News Items - January 2019

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AFGE sues government over shutdown
Jan. 2, 2019 | The American Federation of Government Employees on Monday sued the U.S. government on behalf of federal employees being forced to work without pay during the Trump Shutdown. The lawsuit alleges that the government is violating the law by requiring some federal employees to work without pay, including correctional officers, Border Patrol and ICE agents, transportation security officers, and other employees who are labeled as "essential". "Our members put their lives on the line to keep our country safe," said AFGE president J. David Cox Sr., noting that positions that are considered 'essential' during a shutdown are some of the most dangerous jobs in the federal government. Pointing out that many of those working without pay are military veterans, Cox said that "Our nation’s heroes, AFGE members and their families deserve the decency of knowing when their next paycheck is coming and that they will be paid for their work." The lawsuit was brought on behalf of all federal employees who are required to work without pay during the shutdown. The U.S. Court of Federal Claims has previously ruled in favor of federal employees forced to work without pay during the 2013 shutdown.

Teamster members also work for federal government, contractors
Jan. 2, 2019 | The International Brotherhood of Teamsters calls on Congress and the President to end the current budget impasse that could result in the partial closure of the federal government. The Teamsters Union represents thousands of hardworking members who are either federal employees or federal government contractors. Many of these members will be forced to either work without pay or face furlough or layoff during a government closure. The impact on these members and their families, as well as all federal employees impacted by a shutdown, would be catastrophic...

Unions call on the president and Congress to reopen the government
Jan. 9, 2019 | Every day the government shutdown drags on, hundreds of thousands of working people are denied a paycheck and millions lose the vital government services they deserve. America's working families are looking to the president and Congress to end this debacle. Join us for a rally to end the government shutdown at Noon, Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019, at AFL-CIO, 815 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20006. Or, call your legislators and demand that they vote to reopen government: 1-866-803-8830. Download the rally flyer here. Download the informational flyer "President and Congress Must Reopen the Government" here.

Thousands of federal employee union workers rally for end to government shutdown
Jan. 10, 2019 | Teamsters stood with federal workers and other trade union allies at a rally today in Washington, DC to demand an end to the government shutdown. Tens of thousands of our union brothers and sisters are locked out or working without pay. Chanting “Shut the shutdown now,” they demanded government leaders “do your job” and reopen the government so they can go back to work. More than a dozen members of Congress joined the rally to stand with the workers including leaders from Maryland (House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer, Senators Chris Van Hollen, and Benjamin Cardin) and Virginia (Senator Mark Warner and Representative Don Beyer).

Update: Bargaining continues between Teamsters and Costco
Jan. 11, 2019 | Your National Negotiating Committee concluded bargaining this week following three days of meetings in Seattle. The committee has successfully resolved a majority of
language items and anticipates moving into economics next week. There are several language items that still need to be addressed but the committee remains hopeful that it will conclude bargaining with Costco next week.

Jan. 21, 2019 | Mobile blood collections workers at the American Red Cross in Baltimore held a contract proposal meeting Sunday, Jan. 20, 2021 at the Union Hall. The group voted to join the Teamsters to have a voice at the table on issues that include health insurance coverage and affordability, fair pay, and improvements in training procedures.

Labor hails DC City Council move to protect federal workers
Jan. 23, 2019 | Some good news to pass on share with family or friends affected by the government shutdown and are residents of DC: The DC City Council yesterday unanimously approved the “Federal Worker Housing Relief Emergency Act of 2019” to protect unpaid federal government workers and contractors from foreclosure, eviction, and late fees during a federal government shutdown. The bill, which takes effect immediately following the Mayor’s signature, would benefit as many as 80,000 federal workers and contractors living in DC. ... Metro
Washington Council AFL-CIO

Stop the Shutdown National Call-In Day
Jan. 24, 2019 | Union members from all over the country are being asked to call their Senators and Representatives today to tell them to reopen the government and keep it open. Call the Senate: 866-803-8830; House: 855-976-9914. The Senate is tentatively scheduled to vote today on a bill that will reopen the government – the day before many workers will be missing their paychecks. The Teamsters stand in solidarity with workers impacted by the shutdown that has locked out hundreds of thousands of federal workers and forced hundreds of thousands more to work without pay. We believe that the shutdown must end now. Make the call now! Related: Teamsters take part in government shutdown protest on Capitol Hill Photo/Getty Images

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