

THE WATER COOLER – NTEU CHAPTER 128 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



August 2019

Shout Out!

NTEU Chapter 128 returned to the Ronald Reagan Building with an Open House on July 9, 2019 to showcase the redesigned office space. Chapter leaders were able to engage with bargaining unit employees (BUEs) and provide an opportunity to discuss the Collective Bargaining Agreement, Alternate Work Schedule, Telework, Health Benefits, Retirement and other topics important to BUEs.

The Chapter 128 Executive Leadership supplied coffee and pastries and was able to recruit four new members! Another outreach event is planned for late August or early September as we close out the summer.

Being a member of Chapter 128 offers multiple advantages such as:

- Negotiation Team experience
- Joint Awards, Health and Safety Committee input
- Steward opportunities
- Local and National Training

[Benefits Guide: Your Key to Using NTEU Member-Only Benefits](#) provides members with:

- Accidental Death and Life Insurance
- Costco, Office Depot/Office Max and AT&T
- Auto, Home and Renter's Insurance
- Travel, Hotel/Resorts and Car Rental and more!

[FY 2019 Notification of End-of-Year Uniform Ordering Website Shutdown](#)

The CBP uniform ordering website will close on August 31, 2019. Uniform orders must be placed by midnight Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on August 31, 2019, as authorized CBP employees will not be able to access the website to purchase uniforms or uniform gear beyond midnight EDT on this date. After the uniform website closes, CBP reallocates remaining allowance funds for other priorities. The Uniform Vendor is only paid for items that were shipped and not returned by CBP employees. For more information, please click [here](#).

[HealthierCBP: Water Safety](#)

Summer is here and that means swimming! Consider the following recommendations to keep your family healthy and safe while swimming:

- Maintain constant supervision. Never leave your child alone in or near a pool or body of water.
- Never swim alone and do not dive in unfamiliar areas.
- Learn CPR and rescue techniques.
- Wear a life jacket at all times when on boats, docks, or near bodies of water.
- Never consume alcohol when operating a boat and never drink alcohol when swimming.
- Protect yourself from germs and do not get water in your mouth or swim with [open cuts/wounds](#).

For more tips on healthy swimming, please click [here](#) or for visit [HealthierCBP](#) for additional information.

Interested in boating? There are a few things to consider before setting sail: [Boating Safety Tips and Resources](#)

[webTA Migration Begins August 2019](#)

In August 2019, CBP will begin transitioning from the current time and attendance system (COSS) to a modernized enterprise solution (webTA). webTA will provide a user-friendly, web-based timecard that is available online anytime and anywhere – including on handheld devices. CBP is the final DHS component to transition to webTA and this solution will be a dramatic improvement to COSS – simpler, faster, better.

For supervisors and employees, self-paced training will be available and several training webinars will be offered for Timekeepers starting in early August. The Office of Finance has the lead and will provide periodic updates. For more webTA information or updates, please visit the [webTA](#) site or submit questions to the webTA e-mail box: CBPwebTA@cbp.dhs.gov (CBPwebTA in Outlook).

How To Beat the Heat During Extremes Temperatures

Any warning symptoms should prompt you to get out of the heat and into a cooler area while replacing your fluids. Here are some prevention tips to avoid heat-related illness:

1. **Stay Well Hydrated** - Drink plenty of fluids; if you are sweating a lot, consider sports drinks to replace the salts and minerals.
2. **Cover Up in the Sun** - Use sunscreen and wear loose, light-colored clothing as well as a brimmed hat.
3. **Limit Activity During the Hottest Part of the Day** - Try not to participate in outdoor activity during midday, which is the hottest part of the day. Pace yourself if you are exercising in the heat; you should not allow your heart rate to be pounding nor should you allow yourself to feel completely out of breath and gasping for air.
4. **If Indoors, Keep Your House Ventilated** - If you are indoors and have no air-conditioning, open windows and use fans to circulate the air.
5. **Don't Delay Getting Help for Symptoms** - If you find yourself or someone else suffering from heat-related illness, move to a cooler shady place, lie down, drink some fluids, and call 911.

How to protect pets and livestock from extreme heat exposure

Stay in the know!



Scan this code to get myCBP app on your smartphone!



New 'myCBP' App Launched

Join the more than 10,000 CBP employees who have downloaded myCBP app.

CBP has launched the first employee mobile app called [myCBP](#). It can be downloaded on iPhone and Android devices and is available to employees on their personal and CBP phone. The myCBP app provides employees with agency news, information and resources, especially during a crisis situation. Look for the QR code displays to download myCBP, and check CBPnet for more information.

Free TSA Precheck for DHS Employees

The TSA Precheck for DHS Employees program extends TSA Precheck eligibility, at no cost, to all DHS federal employees for both their official and personal air travel.

With TSA Precheck, you do not need to remove your shoes, laptops, liquids, belts, and light jackets when traveling from U.S. airports on a participating airline. DHS contractors are not currently eligible under this initiative. All passengers are still subject to random screening.

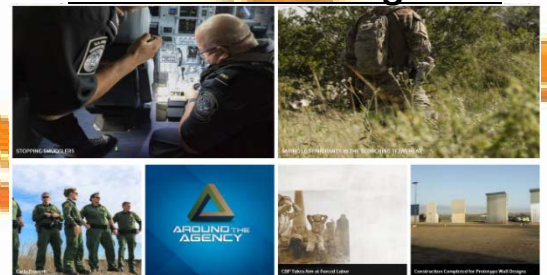
Family members ages 12 and under traveling with you can also receive expedited screening via the TSA Precheck lanes. To find out more visit TSA Precheck for DHS Employees.

With TSA Pre✓ you don't need to remove:



Learn more at www.tsa.gov/precheck

CBP Frontline Magazine



Interested in writing an article or have an idea for an upcoming newsletter edition??

Please submit suggestions or articles with 100 words or less to Eva Garrett no later than the 20th of each month.

Please remember to update your member contact information on NTEU.org. It is imperative that we have the ability to communicate with members at their personal account.

You can also contact us at NTEU Chapter 128, PO Box 902, Newington, VA 22122 or email us at nteuch128@gmail.com or visit the Chapter 128 website at www.nteuchapter128.org.