

NTEU TSA UPDATE

News and Information for TSA Employees from NTEU

January 14, 2010

Special Message from President Colleen M. Kelley

NTEU extends our deepest sympathies to the Haitian people and their family members in the United States who have been affected by the recent natural disaster.

For more information about the situation in Haiti and aid organizations, visit the [White House issue blog](#) or go to the [Center for International Disaster Information](#). There you can find many reputable organizations who will ensure that donations will be used directly for relief efforts.

Union Organizes Protest of LAX Parking Rate Hike

As TSA employees at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) are facing parking rate increases as high as an additional \$1,200 per year, NTEU is spearheading an effort to rollback the planned rate hike.

The rate increases are set to take effect Feb. 1. Under the plan, parking fees will double from \$15 to \$30 per month at one employee parking lot while jumping sharply from \$30 to \$124 per month at another.

Since December, NTEU has been actively mounting a campaign against the planned increases, including:

- Meeting last month with the top airport authority parking official;
- Circulating a petition protesting the increase among all airport employees;
- Sending a letter requesting that LAX's Board of Commissioners roll back the rates;
- Reaching out to other airport groups to join forces in fighting the hikes; and
- Planning to make a personal pitch against increases at the authority's next public meeting on Jan. 25.



NTEU President Colleen M. Kelley expressed deep concern about the financial burden that additional costs will pose to already underpaid employees. "Asking TSA employees to accept huge increases in their monthly parking costs is unacceptable," she said. "The airport authority needs to recognize how much this increase will hurt the rank-and-file workforce."

For more information, visit www.tsaunion.org.

Southers Nomination on Course

The U.S. Senate is still on track to schedule a vote on the nomination of Erroll Southers to be TSA Administrator once lawmakers return from congressional recess next week.

As part of a White House review of policies, systems and actions surrounding the attempted Christmas Day bombing over Detroit, President Kelley recently sent a [letter](#) to President Obama requesting a concurrent assessment of issues facing frontline TSA employees. A priority issue, she said, is the prompt confirmation of Southers.

NTEU Success Spreads Nationwide

When TSA employees need help, NTEU is quick to provide them with local staff attorneys who are experienced in federal labor law and labor-management relations and have a respected track record of providing quality on-the-ground representation to TSA NTEU members nationwide.

NTEU in the News

Federal News Radio has predicted that TSA employees will get collective bargaining rights in 2010.

Listen to NTEU President Colleen M. Kelley discuss these rights and other TSA issues in an [on-air interview](#).

At **Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport (CHO)** in Virginia, NTEU's hard work led to a TSA employee being awarded a fair final PASS rating for 2009, as well as a 4 percent raise and \$1,000 bonus payment that came with it.

NTEU staff attorneys filed a grievance on behalf of a TSA employee at CHO who challenged a low year-end PASS rating that was based on management's unfair application of TSA's unexcused absence policy. As a consequence, the employee was denied a \$1,000 bonus and was set to receive a 2 percent raise instead of a 4 percent raise

Under TSA's AWOL policy, fewer than five unexcused absences of less than two hours each cannot justify a reduction in an employee's final PASS rating. When NTEU pointed out that the employee in question only had three unexcused absences, all of which were less than two hours, management reversed its decision and awarded the employee appropriately.

In Texas, **Chapter 323 (TSA Austin)** President Bob Bartz filed a successful grievance forcing management to allow off-duty chapter members and other TSA employees at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) who attended a recent security briefing to claim overtime.

Following the failed Christmas Day bombing attempt in Detroit, TSA employees on the morning shift at AUS were required to stay after their shift ended to attend a mandatory meeting on the incident.

Verbally instructed by management at the meeting to include 15 minutes of overtime duty on their time cards, several TSA supervisors at the airport later refused to accept the overtime requests, saying overtime had not been officially authorized.

At **Chapter 311 (TSA LaGuardia)**, instead of a grievance, one phone call was all it took for NTEU to get TSA management to change course after it tried to implement a new policy regarding employee cell phone use that contradicted the agency's national policy.

All cell phones brought to work, management said, were to be kept in employee lockers during their shift. According to national TSA policy on personal electronic equipment, employees may carry cell phones while at work, but can only use them in designated areas during off-duty rest or meal breaks. ([TSA Directive No. 1100.73-2](#)).

In response, Chapter 311 President Yasir Sheikh contacted a local NTEU staff attorney who quickly got in touch with senior airport officials. Within 24 hours, LGA's federal security director told management that unilateral changes to national TSA policy were unacceptable and to revert back to following national TSA policy on all workplace issues.

"Chapter members and other employees here at LaGuardia are very happy to see how quickly we got results thanks to NTEU," Sheikh said.

Apply For FEEA Scholarships

If you made a New Year's resolution to further your education, the time to act is now. The [application](#) for the **Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA)** 2010-11 scholarship program is now available. More than 400 winners nationwide will be awarded up to \$2,500 each, with at least five top candidates receiving an additional \$5,000 [FEEA-NTEU scholarship](#).

The merit-based awards are open to current civilian federal employees with at least three years of federal service, as well as their spouses and dependent children. Employee applicants may be part-time students; child dependents must be enrolled full-time and at least in their senior year of high school.

Applications are due by March 26. [Learn about eligibility requirements and download an application.](#)



NTEU is ready and willing to help.
If you have questions, call toll free
1-866-591-5735 or e-mail TSA@nteu.org.

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