

Greetings Local 556,

As you know, I am Local President Jovan Rodriguez. I have served with the agency since 2009 but I have been a unionist for far longer. I have championed for labor rights since before I was able to vote. Prior to my time with the American Federation of Government Employees I was a part of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. In all this time I have only grown more passionate about activism.

I have spent the last three years as your local president growing its influence with the agency, stakeholders, council, the district and national. I have spent the last six years visiting Washington D.C., not as a tourist, but as a lobbyist, as a witness to testify on behalf of the federation and more recently as part of the council that advises the Administrator and his staff on issues from the field.

With my Stewardship the Local has accomplished the following:

- Increased Representatives from 7 to 39
- Increased our Presence in airports from 2 to 10
- Increased Union Membership by 50%
- Elevated our recognition with National
- Established a coordinator within District 5
- Established the Local's YOUNG Committee
- Established the Local's Constituency Groups
- Established the Local's Legislative Political Coordinators
- Established Relationships with local charitable organizations
- Established Relationships with local media (published in the Orlando Sentinel btw)
- Established Connections with Several Congressional Offices
- Established Connections with Central Labor Councils in North and Central Florida
- Established relationships with fellow AFGE Locals across the country
- Established relationships with neighboring labor unions (flight attendants, electrical workers, etc)
- Established relationships with the Florida Chapter of AFL-CIO
 - (American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations)
- Have a Direct Line to the President of AFGE
- Have a Direct Line to the Administrator
- Participate in candidate screenings for the United States House of Representatives
- Chairman of the National Advisory Council to the TSA Administrator

These are the movements that were needed to obtain pay equity and to secure it. These are the actions that impede shut downs. They represent the success that have created the foundation for our progress.

I have no need to offer vague promises of things that already exist. I offer imagination, ingenuity and years of tailored experience. I am committed to pushing us further, so that we may face looming challenges with unwavering solidarity.

I invite your support as we stand ready to face greater adversaries and strive for greater gains.

Together Forward,

Jovan 'Jove' Rodriguez

