



IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT – PAGE 2-3

MEMBERSHIP MEETING COMING UP – PAGE 4

MEET YOUR NEW STAFF – PAGE 5

CELEBRATING A MENTOR, DENNIS RIEL – PAGE 6-7

TOWN HALLS FEATURING DOREEN GREENWALD – PAGE 8

UNITED BENEFITS IS COMING – PAGE 9

BCBS SCHEDULE FOR ONE ON ONE – PAGE 10

LABOR REC RAFFLE WINNERS – PAGE 11

BJ'S MEMBERSHIP – PAGE 12-13

KNOW YOUR OFFICE STAFF – PAGE 14

From the Desk of the President

Beth Willwerth

Hello NTEU Chapter 68 members, we had a tremendous turnout for our labor recognition event and members-only health fair. It is always a joy to see members being able to enjoy themselves and was also our pleasure to provide roughly 600 members with meals and NTEU Swag and Raffles. We also saw roughly 400 members at the health fair who were able to visit our health insurance partners and get any questions answered about open season. Don't forget that open season is from November 11th – December 9th for changes that will be effective PP-01/January 12th. Changes to your medical insurance can be done on EPP and changes to dental/vision can be done on Benefeds. I also am anticipating a large turnout for both the membership meeting at Lenzi's from 5:00pm-8:00pm and the employee town halls at 1:00pm & 3:00pm all being held on Wednesday December 4th for the visit from our National President Doreen Greenwald. It is crucial that your RSVP for both events, but especially for the town halls as you must request the time in advance from your manager to receive the approved administrative time.



One other item of importance is that the bargained changes to the contract went in to effect on the first day of fiscal year 2025 which was October 1, 2024. Traditionally, management is required to provide every bargaining unit employee with a copy of the newly printed contract. Since only 5 articles had changes, the agency printed an addendum to the contract (Addendum 11678-B) which can be found in electronic format here [Product Catalog Information](#). Management is also required to provide a physical copy of the addendum per Article 11 Sec. 5, however it has come to my attention that some operations have not yet received the physical copies due to them not arriving yet. I encourage you to ask your managers for the physical copy should you have not received them by the end of the calendar year.

Continued on Next Page

Performance awards will be paid out on 12/09/2024 with an effective date of 11/17/2024. I have received many questions regarding awards and why they are being paid out in the month of December vs. November. Contractually, the agency has until the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year (10/01-12/31) to issue performance awards and there is no reason as to why it is being done a few weeks later than in years past. Shortly before awards are paid, the agency provides National NTEU with the awards spreadsheet and upon the data being reviewed it is provided to Chapter Presidents. As usual, when I receive the data, I will send out an all-member email that I have the data, should you be unable to see the date on HRConnect, or have questions regarding your award.

We have received a few inquiries regarding access to the fitness center and why it has not yet been restored. I have spoken to FMSS regarding the fitness center closure and have been advised that the damage to the fitness center from the August 2023 flood was extensive and the floor still need to be repaired as well as the fitness equipment that required electricity was damaged and new equipment needs to be ordered. This requires funding to do and it is currently being worked on.

I would also like to wish all of you, our members a safe and happy upcoming holiday season full of joy and happiness. I am always honored to be your chapter president and represent our bargaining unit employees here in Andover & Lowell. Please never hesitate to contact me directly or reach out to the chapter inbox at nteu.chapter.68@irs.gov with your questions and concerns.

In Appreciation,

Beth Willwerth



Join us for our Holiday
Membership Meeting.
We will be welcoming
special guest
NTEU
National President
Doreen Greenwald.

NTEU CHAPTER 68 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Please RSVP to NTEU.Chapter.68@irs.gov by Nov 15th

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DEC 4TH

TIME: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

**LENZI'S FUNCTION HALL
810 MERRIMACK AVE
DRACUT, MA 01826**

This meeting is on your own time.
Please bring an unwrapped toy to help
with our Toys for Toys Drive.
Each toy you bring to the meeting will
earn you a raffle ticket
for a door prize.



Meet Your New NTEU Staff:

Michele DiFruscio – Executive Coordinator

Michael McDonald – Membership Trustee



Hi I'm Michele DiFruscio, I've been with the IRS for 8 years and have been a Steward for 4 of those years. Most recently becoming NTEU Chapter 68's Executive coordinator. I started my career here as a CSR and am currently a Lead contact representative of a mixed team of new hires as well as seasoned employees. I strongly support NTEU's contract and am looking forward to expanding that knowledge as I strive to always learn and further educate members and non-members.



Michael McDonald has been employed with the IRS 2008. He has worked in Accounts Management, AUR and Exam and has been working as a steward for a majority of his time here. Mike has proven to be very successful in many different ways from routine NTEU grievances to TIGTA matters.



Celebrating a Mentor: Dennis Riel, NTEU Chapter 68's Field Representative for the past 29 years

By Rob MacFarlane



When I first stepped into my role as a steward for NTEU Chapter 68 in 2012, I suddenly found myself learning the ropes at a rapid pace. Within a year, I was named Chief Steward and took a seat on the NTEU Chapter 68 Executive Board as the Executive Coordinator. It was an exciting and challenging time, as I had a lot to learn and little time to learn it. During my journey with NTEU, I've been fortunate to work alongside several mentors, each of whom helped shape me as a union representative. However, no one has been more influential, supportive, or impactful than our chapter's Field Rep for the past 29 years, Dennis Riel.

I first met Dennis at the Holiday Inn in Tewksbury in 2012, where he would frequently stay while he was prepping an arbitration case for our chapter. I'll never forget his warm welcome and enthusiasm when I was introduced as "new blood" poised to take on a leadership role with the chapter. From that moment, Dennis took me under his wing, generously sharing his vast knowledge and patiently answering every question I had, no matter how basic. His encouragement and willingness to teach made all the difference as I started learning the fundamentals of union representation.

Dennis' background speaks volumes about his dedication to the labor movement. After studying labor law, he began his career as a shop steward for the International Union of Electrical workers (IUE), Local 278. Through hands-on experience with IUE, Dennis translated his academic knowledge into real-world skills, gaining in valuable "boots on the ground" experience. His talent for union organization and representation propelled him through the ranks, and he ended up eventually serving as IUE Local 278's Chapter President before moving into a position in IUE's District Office.

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In 1993, Dennis joined NTEU, working closely with Chapter 68's then-Field Representative, Janine Davitian. In 1995, Dennis took over as Chapter 68's Field Rep, a role that he has devoted himself to ever since. For nearly 30 years, Dennis has been the steady hand behind our chapter's arbitration hearings and major cases. He has been the one true pillar of support for Chapter 68. He is the heart and soul of NTEU, our go-to guru whenever I or any of my fellow chapter leaders need guidance. Dennis embodies NTEU's mission and commitment, and he has been a remarkable friend to me along the way.

One of Dennis' primary responsibilities as Chapter 68's Field Rep is to essentially act as the chapter's attorney during arbitration hearings. With decades of experience, he has argued cases before many of the federal sector's most respected arbitrators, including the legendary Arnold Zack. Dennis is exceptionally skilled at building NTEU's case, delivering compelling opening statements, examining union witnesses, cross-examining agency witnesses, and presenting powerful closing arguments. He has been instrumental in winning groundbreaking, precedent-setting cases that have had lasting impacts. I have had the privilege of participating in some of these hearings alongside Dennis, serving as a witness and subject matter expert on a few occasions. Watching him in action is truly remarkable. He has been compared to Lieutenant Columbo in the Chapter 68 office more than once; after a few seemingly simple questions, he then poses the critical, case-winning inquiries, leaving everyone in the room with their heads spinning as he weaves the final points into a powerful conclusion for the union's case.

Dennis is retiring at the end of this year, and it is truly the end of an era for Chapter 68. It is important to me that our membership knows just how much Dennis has done for our chapter and how deeply he cares about our membership and our success. He is always ready to step in, offer advice, or lend a hand, and I'm grateful for the knowledge and friendship that he has shared with me over the years. Dennis is an NTEU icon and a legend who truly bleeds NTEU blue, and our chapter wouldn't be the same without him. Dennis, thank you for everything you have done for myself and Chapter 68. You have helped me become a better NTEU representative and person. We love you, Dennis.





TOWN HALL MEETINGS WITH DOREEN GREENWALD

Come join us for Town Hall Meetings with National NTEU President, Doreen Greenwald. Meeting will be in the Communications Center, Room 1101, on Wednesday, Dec 4th at 1 pm to 1:45 pm and 3 pm to 3:45 pm. Please request the 45 minutes of Admin in advance with your manager. These Town Hall meetings are open to all employees.

You are allowed to change your TOD and or your in-building day, if needed.

Please RSVP to NTEU.Chapter.68@irs.gov to save your space. Be sure to notate which time slot you will be attending.

NTEU

The National Treasury Employees Union

Chapter 68



UNITED
B E N E F I T S

**Karen & Jim Ragan, our Local Benefits Specialist from
United Benefits are returning to Andover!**

Tuesday, January 14th

Wednesday, January 15th

Thursday, January 16th

UB will help you for FREE to navigate your benefits and more...

ONE-ON-ONE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

In Conference Room 1109 (near the rear Lobby)

Please register ahead of time by contacting Karen Ragan via email: karen@unitedbenefits.com or texting Karen @ 256-312-3016.



Retirement Planning And Benefits Review Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and Medicare

Are you planning to retire in next 5 years or less? Alex will be here to help guide you!

- FEHB in Retirement:
 - Eligibility
 - Government Contribution
 - Open Season and Qualifying Events
- A, B, C, & Ds of Medicare:
 - Medicare Eligibility
 - How and When to Enroll
 - Cost

Are you enrolled in BCBS?

Are you considering switching to BCBS at the next open season or during a qualifying life event? [Open Season for 2025 Enrollment is Nov 11th to Dec 9th.](#)

Schedule a One on One meeting with Alex to discuss all your questions about BC/BS FEP!

ANDOVER Conference room 1107 (next to the union office)

Date: Tuesday, November 26th

Times: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. appointments are needed

Date: Tuesday, December 3rd

Times: 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. appointments are needed

If ASL is needed please let Barbara Thomas know as soon as possible

CROSS POINT –Please contact Barbara Thomas for a phone appointment.

These meetings would be on your Break/Lunch/Dinner.

Your own time. Space is limited.

NTEU members only

For questions, please contact NTEU office at nteu.chapter.68@irs.gov
Barbara.Thomas@irs.gov

Winners for the NTEU Chapter 68 Raffles

at Labor Recognition

Electric Roasting Pan

Bernie Bell

Snow Brush

Jennifer Miles and Brittany Sardelis and Marlene Nhar

Popcorn Sack

Bethanne Almachar and Andrea Ellard and Max Howell

RETRO Beverage Cooler 64 oz

Joseph Fruchtman and Iris Mendre

United Benefits Gift Card

\$25 to Target- Jack Riggio

\$25 Subway- Mark Pereira

Congratulations to our prize winners!

Please contact *NTEU.Chapter.68@irs.gov to arrange a time to pick up your prize.



Join today
for only

\$20*
REG.
\$55



The Club Card Membership for 1 year with BJ's Easy Renewal®
New members only.

To join or renew today, call 1-800-313-8887
and reference group promo code:



The Club Card
Membership
with BJ's Easy
Renewal



The Club+ Card
Membership
with BJ's Easy
Renewal

The Club+ Card members receive 5* off/gal.† at BJ's Gas® every day and earn 2% back† in rewards†† on most BJ's purchases.

New member The Club+ Card Membership: \$60

for 1 year with BJ's Easy Renewal

Existing members:

Renew The Club Card Membership for \$50.*

Renew The Club+ Card Membership for \$100.*

BJ's Membership Sales Representative: _____

Email: _____ Offer Expires: _____

Memberships include 1 household membership at no extra cost. Add up to 3 supplemental memberships for \$25 each.††

You acknowledge BJ's membership terms are available in-club and on BJs.com/terms and agree your membership is subject to these terms. You agree to receive electronically any disclosures, agreements, communications, and notices from BJ's and to maintain accurate contact information with BJ's.

Your membership expires on the last day of the month and year shown on your register receipts and on your "My Account" page on BJs.com. Memberships renewed within two months after expiration will be extended 12 months from the expiration date. Memberships renewed more than two months after expiration will be extended for 12 months from the last day of the month of renewal, provided that BJ's reserves the right to require you to enroll in a new membership in lieu of renewing your expired membership.

*Offer is not valid in-club or online, may not be combined with other offers, not redeemable for cash and nontransferable. Plus sales tax where applicable. Offer is contingent upon your enrolling in BJ's Easy Renewal, and you authorize BJ's to charge any payment method BJ's has on record for your membership, an annual recurring charge in the amount of the then-current membership fee for all memberships on your account, plus tax if applicable, starting the first day of the month your membership expires. Without further notice except as required by law. Your authorization is valid until you cancel your participation in the BJ's Easy Renewal program. In order to renew at the Corporate Partnership Program discounted membership offer, you must renew via your Membership Sales Representative. For full BJ's Easy Renewal terms, visit BJs.com/terms. To manage your participation in BJ's Easy Renewal, visit "My Account" on BJs.com, visit the member services desk in-club, or call BJ's Member Care at 800-BJS-CLUB. Expires: ____/____/____.

†The Club+ Card members earn 2% back in rewards on eligible purchases of goods and services in-club at BJ's front-end registers, on BJs.com, or in the BJ's app (minus any redeemed rewards, returns, refunds, or credit adjustments) when they scan their membership card for these purchases, **unless** the primary member or the member making the purchase is a cardholder in the BJ's One® Mastercard® program, in which case the member will **only** earn rewards in accordance with the BJ's One® Mastercard® program rewards terms (see BJs.com/BJsone/terms). Rewards earned may not exceed \$500 in any 12-month period.

Eligible purchases exclude eye exams, shipping, sales tax, bottle deposits, alcoholic beverages, cigarettes and tobacco-related products, lottery tickets, gift cards, propane, BJ's Gas® online optical purchases, membership fees and add-ons, warranties and protection plans, BJ's services provided by third parties (e.g., BJ's Travel®), and BJ's B2B and BJ's Global Sales transactions. See BJs.com/terms for information on excluded services. Eye exams and online optical purchases are not eligible for reward redemption.

††Rewards are yours for the life of your The Club+ Card Membership – they will not expire while your membership remains active and in good standing. Rewards earned may not exceed \$500 in any 12-month period. Must have a minimum balance of \$70 in rewards to redeem. Minimum eligible purchase amount is \$70 at BJ's checkout.

‡The Club+ Card members receive an instant discount of \$1 off each gallon of fuel purchased at BJ's Gas® when they scan their membership card for these purchases, **unless** the primary member or the member making the purchase is a cardholder in the BJ's One® Mastercard® program, in which case the member will **only** receive an instant discount at BJ's Gas® in accordance with the BJ's One® Mastercard® program rewards terms (see BJs.com/BJsone/terms). BJ's Gas® purchases are not eligible purchases and do not earn rewards. For MD and NJ transactions, discount will be applied after sale, before payment. Subject to applicable state law restrictions.

The rewards program is provided by BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc. and its terms may change at any time. For full rewards terms and conditions, please see BJs.com/terms.

§Supplemental membership fee is regularly \$30 and may be prorated based on expiration date at time of addition. Supplemental memberships expire at the same time as the primary membership. Photo identification required when applying for membership.

BJ's Membership Application



Special offer for employees of: NTEU CHAPTER 68 - group promo code 100269

To qualify for this offer please complete this application in full, and return it to your Organization Rep at the address below.
Please include a check or credit card payment for the full amount.

Organization rep: NTEU-68-Andover Contact number: mail in only

Offer expires: January 31st, 2025 Address: Barbara.Thomas@irs.gov

☐ New member ☐ Renewing member Current membership # (if renewing) _____

Membership level: ☐ The Club Card \$ new\$20/renew\$50 ☐ The Club+ Card \$ new\$60/renew\$100

Last name _____ First name _____ MI _____ Sex ☐ F ☐ M

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

If you choose to receive a second household membership card, please complete the following:

(Note: Household cardholder must reside at the same address as the primary cardholder.)

Last name _____ First name _____ MI _____

Primary signature – I understand that I am responsible for any checks and actions of the second cardholder.

Please choose your method of payment. (Sales tax may be added. Make checks payable to BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc.)

☒ ☒ ☐ BJ's One™ Mastercard® ☐ Mastercard® ☐ American Express® ☐ Discover Network ☐ Visa®

Credit card account number _____

Expiration date _____ Total charge _____

Date (Month/Day/Year) _____ RENEWALS PLEASE CHECK YOUR AUTO-RENEW STATUS by calling 1-800-257-2582 before submitting

BJ's Use Only

BJ's Membership Sales Representative signature _____

Club # PA/NJ/DE/MD/VA Market code THIS OFFER NOT AVAILABLE IN CLUB or ONLINE

All BJ's memberships are subject to BJ's current membership terms, ask in-club or go to [Bjs.com/terms](https://www.bjs.com/terms).

NTEU Chapter 68 Officer and Steward Cadre

Updated on 10/10/2024

Chapter Officers

Beth Willwerth, President, beth.willwerth@irs.gov
Robert (Rob) MacFarlane, Vice-President, robert.macfarlane@irs.gov
Kelly MacDougall, Treasurer, kelly.a.macdougall@irs.gov
Barbara Thomas (Doumaney), Secretary, barbara.thomas@irs.gov
Michele Difruscio, Executive Coordinator, michele.n.difruscio@irs.gov
Alan Clark, Membership Trustee, alan.m.clark@irs.gov
Mike McDonald, Membership Trustee, michael.g.mcdonald@irs.gov
Robert (Bob) Harrington, District 6, National VP, robert.a.harrington@irs.gov

NTEU Chapter Office , Room 1106 (rear Lobby) Stop 935
E-mail address: *NTEU Chapter 68 or NTEU.Chapter.68@irs.gov
Phone: 978-783-8426
FAX: 978-783-8551

Employees in Lowell (Cross Point)

Please contact the Andover Chapter Office by E-mail: NTEU.Chapter.68@irs.gov or *NTEU Chapter 68

Stewards on Day Shift

Joe Abi Moussa (AM-IMF) Joseph.M.AbiMoussa@irs.gov
Noelia (Nellie) Batista, (EX) Noelia.Batista@irs.gov
Michele Difruscio, (AM) Michele.N.Difruscio@irs.gov
Doris Fantauzzi (CSCO) Doris.E.Fantauzzi@irs.gov
Bob Harrington (AM-IMF) Robert.A.Harrington@irs.gov
Marion LaRosa (AM-IMF) Marion.F.Larosa@irs.gov
Kelly MacDougall (AM-IMF) Kelly.A.MacDougall@irs.gov
Brandon Spencer (FMSS) Brandon.C.Spencer@irs.gov
Barbara Thomas (Doumaney) (IDTVA) Barbara.Thomas@irs.gov
Beth Willwerth (AM-IMF) Beth.Willwerth@irs.gov

Stewards on Night Shift

Jenniffer Cherubino (AM) Jennifer.Cherubino@irs.gov
Alan Clark (CSCO) Alan.M.Clark@irs.gov
Rob MacFarlane (AM-IMF) (Swing Shift) Robert.Macfarlane@irs.gov
Josh Marcus (AM-IMF) Joshua.B.Marcus2@irs.gov
Mike McDonald (EXAM) (Swing Shift) Michael.G.McDonald@irs.gov

Mailing address:

NTEU Chapter 68 P.O. Box 4186 Andover, MA 01810