

# BEYOND THE FENCE

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## Officer Eric Williams Outreach

Don Williams, father of slain Officer Eric Williams spoke to the Northeast Regional CPL-33 Locals during the regional caucus held over the week of May 8, 2022. Mr. Williams and members of Voices of J.O.E. detailed how civilian intervention with the BOP has proven itself to enhance safety measures both federally and locally. The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections recently implemented an OC policy nearly identical to that of the BOP for correctional officers. AFGE Local 1661 was chosen to be a satellite outreach office and we are currently looking for both state and federal volunteers to continue the legislative fight and further enhance staff safety. Membership to Voices of J.O.E. is not restricted to BOP or state law enforcement personnel. Family, friends, or others are able to be a part of this critical movement. For info, email [shaunboylan@gmail.com](mailto:shaunboylan@gmail.com).

## SHUTDOWN, PORTAL, & HAZARD PAY

Both the 2013 and 2018 Shutdown lawsuit are being appealed by the Department of Justice. A three-judge panel will determine the decision of this appeal. The date has yet to be set for this hearing. According to Heidi Burakiewicz, an attorney representing AFGE and BOP staff states the "the law is in our favor". She also states that all BOP staff working in the various institutions who were forced to report to work during the shutdowns are eligible for compensation and to register at [www.2018shutdown.com](http://www.2018shutdown.com).

The hazard pay lawsuit is still in motion. AFGE Local 1661 filed suit separate from the national AFGE after a vote by membership. At least 24 other Hazard Pay cases from other institutions and/or agencies are pending and in the same status as that of FCI Danbury. Essentially one judge sided with AFGE Local 1661, and another did not. Just like the shutdown, this case is pending a three-judge panel decision at a later date.

The portal case (June 27, 2014-present day) is nearing decision. This has been a long time coming with no resolve in sight. This case is scheduled to be completed in July 2022.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 13, 2022 @ 4:15pm**  
**Membership Meeting**

**July 16, 2022**  
**Local 1661 Picnic**  
**Hatters Park, Danbury**  
**12pm-8pm**  
**RSVP at [www.AFGELOCAL1661.com](http://www.AFGELOCAL1661.com)**

## "I spoke to the warden in depth and we feel this is safe for staff"

-Jeremy Nash, AW & David McGettigan, Lt. referring to the combining of units K, L, & M



## **2022 North East Regional Caucus**

The 2022 NE Regional Caucus was insightful in regards to many topics both plaguing the BOP and also moving the BOP forward in the right direction. Several new items were discussed such as negotiated shakedown gloves. No, not those cardboard filled pieces of trash that would stop you from bending your finders, but a more comfortable form fitting glove that will be both puncture and slice resistant.

A memo that will be available at [www.AFGElocal1661.com](http://www.AFGElocal1661.com) was also detailed and will supply the proper LEOSA details the BOP has refused to supply until now.

Batons have exited the trial phase and will be rolled out over time. As of this newsletter, All high-rises, transport hubs, detention centers, and jails are approved. Rollout dates to all other facilities are TBD.

Badges have been signed off on and policy updated to permit staff to wear and display badges. An image of the badge is available on the amended master agreement. Issuance is pending contract award and production.

Credentials are approved, and will be created by GAO (we believe this was an oversight in the name and GSA is correct) and will be issued once the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is signed. The details AFGE Local 1661 received is that these will be one ID with counterfeit protection and will remove your specific job title but still saying "Federal Law Enforcement".

## **President's Message**

The past year has been challenging. We have weathered the storm well and will grow stronger. We have had hostile administrations, a director who seemed determined to damage the BOP, cuts to staffing that have made it harder to complete our mission and inflation that has harmed each one of us personally. In response we have fought hard for your rights.

We have filed numerous unfair labor practice complaints with the FLRA which has forced the administration to agree to sit down and negotiate with us at the end of this month. We had a picket in December with a billboard that has brought national attention to the staffing issues we are facing. We had the senators in to the institution to see how short staffed we are leading directly to 194 million dollars being added to the BOP budget for staffing. We have presented our side on two pending arbitrations, and both look promising. We created a community relations board that is tasked with building community relations with the surrounding community. We updated the Overtime MOU to minimize staff getting mandated on their days off if they take overtime.

We are by no means done fighting. We will be sitting down at the end of June to negotiate augmentation and how it is done. We will be sitting down with the captain to try and make the roster better for the staff.

What all this comes down to is that we as elected union officials, our job is to fight for you. We have been and continue to fight.



### **LEOSA CLARIFICATION**

Please be sure to download and print the 8-page LEOSA memo that clarifies who, what, where, and when you are approved under LEOSA and clarifies the correct steps to verify this information if necessary. The memo can be downloaded in the local's membership portal at [www.afgelocal1661.com](http://www.afgelocal1661.com)

## 2022 AFGE National Convention



This year AFGE Local 1661 attended the National Convention in Orlando, Florida with the hopes to elect Phil Glover (Former BOP), District 3 VP, to National President and Jim Davis to National Secretary-Treasurer. Glover received 42.3%, while the incumbent Everett Kelly received 57.7%. Jim Davis received 47.55%, while incumbent Eric Bunn received 52.45%. Jeremy Lannan will remain National VP of Women and Fair Practices with 58.08% of the votes.

The results are not favorable to the BOP. On June 21, 2022 ICE filed to become autonomous from AFGE and the AFL-CIO as law enforcement are not supported by Kelly or Bunn. The BOP is the second largest AFGE Group behind SSA, and before the VA. The SSA and VA together decided the outcome.

On June 23, 2022 votes were cast to raise union dues and make it easier for AFGE to attack locals that speak out against the organization and/or their financial habits. These measures were rejected by the counsels securing a fair payment for you.

## LMR/Local Progress

At the end of June, most of the eboard met with several members of management To discuss the multitude of Unfair Labor Practices (ULP) that have been filed. From information requests, to stab/ballistic vests, and to augmentation and Compressed Work Schedules (CWS).

The meeting held June 29<sup>th</sup> appeared to be productive. The union is not retracting any ULP until either a MOU or something similar is issued in writing.

It was agreed that CWS requests will be handled locally in 20 business days. From

There, the proposed schedule will be routed to region. WS-Vice President Roy is the contact for this matter.

It was agreed that Augmentation will be filled as following.

1. Five non-custody augments.
2. OT offered to all signed up to fill remaining posts.
3. Remaining Vacancies filled with non-custody.

Also agreed was a change to staff accountability, including updating the chit board in the FCI Sallyport. More details to follow.



## NEW BADGES & CREDENTIALS

The BOP and CPL-33 have both signed off approving badges for staff. The approved badge can be previewed on the cover of the Amended Master Agreement. You can find this on Google or Sallyport under "Employee Services". The process is in the bid stage for vendors to compete. Once awarded, these will be issued.

Credentials are pending a MOU between the BOP and GPO, and final design. They will be laminated and include counterfeiting measures. They will also only have "Federal Law Enforcement Officer" instead of that and your job title. Issuance is pending final design of the credentials.

## FORWARD MOVEMENT

AFGE Local 1661 has been fighting nonstop for you since the current administration took over in October 2021. From rallies, media mentions, to congressional visits, we have been pushing to create an atmosphere where we can ensure adequate staffing, fairness in overtime, and erasing approximately 10 years of let downs by the union.

We urge each of you to stand together and demand to be treated equally regardless of race, or who's friends with who. Only then will we become stronger.