

AFGE ORGANIZATIONAL LEVELS AND WHAT THEY DO

The various parts of AFGE combine to form an organization that depends on the efforts of individual members and activists at all levels. At each level of AFGE, members and activists have a direct say in the policy and focus of the Union. At the most personal level., that input takes place through the election of officers to represent the membership of AFGE at all levels. From the National Convention where the Union's national officers are elected to the shop floor where members may elect their stewards, union members and activists make the decisions that influence the direction of AFGE

THE AFGE NATIONAL CONVENTION

- Sets policy for the entire union
- Elects national officers
- Meets each three years
- Sets overall policy by majority rule of delegates and locals

THE AFGE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

- Implements convention policy
- Provides resources and assistance to locals, councils and districts
- Lobbies on federal/D.C. workers' issues
- Through various departments, works on specialized employee issues
- Sponsors training and provides written material to locals, councils and district offices
- Host national meetings and conferences of AFGE locals
- Assists locals, districts and councils with organizing drives and petitions
- Keeps the financial records of the Federation

AFGE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS ELECTED OFFICERS

The National Officers of AFGE are elected each three years at the Union's National Convention. The elected officers administer the day to day operations of AFGE, implement policies set by the Convention and provide leadership for the Union. Those officers are:

- National President
- National Secretary-Treasurer
- Director, Women's' Department

AFGE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS STRUCTURE

The Union's National Headquarters provides assistance to locals, districts and councils. The Headquarters is located in Washington, D.C., near the Nation's Capitol and Congress. The National Headquarters of AFGE consists of some twelve separate offices and departments all working together for the benefit of the Union's membership. Each department of the National Headquarters provides specialized services and assistance to the various parts of the Union. Those offices and departments are:

- Office of the National President
- Office of the National Secretary-Treasurer
- Office of Fair Practices/Women's
- Communications
- Political Action Department
- Field Services Department
- Office of the General Counsel
- Legislation Department
- Membership and Organizing Department
- Building Operations Department
- Finance Department
- Personnel Department
- Service Department

THE AFEG NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Between national conventions of AFGE, the Union is guided in its actions by its nationally elected officers. The National Executive Council (NEC), consists of the elected officers and the elected National Vice Presidents from each AFGE's districts. The NEC meets from time to time to review AFGE policy, make sure the Union is operating within its budget and reach decisions affecting operations of the National Headquarters. The NEC is very much like a local union's Executive Board, consisting of the elected officers of the Local union. Like the Local Executive Board, the NEC is governed by the provisions of the National Constitution and Rules adopted at conventions each three years. Minutes of NEC meetings are published and provided to each local.

THE AFGE DISTRICT OFFICE

- Represents AFGE locals from specific states
- Is headed by National Vice Presidents elected from within each district
- Provides assistance to district locals by the National Vice President and National Representatives
- Sponsors training for district locals
- Gives guidance to local officers and activists
- Lobbies for issues affecting district locals

THE AFGE BARGAINING COUNCIL

- Represents locals within agencies
- Elects its own officers
- Negotiates agency-wide contracts
- Has its own convention attended by council locals
- Lobbies of local issues

THE AFL-CIO

- Speaks for the whole labor movement before Congress and other branches of government
- Coordinates Labor's legislative agenda and lobbying effects
- Brings different unions together in state committees for coordinated activities
- Coordinates grass roots action such as boycotts, demonstrations, etc.
- Increase the public's awareness of unions and what they stand for through public relations campaigns including the series of TV and radio spots called UNION YES