

NTEU TSA UPDATE

News and Information for TSA Employees from NTEU

March 10, 2009

Making a Difference

NTEU Fights Against Unfair Leave Restrictions

NTEU recently came to the aid of several TSOs at a Texas airport who were unfairly placed on leave restriction.

Five TSOs at Midland International Airport (MAF) were given letters of memorandum earlier this year stating that they had dropped below a required minimum balance of leave and, as a result, were being placed on leave restriction, severely limiting the hours of sick and annual leave available to them.

After a review of TSA policy, the union found no required minimum number of hours of sick or annual leave that employees had to maintain. When NTEU argued to management that placing the TSOs on leave restriction was unfair and illegal, the letters were quickly rescinded.

Those involved were grateful for the union's assistance. "NTEU has been a wonderful breath of fresh air," said Midland TSO Rene Branscum. "It is nice to know we have someone in our court now."

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Rene Branscum, TSO, MAF

Legislative News

TSOs at Legislative Conference Meet with Homeland Security Staff

More than a half dozen TSO members from airports nationwide met with key staffers on the House and Senate Homeland Security committees last week during a series of Capitol Hill visits while in Washington, D.C., for the 2009 NTEU Legislative Conference.



NTEU TSA chapter leaders from Atlanta, LaGuardia, Miami and Philadelphia airports met with both the Senate and House Homeland Security Committees while in Washington, DC, for NTEU's annual Legislative Conference.

The TSOs spoke to staff members about the importance of their jobs to the safety and security of millions of air travelers each day, as well as how much TSOs value the work that they do; work that is being compromised by a lack of full collective bargaining rights.

"We came to fight to make TSA a better place to work, not just for ourselves, but for our co-workers," said Chapter 310 (TSA Atlanta) President Clarence Wells. "We want to give a face to the struggle that TSOs across the country are going through."

TSOs at the conference also discussed the inadequacies of TSA's PASS program and their desire to be placed onto the General Schedule (GS) pay system, like most other federal employees. "All we are asking for is simple fairness in how we are paid and in how we are treated in the workplace," said Chapter 310 Treasurer Rhonda Ball-Wheat.

In addition to legislative methods, NTEU continues to work with the Obama administration to move TSOs onto the GS system and deliver collective bargaining rights to them through executive directive.

NTEU in Action

Kelley Sits Down with DHS Head Napolitano

President Colleen M. Kelley recently met with Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to discuss a wide range of critically-important workforce issues, including collective bargaining at TSA.

At a February congressional hearing, Secretary Napolitano said she has ordered a review of the question of her authority to grant collective bargaining rights to TSA employees—a right NTEU believes she has and can delegate.

"Only full collective bargaining rights can provide TSA employees with a meaningful voice in key issues impacting their work lives," said President Kelley.



DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano, pictured above, recently met with NTEU President Colleen M. Kelley.

[Get the complete story here](http://www.nteu.org/PressKits/PressRelease/PressRelease.aspx?ID=1391) or visit <www.nteu.org/PressKits/PressRelease/PressRelease.aspx?ID=1391>.

On Capitol Hill

Kelley Tells Congress that Basic Workplace Rights are Denied at TSA

President Kelley told the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Management, Integration and Oversight Thursday that with a 20 percent annual attrition rate and key personnel management programs failing year after year, TSOs clearly need the meaningful workplace voice that only full collective bargaining rights would bring.

Kelley also told the subcommittee that "TSA is a hostile work environment" where employees injured on the job are told to stay home; employees are required to take annual leave when they are clearly eligible for Family and Medical Leave; and employees routinely are forced to be at airports for 11 to 14 hours a day, only to be paid for eight hours.

The congressional intent of replacing a poorly-trained private contractor screener workforce with professional, highly-trained security screening officers "has been undermined by ineffective management and the denial of the most basic workplace rights," Kelley said.

"I believe the new administration will address these problems," she added, "but the law needs to change to ensure employee rights."

[Get the complete story here](http://www.nteu.org/PressKits/PressRelease/PressRelease.aspx?ID=1394) or visit <www.nteu.org/PressKits/PressRelease/PressRelease.aspx?ID=1394>.

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