



### **Union E-Board**

- R. Curnan – President**
- S. Boylan – Executive Vice**
- P. Wynne – Treasurer**
- R. Roy – WS Vice**
- J. Plachinski – GS Vice**
- D. Rogers – Secretary**
- E. Klimaszewski – Legal Coor.**

### **Upcoming Events**

National Convention  
8/6 – 8/11

Senatorial Visit  
8/25

Membership Meeting  
8/17

LMR Meeting  
8/24

# **AFGE LOCAL 1661 Newsletter – August 2023**



## **Our First Newsletter in Forever!**

Greetings everyone!

Our efforts to improve overall communication and positive interaction between our membership and the executive board are ongoing. We will be doing our utmost to provide these newsletters to our members every month. We will fill these newsletters with everything from general updates and cases to national union headlines and policy how-to guides. So, without further ado, please enjoy our very first newsletter since the first Nokia brick phone was released!

# General Updates

The Union Picnic at Lake Quassy was a splendid event, despite the rain. Everyone seemed to enjoy a pleasant day off with friends, coworkers, and family and some most excellent prizes were handed out. If you haven't yet gotten a prize that you won, please be sure to let us know. Staff that were on shift that day were also treated to a meal that day. We want to thank everyone who attended the picnic as well as extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who went into work that day.

Now to the big item. We know that the CREED report is on everyone's mind right now. The July LMR Meeting was postponed in order to facilitate the effective management of this very serious issue at our institution. Warden Stover's Listening Sessions were a positive and proactive step forward and reflect his constant effort to connect with staff and communicate with our team. We will continue to work with him in the endeavor to build a positive environment for staff at FCI Danbury.

Senators Blumenthal and Murphy have tentatively scheduled a visit to our institution on August 25<sup>th</sup>. This visit should help our congressional representatives illuminate our situation here at FCI Danbury. We would like to take a moment to ask that you do your utmost to 'dress to impress' on the 10<sup>th</sup> and give our political representatives an excellent impression of our team! Given the recent kerfuffle with the uniform standards, it is understandable if you are having a certain reaction to this request. Despite this, demonstrating a measure of pride and professionalism will go a long way in lending credibility to our team and our mission. Let's do our best to show everyone our potential as proud servants of the public good, not as the next headline.

Considering these issues, we are soliciting the position of Women and Fair Practices Coordinator as an official addition to the Union team. This is an elected position that has existed in the past, and we felt that it was vital to ask interested members to step forward and consider joining the team in a meaningful way. If you are interested, please contact the Union President, Robert Curnan to submit your candidacy.

# Case and Union Updates

We are currently awaiting an update from Northeast Region leadership regarding the implementation of a 10% Retention Incentive for FCI Danbury. This is out of our hands for the time being until we receive an answer from the region.

Arbitrations and Informal Resolutions are a key part of what we do for our members. As of July 2023, we have successfully concluded four arbitration cases with positive informal resolutions. Three of these cases were for discipline, and one was for pay. These kinds of things can sometimes take serious time to pan out and we appreciate the patience of everyone involved in these cases. Please know that we are always working on these kinds of issues and cases; providing documentation, legal calls, and research are just small parts of what we do to ensure fair treatment for staff.

As many of you are aware, we are currently amid a Portal-to-Portal case. This case is in the final stages of arbitration, and we are waiting on the final decision after our closing statements were issued in February. In our previous message to the membership, we stated that the long wait is likely a good omen. A solid 'No' would have been given months ago. We are eagerly awaiting news on this item.

The case for hazard pay was denied by a federal court some time ago. However, a petition has been submitted to the Supreme Court to have this case heard at the highest levels. We are not holding our breath on this, and neither should anyone else. We are simply doing our absolute best to explore every avenue for our members.