

Press On

*St. Louis Gateway District Area Local
American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO*

Volume 90 Issue 2



March/April 2012

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Vice President Barb Sellini

Clerk Excess Baggage

By Frederick Wolfmeyer, President

Sisters and brothers, ever watch Wheel of Fortune? My mother watched it faithfully because solving the puzzles was truly enjoyable to her. One of her favorites was the puzzle that had one word in it that was used twice, but had different meanings like the title of my article. The USPS wants to excess clerks and views those clerks as excess baggage or expendable employees. Of course I am trying to draw a comparison here between a game show with puzzles and an employer with puzzles. Unfortunately, that employer is the U. S. Postal Service and we, the employees, are faced with an ever-changing puzzle.

I'm sure many of you have seen or at least heard that the Postal Service is asking people to consider changing from their current occupation to that of letter carrier. Management has placed posters all over the plant and the stations and branches soliciting employees to become letter carriers. The service needs carriers and in our district alone there are over 140 letter carrier vacancies. The service has even gone so far as to hold job fairs where employees, just like you, can sign up to become a carrier. Management points out that you will have Sundays off, work daytime hours (except when delivering mail in the dark at night), work outside in the nice weather, the cold snowy weather, the unbearably hot days, and the rainy days. They also tell you that you will be in great shape because you will be walking a route every day.

Now this may all seem great to some of you and if it does, you may do well to change crafts. However, I want to caution everyone and tell you to think before you make a decision to change to letter carrier. Remember,

when a person changes to another craft, they begin a new period of seniority, and may quite possibly start their new career as a PTF. If an employee is currently a full-time regular, and are excessed to the carrier craft, they go as a full-time regular. They would still begin a new period of seniority, but they would have retreat rights and enjoy full-time guarantees.

The Postal Service's puzzle begins here. With the proposal to go from 6-day to 5-day delivery, which is currently being considered by Congress, I would discourage all of our members from volunteering to become carriers. The service has stated that if it gets 5-day delivery they can eliminate all their Q-2 positions and reduce the number of letter carriers significantly. This will lead to the junior carriers (those who volunteered – possibly you) being excessed or perhaps laid off, if the USPS reduces or eliminates the 'layoff protection' in their current round of bargaining with the NALC. The USPS strategy here is to have clerks volunteer to go to the carrier craft so later they can be excessed; but if that does not work, then the service can excess the clerks across craft lines into the carrier craft. Either way, these clerk-turned-carrier will be the junior employees and will be the first to be excessed out of the carrier craft or laid off. These are indeed stressful times, but I recommend that you hold fast to your current position, and if excessed, you will retain your full-time status with all guarantees and your retreat rights. As the title states, Clerk Excess Baggage. Clerks will be excessed sometime and, whether



a clerk or a new carrier, will be treated as excess baggage. Not too appealing is it?

On a brighter note, the excess notification that I received in January this year has been cancelled. The service had intended to excess 92 clerks from the St. Louis installation. In talks with management concerning this excess, I brought to their attention the fact that they cannot get the mail processed and dispatched with the current workforce. I asked them exactly how they intended to process and dispatch the mail with 92 fewer clerks, to which they had no response. However, through constant talks with management and the presentation of our case against the excess, the excess event has been cancelled and the withholding lifted. Good news!!

Legislative Issues and Plant Closings

During the week of February 20, 2012, the Postal Service announced their consolidation/closure plans regarding processing plants around the country. Of the 500+ processing plants, they currently have targeted approximately 224 for closure. The Springfield, Ill. and Cape Girardeau, Mo. processing facilities will be moved into the St. Louis P&DC.

In order to make this plan work, the service will have to reduce its service standards for first-class mail. Mail now delivered in one day will take up to three days and mail delivered in two days will take up to four days. Supposedly, the standards for priority, express, and standard mail will not change. We will see. But, if the service's master plan (along with the elimination of Saturday delivery) is to bring the USPS back to financial solvency, then the question we must ask is, how does the service retain its current customers and gain new customers by lowering service standards and raising prices? That is what is happening. The service has just recently raised postage rates and is now going to lower service standards. If mail volume has declined before this plan, what do you think is going to happen now when customers are being asked to pay more and receive less? With leadership like this at the top, the service, the country, and all of us are really in trouble.

Speaking of leadership, where are our members in the House of Representatives and the Senate? Congressman Issa's bill, HR-2309 is being considered on the House floor while the better bill, one that would truly help the USPS, HR-1351 is being held in committee by Rep. Issa, despite the fact that it has over 230 co-sponsors. In the Senate, there is a bill under consid-

eration which if passed would destroy the Postal Service. That bill is Senate Bill 1789 and we must do all we can to prevent passage of this bill as it is currently written. There is a group of senators, led by Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who are working to amend this bill in order to protect current service standards and 6-day delivery. They are also trying to amend this bill to include a termination of the devastating pre-funding requirement that as we all know is the real cause of the service's financial woes. We must support these senators because our jobs and your family's financial life depend on a successful amendment of this bill.

How can you help? It is easy and you can take action in one of two ways. First, you can go to the national APWU website at apwu.org, and send a message to your senators. Or secondly, you can call 1-202-224-3121. This number is the switchboard for the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C. Simply call the number and tell them you want to speak to your senator and then tell your senator's office that you oppose Senate Bill 1789 in its present form. Ask him or her to support the amended bill sponsored by Senator Bernie Sanders. If you live in Missouri, call the office of Senator Roy Blunt only because Senator Claire McCaskill has already joined Sen. Sanders and supports the amendment. If you live in Illinois, ask for Senator Dick Durbin's office.

Sisters and brothers, it is "crunch" time. We need to take action and we need to have our families take action. Call or write today because we can not, we must not, put this off any longer. Let's work together and win this fight!

In closing, I want to wish each of you and your families a wonderful Easter season and look for me at the P&DC, the stations and branches, the associate offices, and in IT/ASC.

Election for Delegates to the 2012 APWU National Convention

When: Sunday March 18, 2012

Where: 1705 S. Broadway St. Louis, Missouri

Time : 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Attention All APWU Members

March 10, 2012, was a sad day for all in the APWU, particularly the St. Louis Gateway District Area Local. Our Vice President, Barb Sellini, lost her 15 month battle to cancer that day around 10:00 am.

Barb will be missed dearly. She fought bravely and with dignity to the last, never shirking her duties and never complaining to anyone. She came to work each and every day until just 10 days ago. She arrived home from the hospital on Saturday, March 3, and entered hospice and never ceased asking me if I was okay. She wanted to make sure all her grievances were appealed timely and was concerned about all of you to the end.

Please remember her in your thoughts and prayers and with acts of kindness and charity. Let us honor her memory.

Let us remember her as she would want to be remembered, with her smile, feisty and full of life, and fighting constantly and tirelessly for all of you.

Thank you,
 Fred Wolfmeyer,
 President, St. Louis
 Gateway DAL/APWU

In MEMORIAM

Barbara Ann Sellini
 May 3, 1949 - March 10, 2012



It is with a heavy heart we must say goodbye to our dear friend, Barbara Ann Sellini. Barb was a long time union activist and served this local faithfully for almost 30 years. Anyone who knew Barb remembers her kind and gentle manner, her quick sense of humor, and her generous nature. Every member of this local will miss her, even if you did not know her personally. She worked quietly behind the scenes to make things better for all members and she never wanted accolades or praise. She simply did what had to be done. She fought valiantly against the cancer that ultimately claimed her. She had dignity and grace until the end. She will be truly missed.

What Does a Trustee Do?

By Tom Nanna, Secretary-Treasurer



Your primary task as a trustee is to ensure that all union resources (money/assets) are used for legitimate union purposes as authorized by your membership in accordance with your local constitution and by laws.

In addition, you should ensure that your union is complying with legal requirements for financial reporting, record keeping, bonding, and loans

Audit Objectives

1. Ensure that the local's funds and other assets are used solely for the benefit of the union and its members.
 2. Confirm that the local is complying with legal requirements.
 3. Determine whether the internal financial controls are adequate.
 4. Ascertain whether the local is complying with the financial procedures and practices of the nation union
- Assets review includes checking accounts, saving accounts, mutual funds and stocks, fixed assets and insurance coverage.
- Section 501 of the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act as amended in 1959 outlines the general fiduciary responsibilities for officers and employees of the union. Union officials occupy positions of trust and, therefore, must ensure that the union's funds and other assets are used solely for the benefit of the union and its members.

In closing, I would like to thank the trustees for the fine job they do for the union.

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When Every Second Counts

By Shelia Patton-Harris, Editor

Suddenly, you begin to feel faint and light-headed. You break out into a cold, clammy sweat. Pain is running down your left arm and your chest feels like an elephant is sitting in the middle of your breastbone. The room starts to spin and you go down. You are lying on the floor with only minutes before irreversible brain damage sets in.

If you are at a sporting event, a concert, or many other public venues, there will probably be a portable automatic defibrillator available and someone, just about anyone, would be able to deliver an electric shock to jump start your heart and save your life. These devices are not complicated and there are voice prompts to talk you through the process. Basically, all you have to do is follow the instructions and be able to place the pads on the person's chest. No training is needed and the process is simple and straightforward.

But if the same situation happened at the downtown post office, you would die. There are no portable automatic defibrillators on the workroom floor. Sure, we have first responders who know how to give CPR, but no one seems to know who they are or where they work. I asked one of the first responders if she were called upon to do CPR on one of her co-workers, what would she do? She said first she would have to go to her car and get her equipment. If your heart were to stop, you have just four minutes before irreversible brain damage sets in. Any delays over five minutes and your chance of survival is almost none.

I have asked many of the plant officials why we don't have this vital life-saving equipment on every floor and I was told that there were defibrillators in the postal police office and the garage. So, if I work automation on the second floor, I would die before the equipment could be brought to the scene.

I know you think, "How many times has something like that happened?" Well I know of at least two incidents. If you were the one lying on the dirty bathroom floor with only minutes to live, you would not be worried about statistics. Are you willing to bet your life that it won't happen to you?

Even more disturbing is the lack of first-aid kits on the workroom floor. I have only seen one first-aid kit and it was in the ATAL office. Most of the contents had been removed. There was no attempt to restock the kit. So if you cut your hand on the second floor, you would just have to bleed until you got to the hospital.

We no longer have a medical unit. We have no first-aid

supplies and no portable defibrillators. You can't predict when you or one of your co-workers could have a heart attack or get injured. Everyone who works in the main plant is at risk. Just the logistics of the building cut down on your survival in a true emergency.

Here is a list of the first responders at the main plant:

Chester Brown	Tour 2	LLTS
Walter Barry	Tour 1	Manual Flats
Jay Carter	Tour 2	BEM
John Blackman	Tour 3	AFCS
Nathan Cornell	Tour 1	Automation
Rodney Bell	Tour 1	DBCS
Neil Cerrallo	Tour 2	VMF
Marice Gregory	Tour 1	VMF
Kevin Clark	Tour 3	VMF
Ward Hughes		Plant
Michael Buss	Tour 2	BEM
Robert Fischer	Tour 2	BEM
Rick Johnson	Tour 2	BEM
Herbert Irons	Tour 2	BEM
David Sarandis	Tour 1	VMF
Leonard Gardner	Tour 1	Automation
Anthony Baker	Tour 2	Transportation
Tony Andrews	Tour 2	BEM
Jake Thompson	Tour 3	Transportation
Carolyn Hester	Tour 2	Plant
Richard Matthews	Tour 1	Automation
Linda Gladney		Plant

The union is working diligently to improve the safety conditions at the main plant. We have been in talks with management and I will keep you updated on any changes.



Things You Should Know

By Melvin Sanders, Director of Industrial Relations



Ten Retirement Mistakes

1. Retiring on the spur of the moment because of a difficult assignment or personality clash on the job.
2. Failing to discuss retirement plans with your spouse.
3. Retiring “from” something without having something better to do.
4. Expecting to live comfortably on your annuity without making realistic calculations of how much money it will take to maintain your standard of living.
5. Failing to stay abreast of developments and changes in federal retirement entitlements and trends.
6. Retiring without reviewing all the retirement options, and the pros and cons of each.
7. Basing retirement decision on the advice of friends rather than consulting with the experts.
8. Selling your house and moving to an area without being sure of the cultural, social, and economic realities of the move.
9. Believing that your active productive life is over just because you are retiring.
10. Failing to review all your service and entitlement to be sure you get proper credit. Believing that the estimate you receive from the postal service is the actual amount of your annuity.

Things You Should Shred

Old Tax Returns

As a general rule, you should save your tax returns on the chance you get audited.

But after three years, you’re in the clear — that is unless the IRS suspects you are guilty of fraud, in which case the agency can audit you as far back as it likes.

Okay, keep three to four years of tax returns in a fire-proof box. The biggest concern here is Social Security numbers. Yes, that’s numbers, plural. Your dependents’ Social Security numbers are on those, too.

Bank Statements

Anything with bank account numbers should be shredded, and that obviously includes your paper bank statements. That’s especially true for that box of old bank statements you found in your attic that you don’t know why you kept in the first place.

Credit Card Offers

Unless you’re going to actually take the bank up on its

offer to open an account, you should destroy these mailed offers right away.

A lot of identity theft happens within families, so don’t leave them lying around. Somebody in the house who knows your basic information could fill it out. Still, tearing it up may not be enough to stop someone from opening a credit card account and shredding your credit rating. A couple of years ago, someone who tore up a credit card offer, taped it back together, and sent it in, got a credit card from a bank.

Old Photo IDs

Maybe you like to save your old school ID and security badges from previous employers for sentimental reasons; we all like to do a little scrap booking. But if you want to dispose of them, consider using a shredder. While a photo ID alone isn’t enough to steal your identity, keep in mind that the ID — and the information it contains — could be used as part of a larger plan. That old drivers license with your favorite young picture has height, weight, and your date of birth.

Pay Stubs

Your pay stubs are full of information that can be used by anyone who wants to steal your identity. Most of them have the amount of money you make, your place of employment, your pay location and your health plan provider.

Credit Card Convenience Checks

Credit card companies often send so-called “convenience checks” to cardholders, which are basically, checks you can use to borrow against your line of credit for quick cash. No one wants these to end up in the wrong hands. If you don’t plan on using these, shred them right away.

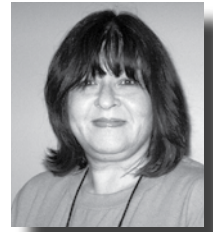
Tip of the Month

Letting the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back.



Associate Offices Important Issues Facing Our Members!

By *Becky Livingston*



No More Mandatory Overtime! Effective November 27, 2011

Sounds simple, right? Wrong! Do you have a non-traditional regular in your office? Did you decide to not sign the overtime-desired list for the first quarter of 2012 because you would like to actually work your bid assignment and enjoy a scheduled day off? Are you being drafted anyway because your office is short-staffed and there is yet another “daily emergency” because someone is on vacation or called in sick? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are just one of many clerks facing these same situations. The first thing I must make perfectly clear is if you are drafted and instructed to work overtime, **please follow instructions!** No mandatory overtime does not mean we can actually say **NO!** It just means we work the overtime and are compensated for our efforts. We have been successful settling some grievances at Step 1, agreeing on an additional 50 percent premium and, of course, we are sending some grievances to the next step because the postmasters are claiming everything is an emergency. If you are in an office that has regulars with NTFT assignments and are not on the overtime-desired list, yet are being drafted, please request a steward so I can address this issue.

Vacation Selections 2012 Leave Year

Has your office completed the vacation selection process for 2012? Please make sure that your vacation selections are taken care of if you haven't done so. The 3971s for these selections should be signed by your supervisor and returned to you for your records. This process has become quite important over the last year because of the DUOs occurring in small offices and PTF clerks transferring into larger offices in order to receive more hours. Your vacation selections follow you to your new assignment. If you have been working in another office besides your home office due to a DUO, you select vacations among clerks from your home office and take it with you. If you are on a higher level assignment, please know that this assignment can disappear at any

time and you should have selected your vacations, by seniority, during the vacation selection process at your home office. If your office is short-handed and incidental leave is being repeatedly refused due to the “needs of the service” please let me know. In each of the local memorandums, the union and management have established a certain percentage of clerks who can be off on any given day and still operate the office. The local memorandums for each office can be found on the STLOUISAPWU.ORG website. There is a lot of important information that you can obtain from this website and I encourage everyone to check it out.

Postal Support Employees (PSEs) “Not Just Casuals Anymore”

By now your postmaster has either hired a PSE or has plans to do so. A postal support employee is just that. They are there to eliminate the use of overtime and to fill in when needed to supplement the workforce. If utilized properly, the PSE will become an integral part of the Postal Service. The APWU realizes the need of the PSE; but we still maintain that if they consistently work over 30 hours a week, the office needs another career employee in that office. I will need your help in keeping up with this. If you see that the PSE in your office is working more than 30 hours every week, please call me. The number of clerks in that installation regulates the number of PSE employees allowed to be hired and we need to make sure these numbers are adhered to. In other words, the APWU needs your help! We have welcomed the PSE into the APWU knowing that the goal of the PSE is to eventually become a career postal employee. But, until that happens, we need to make sure our current career postal employees are taken care of.

Zero Tolerance Policy “We have to start getting along!”

More than ever it is important that we keep our emotions in check. I have had four calls from postmasters over the last two weeks concerning problems between clerks at their offices and they decided to call the APWU instead of the OIGs. I won't go into details other than to say please consider the consequences when you think you have the right to argue with your supervisors or co-workers and

create scenes on the workroom floor and at the window in front of customers. We all know that the Postal Service is trying to reduce the work force. If you are given an emergency placement, instructed to clock out and leave immediately, you are in some serious trouble concerning your job. When the OIGs get involved, it gets ugly. Unfortunately, no matter what happens or who was at fault, when two clerks are involved in any type of altercation, whether it is verbal or physical, both clerks are removed. The APWU represents you, but there is no guarantee we can get you back to work. Do you really want to take that chance? Is it really worth it? The next time you think about doing or saying anything that could be taken as creating a hostile work environment, **PLEASE STOP!** You could be saving your job!

Spring Associate Office Meeting Date/Time/Place/????

There have been a lot of questions concerning the use of PSEs, the creation of regular positions with NTFT assignments in Level 20 and below post offices and other key changes that have come up due to the new contract. I will be setting up a meeting for sometime in April to try and address these questions and other concerns you may have. APWU President Frederick Wolfmeyer and other members of the APWU Executive Board will once again join us, so please plan on attending for an evening of questions/answers/refreshments and of course some neat attendance prizes. Information concerning the date, time and place of the meeting will be sent to your offices soon. I hope to see you there!

To bring a smile to your face

My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't.

I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it

I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.



More things to ponder

Ever wonder...

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why you don't ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why the man that invests all your money is called a broker?

Why they sterilize the needle for a lethal injection?

Why there isn't mouse flavored cat food?

Why they call the airport "the terminal" if flying is so safe?

If con is opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

Have a
HAPPY AND HEALTHY
Passover



Our Deer Oaks EAP

By Al "Mickey" Miller, Sergeant at Arms



It is wonderful indeed to write about the "honeymoon." The Deer Oaks Employee Assistance Program, after the first quarter of their contract, is proving to be a great paring for the employees of the St. Louis Gateway District.

We were introduced to our new EAP provider, Deer Oaks EAP, with some skepticism, as would be normal after 14 years of service and a great cultural (post office) relationship with our former provider whose contract ended in November of 2011.

We (the unions) introduced ourselves to Deer Oaks and laid the groundwork for what has been a successful transition for Deer Oaks EAP to provide our members and other employees of the St. Louis Gateway District with good quality service.

The absolute requirements that professional, confidential and varied needs counseling such as elder care, day-care, credit counseling, legal counseling, and a myriad of other services, has been and is being met and provided without reservation. Members and other employees should visit the Deer Oaks website for a compre-

hensive look at all the services available under this contract.

The website address is:
www.deeroaks.com
or eao@deeroaks.com.

We have been making service stand-ups at the stations and branches to introduce members and other employees to the Deer Oaks EAP. These service stand-ups will also be held at the plants. The talks have been very successful with the APWU, the NALC and management's EAP committee person in attendance.

We (the unions) encourage anyone who has a need to discuss any life-changing situation, no matter how small, to make the call. 1-866-EAP-2400 (1-866-327-2400). This is your EAP and it is totally free of charge to you and your immediate family members who reside in your home.

Any person who works in 631 zip code, the Annex or the NDC are eligible to use the Deer Oaks EAP services. Other employees working at associate offices, /630/633 etc. are covered by the Magellan Company. When you call, you will be directed to the proper service.

NTFT Question of the month: How will employees in NTFT duty assignments accrue sick leave?

Employees in NTFT duty assignments, with regular schedules of forty (40) hours per week or more, accrue four hours sick leave for each full biweekly pay period — that is, 13 days (104 hours) per 26 period leave year. Employees in NTFT duty assignment with regular schedules of less than 40 hours per week will accrue sick leave at a rate of one hour for each unit of 20 hours in a pay status up to 104 hours (13 days) per 26-period leave year. For example, an employee with a 30-hour a week work schedule will receive three hours sick leave each pay period.



JGE, INC.

The APWU has fought for decades to instill the values of dignity and respect for its workers. With this progress came change. Now it's time for you to become empowered and make the changes necessary to progress in your family planning. That's why Jackson Global Enterprises, Inc. is working with the APWU to provide awareness and education about the values of protecting your families.

At JGE, Inc. we believe there is nothing more important than your loved ones. You now have the opportunity to access and utilize our services to gain more knowledge and information to give you and your family peace of mind. Feel free to contact our office if you would like more information or would like to discuss your current situation.



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QUICK STATISTICS

- 41% Of U.S. adults have no life insurance to protect their loved ones
- Today, more adults depend solely on company provided life insurance coverage
- 4 in 10 insured husbands and insured wives have only company provided life insurance coverage
- People insured only through group life insurance have the lowest average amount of coverage

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MAKING THE DIFFERENCE IN YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

Facts for Union Members

Down 6.7 percent: Average household income since the recession officially “ended in 2009. The U.S. declared the recession officially over in June 2009. Since that time, through June 2011, inflation-adjusted median household income fell by 6.7 percent, to \$49,909. During the recession, household income fell by less than half that — 3.2 percent. So in four years, American households lost a total of 9.9 percent. Authors of a Census Bureau report containing that data say that two main forces appear to hold down pay; the number of people outside the workforce and loss of real income for hourly employees as fuel and food prices have jumped.

Down 17.5 percent: Wages of workers who have found jobs after an extended period of unemployment. Princeton Economics Professor Henry S. Farber says that people who lost jobs in the recession and later found work took an average pay cut of 17.5 percent.

Down 7.8 percent: Annual median income since 2007 for households headed by whites, to \$56,320.

Down 6.8 percent: Annual median income for households headed by Hispanics, to \$39,901.

Down 9.2 percent: Annual median household income for African-Americans, to \$31,784.

Up to 9.6 percent: Nationwide 2010 unemployment rate.

Up to 15.5 percent: 2010 unemployment rate for Americans between 20-24 regardless of education.

Up to 10.9 percent: 2010 unemployment rate for those between 25-29 regardless of education.

Reprinted from Label Letter

38 Postal Execs Earn More Than Cabinet Members

By Sean Reilly, Federal Times

As the U.S. Postal Service was careening toward a record \$8.5 billion loss in 2010, it was paying more than three dozen top executives and officers salaries and bonuses exceeding that of Cabinet secretaries — almost triple the number who were in that category only a year before, according to newly disclosed figures.

Since executive salaries were frozen in 2010, the jump in the number of executives earning more than Cabinet secretaries was the result of performance-based bonuses.

Last week, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe defended the bonuses, saying they were awarded under the agency’s pay-for-performance system after several years of no salary changes.

This year, both salaries and performance bonuses for executives are frozen. A list of postal executives earning more than Cabinet secretaries in 2011 is not yet available.

USPS leaders have been pressing the agency’s four unions to accept pay cuts, at least for new hires. They are also asking Congress for permission to end no-lay-off protections and create a lower-cost health plan as an alternative to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

“If we’re being asked to make any concessions, they should be across the board,” said John Hegarty, president of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, which is negotiating a new contract with the mail carrier.

By law, the Postal Service has to report each employee who makes more than Level 1 of the Executive Schedule, which sets the base salary for Cabinet chiefs. In 2009, that figure was \$196,700; in 2010, \$199,700.

Last year 38 top USPS officials fell in that category, according to a congressionally required report released this month. Leading the pack was then-Postmaster General John Potter, whose total reported pay of almost \$543,000 was boosted by the exit package he received upon retiring.

National Convention Nominees

On Saturday, February 12, 2012, nominations for delegates to the National Convention were held. These are the nominees:

Clerk Craft

- Angie Jackson
- Shirley Orr
- Robin McCurry
- Barbara Prothro
- Christine Smith
- Claudella Suggs

Maintenance Craft

- Harry Johnson
- Dave Rubino

MVS

- Matt Heiman
- Dominic Parks

Support Services

- Robin Robertson
- Shirley Harrison
- Anthony Harris
- Orlando Anderson

Congress Can Still Stop Closure, Union Official Says

The announcement by the U.S. Postal Service that the Upper Peninsula Mail Processing Center in Kingsford is slated for closure would severely impact mail service in the U.P. and be especially harmful to residents and businesses that rely on timely delivery of mail," said Tony Carobine, president of the American Postal Workers Union National Postal Press Association. "Also impacted would be the dedicated employees of the Kingsford facility, their families and the local economy as well," he said.

The Postal Service announced on Wednesday, February 22, that it intends to close the Kingsford facility along with 222 other mail processing plants across the country. Locally, closing the mail processing plant means residents and businesses may not receive bills, payments, prescriptions, online purchases and community newspapers on time.

Nationally, dismantling the USPS distribution network would have a severe impact on companies that rely on the Postal Service to conduct business – to deliver bills and catalogues, return payments, distribute information about products and services, and deliver goods to customers. The Postal Service is at the heart of a \$1 trillion private-sector industry that employs 9 million people and generates more than \$65 billion worth of mail annually.

"Closing postal facilities would also have a devastating impact on millions of individual citizens who rely on the mail to connect them to their communities and the nation at large. Nearly 40 percent of Americans don't have broadband Internet access, and 28 percent of Americans

have no Internet access at all. Approximately 55 percent of consumers still receive hard-copy bills and statements," Carobine said.

"As the American Postal Workers Union has repeatedly pointed out over the past several months, the massive proposed postal closures are unnecessary. Congress created the problem and Congress can fix it – without any cost to taxpayers.

"The primary cause of the Postal Service's dire financial situation is a mandate imposed by Congress in 2006 that requires the USPS to 'pre-fund' health care benefits for future retirees."

"The cause of the Postal Service's financial crisis is largely misunderstood. Although first-class mail has declined over the past four years, online bill payment and other forms of electronic communication are only part of the problem.

"The primary cause of the Postal Service's dire financial situation is a mandate imposed by Congress in 2006 that requires the USPS to 'pre-fund' health care benefits for future retirees. This obligation drains approximately \$5.5 billion annually from postal accounts to fund a 75-year obligation – in just 10 years. No other government agency or private business bears this burden.

According to the Postal Service inspector general, those payments are no longer necessary because of the \$45 billion which that account already has accumulated.

"Were it not for the financial

choke hold Congress created in 2006, the Postal Service would have netted a \$611 million surplus during fiscal years 2006-2010 instead of racking up a \$21 billion deficit," Carobine said.

Carobine also pointed out that recent media reports claiming the Postal Service lost \$3.3 billion dollars in the first quarter of 2012 are very misleading. "The Postal Service actually realized a \$200 million net profit delivering the mail. The 2006 congressional prefunding mandate accounted for \$3.1 billion of the quarter's loss with the remainder attributed to a non-cash actuarial adjustment to the Postal Service's compensation costs," he said.

"Despite the Postal Service announcing its intention to close 223 mail processing facilities, Congress can still stop these closures, but it must act now," he said.

Implementation of the plan to close the mail processing centers can only be carried out if current service standards are revised. (The change in service standards would degrade service by eliminating overnight delivery for first-class mail and periodicals, change next-day delivery to two days, and extend two-day delivery to three days.) In addition, no implementation will take place prior to May 15 of this year, in keeping with the moratorium on closing or consolidating postal facilities, to give Congress and the administration the opportunity to enact an alternative plan. If Congress does not take action before the moratorium expires, postal management intends to dismantle the mail processing network.

The American Postal Workers Union has been working to win support for amendments to the 21st Century Postal Service

Act (S-1789), which is expected to come up for a vote in the Senate soon. Twenty-seven senators signed a letter to the authors of S-1789 on Feb. 14, asking them to adopt amendments — to maintain current service standards, prevent the closures of hundreds of mail processing plants, protect rural post offices, maintain six-day delivery, and establish a blue-ribbon panel to examine how the Postal Service can earn additional revenue by offering new services. “Concerned citizens and business owners can help by contacting their senators

and representatives and urging them to support legislation that will maintain current service standards and correct the underlying cause of the USPS financial crisis without slashing service, eliminating jobs, and destroying the network of plants and post offices that keeps the mail moving,” Carobine said. “This is a congressionally-manufactured crisis caused by the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006.”

“However, it’s not too late to stop the demise of the world’s larg-

est, most efficient and most trusted mail system – one that our founding fathers expressly authorized in the Constitution,” he said.

Call or write to your congressional representatives and let them know how you feel about plant closures. The number to the switchboard of the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C. is 1-202-224-3121. You want to oppose Senate Bill 1789 in its present form. Ask him or her to support the amended bill sponsored by Senator Bernie Sanders.

Call Your Senators:

202-224-3121

(The Capital Hill Switchboard)

Tell them you oppose S-1789 as it is currently written.

To send an email message, visit www.capwiz.com/apwu and click on “Support Amendments to S1789.”

The Postal Service’s announcement on Feb. 23 that it has approved 223 mail processing plants for consolidation leaves union member just one option. APWU President Cliff Guffey said, “**We must continue to fight.**”

In stand up talks with employees on Feb. 22, managers emphasized that consolidations would not take place until after May 15, when a six-month moratorium on consolidation expires. The moratorium was intended to give Congress ‘the opportunity to enact an alternate plan’.

“The Postal Service has sent a clear message,” Guffy said. “If Congress does not take action before the moratorium expires, management intends to dismantle the mail processing network.”

If you value your postal career, everyone must reach out to their senators and representatives now and urge them to support legislation that will correct the underlying cause of the USPS financial crisis without slashing service, eliminating jobs, and destroying the network of plants and post offices that keep the mail moving.

This issue affects all postal employees, member and non-member. It is imperative that all of us take some sort of action. You should call you senators and have every member of your household call too. Enlist friends and family and have them call. This is a critical time for the Postal Service and its employees. Congress must act before the May 15 deadline.

Keep yourself informed about legislation that impacts your way of life. Make your family and friends aware of any issue that might have a negative impact on your postal career. Remember, this is an election year. Some of those we elected in the past have introduced or have supported policies that are not beneficial to our way of live. If some of these policies were enacted it would result in the destruction of the Postal Service as know it. It is critical that we place more labor-friendly voices in both the House and Senate. Take advantage of one of the greatest liberties that we have in the free world. We have the right to govern ourselves through the election of political leaders who reflect our goals and have our interests at heart. People fought and died to make it possible for every one of us to be able to cast a vote. Don’t squander this gift. Use it. Whether the wolves are at our door or we’re sitting high on the hilltop, we are **all** connected in this struggle.



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

February 29, 2012

Dear Postal Employees, Retirees and Family Members:

The Postal Service's consolidation announcement on Feb. 23 must be a wake-up call for everyone who is concerned about the future of the Postal Service. Of 264 facilities that were studied, 223 were approved for consolidation, and six are still being studied. Only 35 were disapproved — *at this time*.

Management has made clear that if Congress does not take action before May 15, when a six-month moratorium on consolidations expires, the USPS will begin to dismantle the mail processing network. By 2015, the USPS plans to eliminate more than half of all mail processing centers.

If the Postmaster General goes through with his plans, it will lead to the demise of the Postal Service.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Congress created this crisis in 2006 when it voted to require the Postal Service to pre-fund 75 years' worth of future retiree health benefits over a 10-year period — a burden no other government agency or private company bears.

Congress must correct this problem — without slashing service, eliminating tens of thousands of jobs, and destroying the network of plants and post offices that keeps the mail moving.

I am asking everyone to join the struggle by calling, writing, emailing or visiting your senators immediately. If your plant was approved for consolidation, I'm sure you understand the importance of this effort. If consolidation of your plant was disapproved, remember, it was disapproved at this time. The decision could be revisited in the not-too-distant future, so your participation is crucial as well. If your plant was not studied for consolidation, it could be soon.

So, all postal workers must get involved and contact their senators. Ask them to oppose Senate Bill 1789 as it is currently written, and to support amendments that would prevent the massive closure of mail processing plants and post offices, halt the elimination of tens of thousands of jobs, stop drastic reductions in service to the American people, and explore new ways to generate revenue for the Postal Service.

Please enlist the support of your friends, family members and co-workers. We must create a groundswell of opposition to the Postal Service's plans.

We must continue the fight! The time for action is now — before it's too late!

Call Your Senators:

202-224-3121 (Capitol Hill switchboard)

Tell them you oppose S-1789 as it is currently written, and that you support the Sanders' amendments.

Send an email Message:

Visit www.capwiz.com/apwu and click on "Support Amendments to S.1789."

Write:

Sen. [Fill in Name], U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510

In solidarity,
Cliff Guffey
President

Cliff Guffey, President

1300 L Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
202-842-4250 (Office)
202-842-4297 (Fax)

National Executive Board

Cliff Guffey
President

Greg Bell
Executive Vice President

Elizabeth "Liz" Powell
Secretary-Treasurer

Mike Morris
Director, Industrial Relations

Rob Strunk
Director, Clerk Division

Steven G. Raymer
Director, Maintenance Division

Robert C. "Bob" Pritchard
Director, MVS Division

Bill Manley
Director, Support Services Division

Sharyn M. Stone
Coordinator, Central Region

Mike Gallagher
Coordinator, Eastern Region

John H. Dirzius
Coordinator, Northeast Region

Princella Vogel
Coordinator, Southern Region

Omar M. Gonzalez
Coordinator, Western Region

Imagine if we would
celebrate the assassination
of Dr. Martin Luther King at
the hands of James Earl Ray, or the
assassination of Pres. John F. Kennedy
at the hands of Lee Harvey Oswald.



Yet, this Easter, we will be celebrating the crucifixion with joy — why?
We find the answer in one word — **resurrection!**

For inspirational reading:

I Corinthians 1: 18-31

Hebrews 12: 1-4

I Corinthians 15: 14, 17

Romans 1: 4

Romans 5: 24, 25

John 11: 25-26

John 3: 16

CELEBRATE THIS EASTER WITH EXUBERANCE!

What's your Faith Like?

Is it a faith relegated only to the weak?

A subjective blind leap in the dark?

Is it a crutch because we are psychologically crippled?

Is it a religious faith kept in the safe surroundings of our worship place?

With such a faith, the religious world will be allowed to continue its prayers and singing,
thus ... never to fear confrontation.

It's death that will not come by the sword, but the quiet death of irrelevance.

Reference scriptures:

Ephesians 2: 8-10

James 2: 20

John 3: 16

Real faith is that which puts one whole self in the trust of
God in obedience.

Don Morehead, Co-Chairman, Benevolence Committee



Managing your springtime allergies

Spring means flower buds, blooming trees, freshly cut grass and if you're one of the millions of people who have springtime allergies, it also means sneezing, congestion, runny nose and other annoying symptoms. Springtime allergies, also called hay fever and allergic rhinitis, can make you miserable. But before you get anxious remember that a few simple steps and changes in habits can bring you relief.

Reduce your exposure to allergy triggers

There are a number of things that you can do to reduce your exposure to the things that trigger your allergy signs and symptoms:

- Stay indoors on dry, windy days — the best time to go outside is after a good rain, which helps clear pollen from the air.
- Delegate lawn mowing, weed pulling and other gardening chores that stir up allergens.
- Remove clothes you've worn outside; you may also want to shower to rinse pollen from your skin and hair.
- Don't hang laundry outside — pollen can stick to sheets and towels.
- Wear a dust mask if you do outside chores.

Take extra steps when pollen counts are high. Seasonal allergy signs and symptoms can flare up when there's a lot of pollen in the air. These steps can help you reduce your exposure:

- Check your local TV or radio station, your local newspaper, or the Internet for pollen

forecasts and current pollen levels.

- If high pollen counts are forecasted, start taking allergy medications before your symptoms start.
- Close doors and windows at night or any other time when pollen counts are high.
- Avoid outdoor activity in the early morning when pollen counts are highest.

Keep indoor air clean

Here are a few tips to keep the air you breathe free of allergens:

- Use the air conditioning in your house and car.
- If you have forced air heating or air conditioning in your house, use high-efficiency filters and follow regular maintenance schedules.
- Keep indoor air dry with a dehumidifier.
- Use a portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter in your bedroom.
- Clean floors often with a vacuum cleaner that has a HEPA filter.

If your allergies are truly bothersome and you need relief there are medications available in two categories, Antihistamines and Corticosteroids. Antihistamines are available over-the-counter and by prescription. Corticosteroids are anti-inflammatory medications and are available in many forms.

Using medications for allergies can have adverse complications if not used properly. Please consult your doctor or medical professional prior to taking any allergy medication.

www.apwuhp.com
(800) 222-2798



Antihistamines

Capsules and pills
Liquid
Eye drops
Nasal spray
Injection

Corticosteroids

Creams and ointment for the skin
Eye drops
Lung inhaler
Oral pills
Nasal spray

APWU
HEALTH PLAN



We Wish to Extend
Our Condolences to
the Friends and
Families of:

Leroy Brooks

Son of Charles Brooks

Robert Cleveland

MVS Driver

Jameelah Hubbard

Daughter-in-law of
Amerilys "Mae" Stewart
Tour 3 Outgoing Clerk

Barb Sellini

Vice President



Alexes Smotherson

Antoine White

Antonio Ellis

Carolyn Keys

Connie Jackson

Craig Johnson

Dana Ingram

Debresha Duncan

Dion Quinn

Gabrielle Sanders

Hycinth Vincent

Jamie Edwards

Janice Yates

Jin Zou

Karlton Key

Kendra Strickland

Kevin Jordan

Kim Barnard

LaShionda Watkins

Lee Engelke

Lejon Gray

Linda Hawley

Lisa Clemons

Lisa Parks

Michael Freeman

Regina Youngblood

Reyna French

Ronnie Hutchins

Stephanie Sanchez

Tamika Smith

Tasha Bellmon

Thanh-Chi Pham

Wanda Evans

William Bunch

Yumei Wang

Union-Made Easter Candy



Did you know Jelly
Belly's, Peeps, Jelly Beans
and many chocolate bars
are union-made?

When you're searching
for something for an Easter basket, why
not buy union-made-in-America treats.

For a list of candy products made by
members of the Bakery, Confectionery,
Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Inter-
national Union (BCTGM); snack foods by
members of the United Food and Com-
mercial Workers (UFCW); or fruit and nuts
from members of the United Farm Work-
ers of America (UFW) go to [http://www.
unionplus.org/union-made/easter-candy](http://www.unionplus.org/union-made/easter-candy).

Ever Hear of Albert Einstein?

You know ... the Genius ... the union member!!!!

Yes, Albert Einstein (1870-1955), in addition to being
named *Time* Magazine's Person of the Century ... and referred
to as a visionary scientist and philosopher, was a union man.

Albert Einstein was a founding member of the American
Federation of Teachers, Local #522, (Princeton, New Jersey)
signing onto the application of the Local's charter in 1938.

Is it a coincidence that a man of such stature and genius
was a union member, even a union founder? In reality ...
any intelligent person knows there is strength in unity.

Edited and reprinted from "The Pro Gazette"

ROLLING THUNDER® XXV



POW-MIA

"WE WILL NEVER FORGET"

WWI 3,344
 WWII 78,537
 COLD WAR 120
 KOREA 8,099
 VIETNAM 1,702
 IRAQ 1
 AFGHANISTAN 1

WASHINGTON, D.C.
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
MAY 27, 2012

ROLLING THUNDER®, INC.
 NATIONAL
 PO BOX 216
 NESHANIC STATION, NJ 08853
 908-369-5439 FAX: 908-369-2072
 ARTIE

ASSEMBLY AREA: NORTH PENTAGON PARKING LOT 8:00 A.M.

LEAVING: 12:00 NOON FOR THE RIDE THROUGH WASHINGTON, D.C. TO THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL TO PAY OUR RESPECT TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE FREEDOM WE ENJOY EVERY DAY AND FOR THE FULL ACCOUNTING OF ALL POW-MIA's AND VETERANS RIGHTS. THIS IS A DEMONSTRATION – NOT A PARADE.

ROLLING THUNDER FROM CALIFORNIA TO WASHINGTON, D.C.: CONTACTS FOR ASSEMBLY AREA AND DEPARTURE DATE IN CALIFORNIA: **BUNGEE 559-542-1708**

ROLLING THUNDER (FLAME OF FREEDOM) FROM CALIFORNIA TO WASHINGTON, D.C.: CONTACTS FOR ASSEMBLY AREA AND DEPARTURE DATE: JOHN 1 MS 662-234-1084 C662-607-0611 / ROGER 1 CO/ 303-694-2173

STAGE FOR SPEAKERS AND MUSIC LOCATION: BECAUSE OF CONSTRUCTION OUR STAGE WILL BE DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL. PLEASE ASK ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR CLUB OR ORGANIZATION TO ATTEND. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

CA	BUNGEE	559-542-1708	ME	BUTCH	207-590-2731	OK	KAY	918-486-7770
CA	JOANN	760-880-2353	MI	RUSS	989-506-4717	OK	BILL	405-627-0858
CO	AL	303-948-1394	MO	JOHN	417-849-8964	PA	HARRY	570-677-7916
FL	DON	941-235-3333	MS	JOHN	662-234-1084	SD	RON	605-759-0284
GA	GENE	478-722-8250	NC	BOB	336-924-0610	TN	BOB	615-513-5852
GA	SCOTT	334-764-2126	ND	ROGER	701-258-8460	TN	LOU	865-671-9597
GA	JEFF	706-570-1332	NH	DOC	603-370-0691	TN	REID	423-638-1318
IA	BOB	319-230-6985	NJ	ARTIE	908-369-5439	TX	BOB	210-862-2981
IL	DENNIS	815-761-0808	NM	GEORGE	915-590-2161	TX	CARL	281-961-4058
IN	ED	317-363-1922	NYC	JOE T	917-440-2468	VA	MIKE	804-514-9123
KY	LOU	270-300-7369	OH	DOUG	614-707-3714	VT	JOHN	978-544-8652
MA	JOE	617-522-0324	OH	WINSTON	440-639-2222	WI	PEPPER	715-536-6851
						WV	CHRISTA	304-273-4986
						Canada	GILL	450-504-1204

NO ATTITUDES! CONFIRMED: EVERYONE MUST WEAR A HELMET!!!
NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN THE PENTAGON PARKING LOT

PLEASE COPY & REDISTRIBUTE
 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CHECK OUR WEBSITE: www.rollingthunder1.com

HOTEL & CAMPGROUND INFORMATION

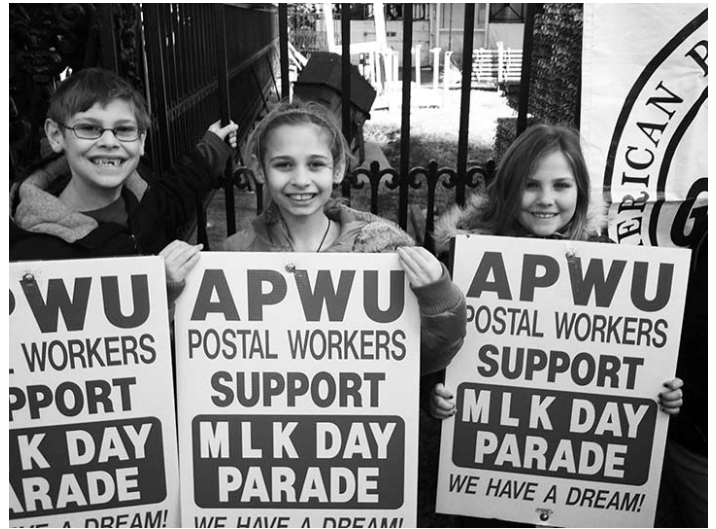
Rolling Thunder Hdqs. Hyatt Regency 2799 Jefferson Davis Hwy. Arlington, VA 703-418-1234	Best Western Fairfax 3535 Chainbridge Rd. Fairfax, VA 703-591-5500	Hyatt Regency 1325 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 703-525-1234
Radisson Hotel 2020 Jefferson Davis Hwy. Arlington, VA 703-920-8600	Days Inn 6721 Commerce Street Springfield, VA 703-922-6100	Hyatt Regency 400 New Jersey Ave. NW Washington, DC 202-383-1303
Holiday Inn 2650 Jefferson Davis Hwy. Arlington, VA 703-684-7200	Hawthorn Suites 420 N. Van Dorn Street Alexandria, VA 22304 703-370-1000	Sheraton Reston 11810 Sunrise Valley Dr. Reston, VA 20191 703-262-5931
Holiday Inn Express A.A.F.B. 5001 Mercedes Blvd. Camp Springs, MD 301-423-2323	Key Bridge Marriott 1401 Lee Hwy. Arlington, VA 703-284-1460	Colony South Hotel 7401 Surratts Road Clinton, MD 20735 301-856-4500
Quality Inn Iwo-Jima 1501 Arlington Blvd. Arlington, VA 703-524-5000	Falls Church Motel 7155 Lee Hwy. Falls Church, VA 703-533-1624	Quality Inn Frederick 999 West Patrick Street Frederick, MD 21702 301-662-5141
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites 625 First Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703-548-6300	Crown Plaza Alexandria 901 N. Fairfax Street Alexandria, VA 703-683-6000	Gaylord Nat'l Resort & Conv. Ctr. 201 Waterfront Street Nat'l Harbor, MD 20745 301-965-2000
Clarion Hotel US Rt 301/St. Patricks Dr. Waldorf, MD 301-843-3350	Red Roof Inn 6170 Oxon Hill Rd. Oxon Hill, MD 301-567-8030	La Quinta Hotel US Rt 301/Action Lane Waldorf, MD 301-645-0022
Holiday Inn Suitland & Allentown Roads Camp Springs, MD 301-420-2800	Holiday Inn 2 Montgomery Village Ave. Gaithersburg, MD 301-948-8900	Holiday Inn 415 New Jersey Ave. NW Washington, D.C. 202-434-0122
Comfort Inn & Suites 9020 Baltimore Ave. College Park, MD 301-441-8110	Hilton Garden Inn 1333 N. Courthouse Rd. Arlington, VA 703-528-4444	Holiday Inn 1960 Chain Bridge Rd. McLean, VA 703-738-3124
Fairview Park Marriott 3111 Fairview Park Dr. Falls Church, VA 22042 703-849-9400	Arlington Courthouse Suites 1200 N. Courthouse Rd. Arlington, VA 22201 703-524-4000 X 6445	Kellogg Conf. Hotel 800 Florida Ave. NE Washington, DC 20002-3695 202-651-6109
Washington Suites 100 S. Reynolds St. Alexandria, VA 22304 703-370-9600	Quality Inn 7212 Richmond Hwy. Alexandria, VA 22306 703-765-2325	Inns of Virginia 3335 Lee Highway Arlington, VA 22207 703-524-9800
Inns of Virginia 421 W. Broad Street Falls Church, VA 22046 703-533-1100	Crown Plaza 8777 Georgia Ave. Silver Springs, MD 20910 301-563-3722	Best Western Potomac Mills 14619 Potomac Mills Rd. Woodbridge, VA 22192 703-494-4433
Comfort Suites 7350 Williamson Blvd. Manassas, VA 20109 703-686-1100	Washington Marriott at Wardman Pk. 2660 Woodley Road, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008 202-328-2000	Inns of Virginia 951 Annapolis Way Woodbridge, VA 22191 703-430-3400
Bull Run Regional Park 7700 Bull Run Dr. Centerville, VA 20120 703-365-7433	Greenbelt Park Rt 193 near I-95 & Balt-Wash Pkwy Greenbelt, MD 301-344-3943	Hotel Sierra 45520 Dulles Plaza Sterling, VA 20166 703-435-9002
The Western Alexandria 400 Courthouse Square Alexandria, VA 703-253-8600	Homewood Suites by Hilton 13460 Sunrise Valley Drive Herndon, VA 20171 703-793-1700	Hampton Inn/Comfort Inn 6550 Loisdale Ct. Springfield, VA 703-842-0137
La Quinta Inn 11770 Business Park Dr. Waldorf, MD 20601 301-862-4100 x158	Comfort Suites 11765 Business Park Dr. Waldorf, MD 20601 301-932-4400	Sleep Inn 6860 Crain Hwy. La Plata, MD 20646 301-392-0065
Crown Plaza Hotel 8777 Georgia Ave. Silver Springs, MD 20910 301-563-3722	Sheraton Manassas 10800 Vandor Lane Manassas, VA 20109 703-656-4511	Four Points Sheraton 10800 Vandor Lane Manassas, VA 20109 703-656-4511
Cedarville St. Pk 301-888-1622	Prince William Forest, VA 703-221-7181	Pohick Park, VA 703-339-6104
		Capital KOA, Rt. 3-32 & I-97 Millersville, MD / 703-323-2771

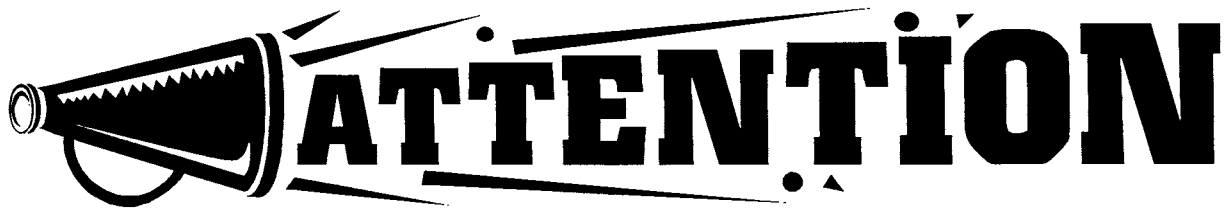
Free Bar-B-Q at Harley Davidson of Washington, Ft. Washington, MD, Saturday, May 26, 2012 from 11:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.

The day before Rolling Thunder
Harley Davidson of Washington
 9407 Livingston Road
 Fort Washington, MD 20744 / 301-248-1200

R&R Cycles
 3700 Accokeek Road
 Waldorf, MD 20601 / 703-508-4124

MLK DAY PARADE





All postal employees should make it their business to contact their duly elected congressional representatives when issues affecting the Postal Service are brought before the House and Senate. The union will advise you of pending legislation and its impact on postal workers. Things have become critical. Now is not the time to sit on your hands and do nothing. Call, write and visit your congressional representative to let them know that postal employees vote and we mean business. It's time to hold our elected officials' feet to the fire. These men and women that we voted into office have to be made aware we want our issues and concerns heard, or they may be looking for another job. There have been recent headlines and postings on the Internet stating that the Postal Service might not be able to make payroll if something is not done about the pre-funding requirements. The Postal Service states they can't make the \$5 billion payment. This is not a joke. Contact your congressional person and urge them to support HR-1351. This bill sponsored by Rep. Stephen Lynch, D-Mass., would correct postal pre-funding inequities. If we don't stand up, we will be stood over.

Here is the contact information for our congressional members:

MISSOURI

Senator Claire McCaskill
5850A Delmar
St. Louis, MO 63112
314-367-1364

Senator Roy Blunt
7770 Bonhomme
Suite 315
St. Louis, MO 63105
314-725-4484

Representative Russ Carnahan
8764 Manchester Road
Suite 203
St. Louis, MO 63144
314-962-1523

Representative William "Lacy" Clay
625 N. Euclid
Suite 326
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-367-1970

Representative Todd Akin
301 Sovereign Ct.
St. Louis, MO 63011
314-590-0029

Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer
516 Jefferson
Washington, MO 63090
636-239-2276

ILLINOIS

Senator Dick Durbin
250 West Cherry St.
Suite 155-D
Carbondale, IL 62901
618-351-1122

Senator Mark Kirk
607 East Adams
Suite 1520
Springfield, IL 62701
217-492-5089

Representative Jerry Costello
144 Lincoln Place Court
Suite 4
Belleville, IL 62221
618-233-8026

Representative John Shimkus
240 Regency Centre
Collinsville, IL 62234
618-344-3065

Dear Congressman,

I am writing to respectfully request that you consider becoming a cosponsor to HR-1351, a bill introduced by Representative Stephen Lynch of Massachusetts.

The U.S. Postal Service is currently facing a financial crisis partly due to the recession, but more significantly caused by the burdensome requirement of the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) that it make payments averaging \$5.5 billion annually to prefund its retiree health benefits. Absent those prefunding mandates, the Postal Service would actually be operating at a surplus over the last four fiscal years.

In addition, recent independent audits have shown that the USPS has already over-funded its Civil Service Retirement Fund by over \$50 billion and also has over-funded the Federal Employee Retirement System by nearly \$7 billion.

HR-1351 would resolve those financial inequities and bring the Postal Service into financial solvency with no use of tax payer money.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Feb. Omission

Barbara Prothro

March

Abernathy, Nancy

Adams, Alfred

Armbruster, Mark

Armoneit, Kenneth

Babington, Richard

Babula, Irene

Baeumner, Denna

Baldwin, Charles

Banks, Willie Jr.

Bean, Sandra

Benson, Walter

Blake, Yolanda

Blythe, Janine

Bolton, Nina

Brown, Beverly

Brown, Ramona

Burton, Rose

Byrne, Patrick

Chatman, Michael

Chisholm, William

Coleman, Katrinka

Coyne, Kevin

Culton, Denise

Dancy, Lois

Dancy, Patricia

Darden, Algin

Darris, Diana

Daus, Mary

Dieckhaus, Steven

Dockett, Barbara

Eastman, Wendy

Estes, Christine

Farrell, John

Fitzpatrick, Gary

Fitzpatrick, Jessie

Funke, Lawrence

Furlow, Debra

Gagne, Janice

Gaston, Donald

Georges, Tom

Gillon, Tony

Goree, Dawn

Hall, John Jr.

Harris, Anita

Harrison, Donna

Haynes, Glenda

Hemphill, Sharon

Highsmith, Sandra

Ingram, Dontilisha

Jackson, Danny

Jackson, David

Jenkins, Joann

Johnson, Johnny

Johnson, Lamont

Johnson, Lynn

Johnson, Rick

Jones, Kevin

Kinnard, Ricky

Kreke, Ronald

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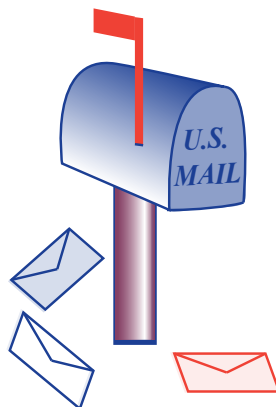
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GATEWAY LOCAL CALENDAR

March 11 (Sunday)	General Membership Meeting (3 p.m.)
March 12 (Monday)	Stewards' Training (9 a.m. & 7 p.m.)
March 18 (Sunday)	Election of Delegates
April 11 (Wednesday)	Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)
April 14 (Saturday)	General Membership Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
April 16 (Monday)	Stewards' Training (9 a.m. & 7 p.m.)
May 2 (Wednesday)	Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)
May 6 (Sunday)	General Membership Meeting (3 p.m.)
May 13 (Sunday)	Mother's Day
May 14 (Monday)	Steward's Training (9 a.m. & 7 p.m.)
May 28 (Monday)	Memorial Day Holiday Office Closed

There will be no General Membership Meetings in the months of July and August.

The Union Hall will be closed on holidays.



Moving?
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so we can stay in touch.*

Help Nancy, our office secretary, by sending us your address changes. Your union spends many work hours and pays significant postage fees to obtain your correct address. We cannot get your union paper to you on time without your correct address. Thank you.