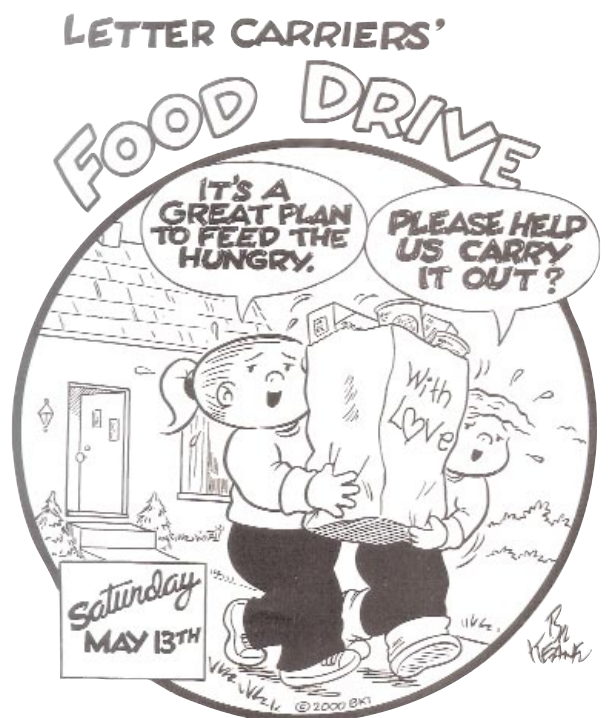
In November 1999, Local 2609 kept in-house the Military Personnel Flight/Education Services. In August, the Local came in \$1.4 million less than the lowest bid for boiler plant workers, keeping the function in-house while gaining bargaining unit members. And in July,

Local 2609 won a housing outsourcing bid, saving the jobs for 11 full-time employees.

"We believe in what we do and we respect the partnership with the base commanders. Working together does save taxpayer dollars and jobs," said Reeder.

**O**n Saturday, May 13, you can help stamp out hunger in America by placing a box or can of non-perishable food next to your mailbox before your letter carrier delivers mail. Sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), last year's drive collected 58.4 million pounds of food for the needy.

If you would like to volunteer, call AFGE's Community Services Representative at (202) 639-6410.



Local 1170 President Sue Gibbs (l), of the Pacific Medical Center in Seattle, sang in the labor choir at the WTO Rally.

## AFGE @ WTO

Supporting Human Rights Worldwide



(l-r) Joe Murphy and Derrick Blakely of Local 3979 joined Manny Borquez of the Council of Prisons Locals and District 11 Natl. Vice Pres. Gerry Swanke at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Rally in Seattle.