

ROLE OF A NFFE MENTOR

Our union is lucky to have some of the most dedicated and experienced representatives in the labor movement today. However, as the workforce ages and a new generation of leaders take the reins, we risk losing the decades of institutional knowledge that have helped make our union great. To keep our union strong, we are asking that our most skilled and knowledgeable members, stewards, and officers join our new mentorship program! Mentors can work with their mentees in whatever fashion they choose: over the phone, via email, or in person.

This program will be critical in passing the torch to the next generation of NFFE leaders, and keeping the flame burning for years to come. Contact NFFE Special Assistant to the President Amy Burns at (202) 216-4420 if you are interested in learning more.

1. Be available to answer questions via phone or email during hours set by you. Even as little as 1-2 hours a week could make a huge difference for a young leader.
2. Counsel as many mentees as you see fit.
3. Get to know your mentee. Evaluate and make suggestions to improve their:
 - Local union structure
 - Relationship with management
 - Representational effectiveness
 - Leadership abilities
 - Union visibility
 - Communications with bargaining unit
 - Recruitment strategy
 - Professional aspirations, either in the union or agency
4. Advise mentee(s) on balancing work and family life with union participation.
5. Encourage sustained involvement and advancement within the local union's leadership.
6. Encourage participation in William W. Winpisinger Center classes such as the Federal Employees Basic, Federal Employees Advanced, Leadership I and II, and others.
7. Share your personal stories and experiences as a union leader and what legacy you wish to leave within your union.
8. Direct mentees to national resources to assist them in their local duties: National Business Representatives, NFFE National Office staff, councils, etc.
9. Encourage understanding of the union's guiding documents: the IAM Constitution, the NFFE National Bylaws, their local contract, and local bylaws.
10. Have fun with it!