

CHAPTER 97 NEWSLINE

Volume 1/ Issue 2

April 2020

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: I have not been asked to return to work since March 20th 2020, will I be paid my regular salary, accrued leave and receive night differential being that I am a swing shift employee?

A: Yes, there should be no interruption in your pay, leave or night differential.

Q: Being that the tax deadline has been extended until July 15th, 2020, does that also apply to me as an IRS employee?

A: Yes, the filing and payment deadline of July 15th, 2020 applies to all IRS employees. There should be no repercussions if the return is filed and any outstanding balance is paid by July 15th, 2020.

Q: I have recently been directed to come in and complete an ELMS/ITM course so I can start teleworking, am I required to do so?

A: It is NTEU's stance you should not be required to report to evacuated buildings to take ELMS/ITM courses.

Q: If I received a laptop in the mail but have not completed an ELMS course, and do not have internet (or an appropriate space to telework), will I be required to Telework?

A: No, You should not be obligated to start teleworking under this scenario. You should have been surveyed first to ensure you have appropriate space and internet access. You should not be required to purchase internet or special equipment for the primary benefit of the agency.

GUESS WHAT IS COMING SOON?

Here's a Sneak Peak of your 2020 T-shirts!



DID YOU KNOW???

Units that have 100% NTEU Membership wins a **FREE Pizza Party?**



If you believe your unit is made up of NTEU Members, contact your Executive Board Members or NTEU Elected Officials.

Jason Sisk- President
Marcella Gutierrez- Vice President
Terrance Hebron- SP
Dawn Horton- A.M
Leticia Saldana- Compliance

Chapter 97 Members, Continue to Exercise Your Voice!



Together we sent 2804 letters during the 1st quarter of 2020!

Never sent a letter to Congress??
No problem! We can help you!

Step 1: Go to www.nteu.org
Step 2: Find the **Action Center**
Step 3: Click on the **"Write Congress"**
Step 4: Click on the first letter **"Ask your members of Congress to help support Federal employees and protect them from Covid-19"**.
Step 5: Fill in your personal (**not IRS information**), click "Remember Me, select Chapter 97, and then "submit". It's that fast and easy.
The next letter is even faster and easier.
Give it a try TODAY!

Now a Word From Your Chapter President

We have been working to ensure Intermittent employees are afforded conversion to seasonal status where full work weeks of work has been available for more than two consecutive pay periods. Such conversions last as long as the available work warrants it. It triggers entitlement to accrued sick leave, annual leave, night differential, holiday pay, health insurance, 40-hour work weeks, overtime, etc. The agency often misuses the intermittent appointment type, which is only supposed to be where the nature of the work is sporadic and cannot be scheduled in advance. The agency has often abused this, resulting in harm to the employees. We also recently negotiated a permanent conversion opportunity for 50 CCJ employees in Receipt and Control related to the planned consolidation for our Fresno SP site.

On a separate note, SP Director Craig Stevens has agreed to convert all of the approximately 165 intermittent employees to seasonal effective 3/29/2020. Marcella and I have been pushing hard for this because these employees were not qualified for paid administrative time under Weather and Safety like the rest of us since shutdown. As of the above date, our site declared evacuation procedures and closed the buildings. Intermittent employees will be paid retroactively under Building Closure administrative time 990-59514 starting the second week of the pay period 7 until we return to duty.

We are told laptops are being secured for all employees in Accounts Management, C.E.R, and IDTVA. Many have already received them at home. We have made it known that we want to negotiate over who will be offered to Telework, unless everyone is offered at the same time. Some employees have been waiting for a few years for the opportunity, so we want to avoid litigation over employees with less seniority getting laptops first, only to find out there won't be enough for everyone. Of course, if you are currently on Telework, you are being forced to do so fulltime during this evacuation closure, while the rest of us are under Weather and Safety admin. I have filed a Mass Overtime Grievance on behalf of A.M, C.E.R, and IDTVA employees because C.E.R (only for those on Telework) was offered overtime of 20 hours a week starting 4/6/2020. NTEU was not timely notified of this as required, and it's not fair & equitable as required



EMERGENCY HOTLINE 866-743-5748
Option 3, Option 2, Option 6

Membership Cards:

This week the NTEU Membership cards started popping up in your mailboxes. If you do not receive one by next week, please contact the following:

Marcella Gutierrez or Chrissy Killian on **Facebook Messenger**



or via email at

union@nteu-97.org- there may be a bad/ old address on file for you! We can help!

Final Thought

Although we don't know when we will all be back to work and see each other again, we want you to know WE MISS YOU.

Many of you have questions and we are doing our best to get you answers as quickly as possible. It is important that each of our members know where to go for assistance and help.

Chapter 97 will share information as we receive it and try to get a weekly information guide out to you during this uncertain time. If you would like to include a resource that may be helpful to others, please share it with us.

In the meantime, please **REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR INBOXES**. NTEU National sends information and updates weekly. We (as well as United Benefits) will do the same.

Thank you and see you soon! **Keep safe!**