

ONE HEART- ONE VOICE- ONE FIGHT!

Please read the most recent E-Bulletin-

It covers the latest FAQ's on Telework, Reporting to Duty, illness after reporting for duty, etc. A copy has been sent to your inbox but can also be found at www.nteu.org.

For the last couple of weeks, NTEU Chapter 97 has been featuring a local business each week.

Any member who participates by placing an order and sharing either a picture or a receipt with us, gets entered into a raffle.

So far we have had two winners:

Noy Sysourath and Elciner Willams-Edwards



Starting **TOMORROW, Thursday** April 30th - Friday May 1st 2020, Anyone who eats at BJ's Kountry Kitchen on Ashlan and Cedar will not only receive 15% off their order, they will be entered into a weekly raffle for a chance to win a gift certificate. You must show your badge in order to receive the discount.

Send your picture to either union@nteu-97.org or via **Facebook Messenger** to **Marcella Gutierrez** no later than Saturday May 2nd, 2020. Winner will be announced this Sunday May 3rd!

BJ's Kountry Kitchen: 4065 E. Ashlan Fresno CA -Phone: 222-5206. During the shelter in place orders, their restaurant hours are **8am-1pm**.

Did You Know?

VA, SSI recipients (who don't file a tax return) but have eligible children may qualify for an **Economic Impact Payment**?

Beneficiaries must act by May 5th if they didn't file a tax return in 2018 and 2019. The IRS will need dependent information before any payments are issued.

More information can be found on irs.gov under "Who can get more Economic Impact Payment money for children."

A Word from Your Chapter President...

I wanted to give an update on the following:

For the **Receipt and Control Intermittent Employees**. The Director verified that all PAR Actions were done to convert the Intermittents to "seasonal" for the season. They will be seasonal status upon return and immediately start accruing leave. They are currently doing all the SETR adjustments now and as long as they get them input as of close of business today (Wednesday April 29th 2020) they should get the back pay on Monday when our normal pay comes for most. Be sure to check your pay stubs to assure the accrued leave from the weeks of back pay has posted and was input properly!

Taxpayer Advocate has once again given formal notice to NTEU Chapter 97 that they plan to move forward with the move to 700 P Street for TAS, CI and Campus Appeals employees. They still refuse to provide the free parking that our contract affords Center/Campus employees! They failed to request from the building owner (who may have gladly included it) or include a request to GSA. Why are employees always a last consideration at IRS? We continue to fight for FREE Parking, proper NTEU office space, etc.

Today the Central Labor Council (CLC) sent a letter to Fresno City Council to see if they can help us also!

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April
April 27th- May 1st 2020

NTEU
The National Treasury Employees Union

Volume 1 / Issue 4

#Safe

Return

A WORD FROM UNITED BENEFITS

United Benefits offers different plans for different needs.

One of the most important things to remember is all of our products are for federal employees. They are specially priced products that can only be obtained while you are employed by the Federal Government. You are able to carry them after you retire or terminate your employment.

Short Term Disability - provides benefits when you miss work due to accident/injury or sickness.

Life Insurance- available without medical exams .

Cancer Insurance- two different plans to cover if diagnosed with cancer.

Critical Illness- provides benefits for cancer, heart attack, stroke.

Accident - pays cash for things like urgent care, x-rays, etc.

Hospital Indemnity - benefits when admitted to a hospital.

***Call Cristi Lorentz at 619-865-1177 for more information.

Being Surveyed To Return To Work? Here is the latest!

Many IDTVA employees have been informed that they must start teleworking as of Monday April 27th, 2020. After multiple attempts to clarify if the call back was mandatory or voluntary, NTEU finally heard back from the Acting Director William (Bill) Smits who confirmed that the mention of the call back being mandatory, was miscommunication. He informed NTEU that IDTVA was calling all the telework volunteers first, then once they have been equipped, they expect to bring in the others who can be made telework ready. High Risk individuals would be able to make special arrangements so they do not have to enter the building. He also elaborated on the fact that incentive pay is for the volunteers who come into the office to work which again is not mandatory.

In regards to Accounts Management, NTEU also addressed the same concern and heard from Director Mary Epps who stated “only those employees that are both telework eligible and telework capable will be required to telework. If both those criteria aren’t met, the employee will be on weather/safety leave until the site is reopened and they are called to report back.

Chapter 97 wants to reiterate, if you do not have an appropriate workspace, meaning no room, no desk, no high speed internet, you are deemed not capable.

In regards to masks, all employees working at any of the campuses, will be required to wear a mask. As of now, some masks have been made available to the employees who have volunteered to work in the building. In the script provided to NTEU (from management) it stated:

- We will *try* to order gloves depending on availability of commercial supplies.
- We will *try* to stock hand sanitizer stations depending on the availability of commercial supplies.
- Although the agency has ordered masks for employees, they may *take time to be received*. You are required to have face coverings so you must bring your own to work with you.

When NTEU addressed this issue and asked why this Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has not been ordered prior to the employees coming on board, management failed to respond. In a follow up email asking for an update on the supplies, again management failed to respond.