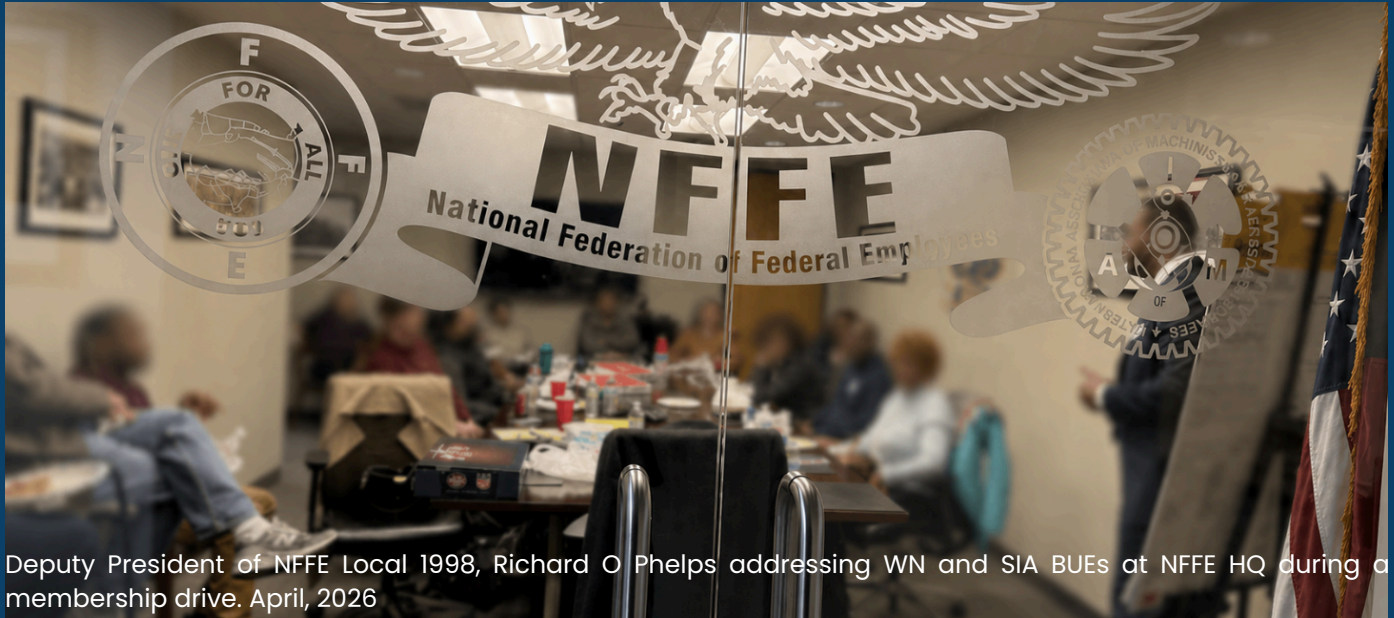


THE LOCAL BRIEF



Issue No.1
May 2026

YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL 1998 NEWS, ADVOCACY, AND UNION ACTION



Deputy President of NFFE Local 1998, Richard O Phelps addressing WN and SIA BUEs at NFFE HQ during a membership drive. April, 2026

Welcome

Welcome to the NFFE Local 1998 newsletter. Our goal is simple: keep you informed, connected, and supported.

Here you'll find updates on union activity, workplace developments, and ways to stay involved.



Your Voice. Your Union. Your Future.

Outreach & Engagement Highlights

On April 8, members of the Local 1998 Executive Board held a membership outreach event at NFFE Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The team met with bargaining unit employees from the Washington Passport Agency and the Special Issuance Agency.

During these conversations, the board shared updates on the local's current trusteeship status and discussed next steps, including plans to revise the local bylaws.

Your agency may be next, giving BUEs the opportunity to meet with NFFE representatives and discuss the issues that matter most to you and your working conditions. Stay tuned for updates.



MEMBER APPRECIATION

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped make the recent membership outreach a success. Your time, energy, and commitment strengthen this local and the community we share. We encourage all members to attend monthly meetings and stay connected.

Key Updates & Member Engagement

RETENTION BONUS UPDATE: If you are a GS-11 employee who signed a retention incentive agreement in 2025, you should have received an email with an update on your bonus status. To qualify, employees must be at the GS-11 level and have received at least a "Fully Successful" rating on their 2025 performance evaluation. Contact the union for guidance.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: If you're dealing with workplace concerns, whether it's production metrics, conduct or performance issues, or potential contract violations, please reach out. Your concerns help us identify patterns, advocate effectively, and support you in resolving issues.

UPCOMING MEETING



Next Membership Meeting – Thursday June 4th 8pm EST via Teams. Email invitations will be sent out to all members. Topics will include: retention bonus, bylaws, volunteer opportunities, legislative week, House Resolution 2550.. Your participation matters, and your voice makes a difference. Please join us.



ABOUT NFFE LOCAL 1998

National Federation of Federal Employees Local 1998, Affiliated with IAM & AFL-CIO. We represent approximately 1,500 bargaining unit employees within Passport Services, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Mission: Promoting the welfare, rights, and working conditions of bargaining unit employees.

Advocacy Update

While Executive Order 14251 excludes NFFE Local 1998 union representatives, stewards, and officers from exercising collective bargaining rights and privileges on official time, bargaining unit employees may still contact union representatives off the clock and on their personal time. Bargaining unit employees may also contact elected officials and congressional representatives to explain how the executive order negatively impacts their working conditions and livelihoods.

Employees may not contact Local 1998 union representatives while on duty or while using government resources, including agency laptops, computers, or official communication systems.

CONTACT US

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE H.R. 2550



H.R. 2550, the Protect America's Workforce Act, is legislation intended to restore and protect collective bargaining rights for federal employees. The bill would reinstate prior labor-management agreements and ensure federal workers retain union representation. Passed by the House in December 2025 with bipartisan support; now pending in the Senate.

On March 27, 2025, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14251, "Exclusions from Federal Labor-Management Relations Programs," which excluded multiple federal agencies and subdivisions with national security missions from collective bargaining under the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978. The order asserted that collective bargaining within these agencies threatened national security. As a result, currently management will no longer engage in collective bargaining with federal unions unless and until the matter is resolved through the courts or by legislation.

In the past, union representatives, stewards, and national officers performed their representational duties on official time during regular work hours. These duties included writing grievances, conducting formal meetings with management and bargaining unit employees, and negotiating changes in working conditions affecting both national and local issues. Such matters included dress code policies, work schedules, the Duty Officer Program, retention and incentive bonuses, and bargaining unit employee participation in ConGen. Local union stewards and officers also negotiated domestic and foreign temporary duty opportunities while assisting the Department in carrying out its mission and serving the American public.

Executive Order 14251 also eliminated our ability to advocate on behalf of bargaining unit employees during work hours regarding production standards, use of the production dashboard, and performance plans. To be clear, local union representatives are not authorized to address these matters with management after hours either.

Despite these restrictions, union stewards continue to serve and support bargaining unit employees on their own personal time, outside of work hours and without the use of agency time or resources.

Advocacy guidelines

NFFE Local 1998 continues to advocate on your behalf to ensure bargaining unit employees are fairly represented in disputes with management, including unjust terminations, unfair disciplinary actions, and violations of Department policies and procedures.

Our Legislative and Lobbying Committee remains committed to advancing pro-union policies that strengthen the well-being of our local while supporting broader labor initiatives that benefit working people.

NFFE Local 1998 is currently coordinating with NFFE's Legislative Director to engage Congressional representatives on the growing affordability challenges affecting bargaining unit employees across the Passport Services network.

Union Member Rights

NFFE Local 1998 bargaining unit employees retain the right to participate in lawful union activities, including freedom of expression, speech, and assembly, protection against improper discipline, and the right to pursue legal remedies.

Additionally, bargaining unit employees may grieve conduct and performance-related matters through Department grievance procedures. Employees may also file grievances through their chain of command regarding violations of Department policies and other legal authorities under 3 FAM 4730 Formal Grievances.



Executive Board Deputies



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PPT/NY



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PPT/SE



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Trustee
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E-dues

If you are interested in becoming a dues-paying member of NFFE Local 1998, we encourage you to join by enrolling in E-dues through the [National Federation of Federal Employees](#) website.

E-dues contributions help support NFFE Local 1998 as we continue challenging Executive Order 14251 and its impact on our working conditions and collective bargaining rights. These contributions also help cover legal expenses, representative training, grievances, arbitration hearings, and other resources that strengthen the Local's ability to provide effective representation for bargaining unit employees.

To enroll in E-dues, please visit [NFFE E-Dues Enrollment](#).

To learn more about available member benefits, visit [NFFE Member Benefits](#).

We Want to Hear From You

The Local Brief is your newsletter, and we welcome your input. If there are topics, workplace issues, accomplishments, events, or news you would like to see featured in future editions, please let us know. Your feedback and ideas help ensure this newsletter remains relevant, informative, and representative of our membership.

Subscribe to The Local Brief

To subscribe and receive future editions of The Local Brief, please email: executiveboardnffe1998@gmail.com or presidentnffe1998@gmail.com.

Please feel free to share and forward this newsletter to fellow employees who may be interested in staying informed about Local 1998 news, advocacy, and union updates.

The Local Brief is brought to you by your NFFE Local 1998 Deputies

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