

# THE TSO VOICE

American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO

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**Peer Review Decision Can Now Be Appealed:** The Transportation Security Administration on June 21 revised its handbook on peer review, allowing employees to ask for reconsideration of a peer review ruling. According to the revised handbook, TSOs can petition a peer review decision to the headquarters peer review program manager within 15 days “if there is a demonstrated violation of law or egregious misconduct on the part of the affected employee, panel participants, management/supervisory officials including the FSD and his or her staff, witnesses, or representatives which causes a significant injustice to a party to the process.”



Debra Laudermilk

**Another Repeal of AWOL in Memphis!:** Hat's off to AFGE Local 555, which has relentlessly fought mismanagement and abuse of authority at Memphis International Airport and was able to have an absence without leave wrongly issued to another TSO overturned. After AFGE reported last week that management had repealed an AWOL issued to a TSO, another TSO reported that they just repealed hers. The TSO was marked AWOL and faced a disciplinary action because TSA rejected her medical documentation issued by an emergency care facility. TSA reasoned that the documentation was not on the TSO's doctor's letter head. The union argued that the emergency room discharge paper already displays the name of the facility, address, phone and fax numbers, the patient's diagnosis, after care instructions and treating physician's signature. Most ER doctors don't carry around their own personal stationary, and the chances are pretty slim that the treating physician at any ER facility is also the patient's primary care physician.

“I am glad that my voice was heard and that the dishonorable way that I've been treated was brought to light – all with the help and support of my union,” TSO Debra Laudermilk said.

**Peer Review Panel in Houston Overturns TSA's Decision, Thanks to AFGE:** Siding with AFGE, the Peer Review panel in Houston, Texas, recently overturned a letter of reprimand wrongly given to a Behavior Detection Officer accused of engaging in unprofessional conduct. The panel agreed with AFGE that management did not have sufficient proof.

“The whole process of receiving a LOR can be extremely stressful, but the union helped keep me confident and calm along the way and constantly assured me we would succeed in getting it over turned, and we did!” said the BDO. “I'm grateful to AFGE and plan to keep being a paying member for as long as I'm with TSA.”

**Another AFGE Victory in California:** A Lead TSO at John Wayne Airport in California was given a 14-day suspension for allegedly failing to follow procedures, but TSA later dropped the case after AFGE Local 1234 successfully proved that the L'TSO correctly followed protocol.



For more information about AFGE representation, go to [www.tsaunion.net](http://www.tsaunion.net) or call AFGE TSA Hotline at (866) 392-6832. AFGE 80 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001 \* Tel. (202) 737-8700 \* Fax (202) 639-6492 \* [www.afge.org](http://www.afge.org)