

2019 NTEU Legislative Conference



Chapter 242 Stewards Angela Bishop and Dave Koder, along with nearly 400 federal employees from around the country, gathered for NTEU's 2019 Legislative Conference last week. NTEU National President Tony Reardon welcomed the union members to Washington D.C. and saluted their activism. Representative John Lewis, D-Georgia also addressed union members during the opening session. Lewis is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee on Oversight. Last year, Lewis had a 100 percent voting record on NTEU's legislative scorecard and he has sponsored NTEU endorsed legislation to stop the use of private contractors to collect federal debts.

Angela and Dave met with various lawmakers over three days and urged them to protect our workplaces; provide for adequate agency funding; preserve and enhance employee benefits such as retirement, paid parental leave and telework; ensure work place fairness; and achieve pay equity for all federal employees. "Our job this week is to educate, enlighten, and engage legislators," said Dave; while Angela added, "we need to have open and honest conversations about our work and what the federal work force needs."

At the NTEU rally on the steps of the House on Thursday March 7, 2019, NTEU President Reardon thanked members for their courage during the 35-day shutdown that ended January 25, 2019 saying "Government shutdowns that use federal workers as leverage in some larger political struggle should never be normal." Reardon continued, "if there was one silver lining from the shutdown debacle it is this: the American people have a newfound understanding of who federal employees are and a growing appreciation for the incredibly important and necessary work done by our federal workers."

Speakers at the rally included: Senators Mark Warren D-Virginia and Mazie Hirono D-Hawaii; Representatives Gerald Connolly, Abigail Spanberger and Donald Beyer D-Virginia; and TJ Cox D-California among others.

Dave met with his Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky D-Illinois who has a 100% voting record on NTEU's legislative scorecard. Angela met with her Congressman John Shimkus, Illinois Representatives Darin LaHood and Rodney Davis, and Illinois Senator Richard Durbin. During these meetings, NTEU's five top 2019 issues were discussed which included: achieving pay equity, securing agency funding, protecting retirements, ensuring affordable health and family benefits, and guaranteeing workplace fairness. All of the meetings were productive and we encouraged our congressional representatives to keep federal employees forefront when voting on bills that impart these workers.