

Press On

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

Volume 96 Issue 3



May/June 2018

Feeling Engaged Yet?

By Frederick Wolfmeyer, President

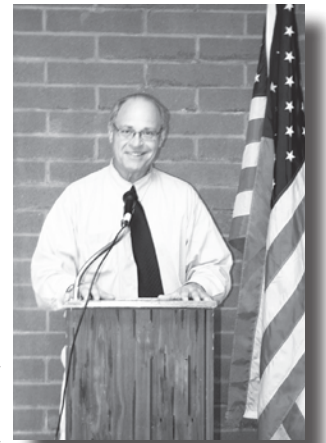
Greetings sisters and brothers. Summer is nearly upon us and it looks like a typical St. Louis summer is coming because as I write this article, the month of May is already the second warmest on record. If this heat and humidity is any indication of what is to come, we will have a very hot and humid summer. Keeping this in mind, I ask all of you who must work outside while performing your duties for the USPS, to keep safety uppermost in your minds. Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated; dress accordingly wearing light colored, loose-fitting clothes; and take several breaks during your tour in air-conditioned areas. These precautions are simple and easy to do, and they will keep you healthy and could even save your life. It is important that you take care of yourselves because the USPS has proven that they will not. Management will talk a lot and you may hear all sorts of talk regarding the heat and how you should be careful, and how much they might be concerned about your well-being, but ultimately, it is your responsibility to take care of number one. This is one area where the USPS could become better engaged on behalf of its employees. Several times in the past, MVS drivers and mechanics working in a hot humid VMF or out on road calls, have complained to me that the USPS did not provide cold liquids such as Gatorade or Powerade. These are simple drinks specifically made to replenish essential salts, minerals, and electrolytes but the service was reluctant to purchase and provide them to these employees. This is ludicrous, but unfortunately, this is the norm at the post office and not the exception.

It reminds me of the time a few short years ago, a clerk had a heart attack on the workroom floor. The local union

addressed the fact that no one knew where the AED was located and it took several minutes before a first responder was located to perform CPR and longer yet to get medical help from EMTs. The union put this issue on the agenda of the labor/management meeting and brought up the topic of purchasing an additional AED to keep on the workroom floor to use in future emergencies such as the one that had just taken place. The purchase of an AED was discussed at three different labor/management meetings and although we came close to getting approval to get one, the purchase was ultimately denied by the area office. Since this emergency took place, the local union has purchased an AED and it is kept in the clerk steward booth.

The trailer lot known as the Second Street lot is an ongoing safety hazard. The union has addressed this lot in the past, and it took months to get the lot graded and repaired. Currently, the lot is again in need of repair and is filled with dangerous pot-holes where trailers could potentially tilt and roll over. This situation has been brought to management's attention, and we are once again waiting for grading and repairs. Where is the engagement by management on any of these issues? Most of the fixes for the above stated problems are cheap, but then so is talk, and that is what we get from management, cheap talk and no action.

I was recently informed that a clerk had a medical emergency on the workroom floor back in March. He lay on the floor for quite some time before any help was called. If we



still had the medical unit located on the second floor, perhaps this person could have received medical attention in a timely manner. The medical unit was closed way back when Roosevelt Stewart was president and he has been gone for 10 years. What can be done? Do you know of any similar instances of medical emergencies?

Management says that the safety of its employees is important, but their actions tend to say otherwise. How many times have you seen blocked fire extinguishers, power panels, or fire exits? But management wants to cheap-talk about safety and how important it is to be safe – they need to **prove it by doing something!**

Remember these examples when you get your next postal pulse survey either at work or at home in the mail. And do not be fooled by this survey because by completing it, you will change nothing. The service has and will use it against us in contract negotiations and those are just around the corner. The postal pulse survey will arrive on May 22, 2018, and contract negotiations begin June 26, 2018. Coincidence? I think not. Think about the examples I have listed above and the disregard for the employees in

those examples. It is one thing to preach safety or about any other topic, and quite another to actually take action to do something about the issue. I find it very interesting how in our urgency to have the service do what is right, we complete these surveys. If you look at who is getting awards for turning them in, it is management and their engagement teams. There are forms where management personnel can nominate their management co-workers for their alleged engagement. Who is the last bargaining unit employee you know who was given an award for their engagement? Please, do not complete these surveys. I will be at the opening session of contract negotiations, looking management right in the eye, and if allowed, I will tell them what their engagement is worth. I cannot be more forceful on this issue. The service is after our jobs and benefits and our president, Mr. Trump, is right there with them pulling for privatization of the Postal Service. Do not commit economic suicide by completing this survey. Demand that management become engaged first, and let them know that once they do, then we might decide to become engaged too.

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“Buying a home is the largest purchase most people will make in their lifetime,” say Fred and Jack. “We feel honored to be a part of the process from beginning to end.”



Contact Jack Dudek:

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Executive Vice President

By Gene Hollenbeck



It has been a year since we were able to get some of our PSE employees converted to career. We are still working on getting more converted. The more career employees we have, the more PSEs can be hired. Then maybe you won't have to continue to work one to a machine. Maybe the overtime will decrease and you will be able to get some time off without providing proof.

The sectional excessing has been completed and all of the excessed employees have been offered their retreat rights. Management wanted to give in-section bidding rights to the automation section because they thought that there had been excessing out of the section. It took President Wolfmeyer a long time to convince them that there were no employees excessed out of the section. That is why they finally cancelled the in-section bid that was sent out. That is why there are now bids posted for the automation section. If there are any residual vacancies we will try to get more conversions.

Are you still working short? Are you still working one to a machine? Is management working alongside you? Have you called for a steward and given them a statement? If not, why not? This will continue until you take action.

Every time you allow a supervisor to perform craft work, it shows that we don't need the extra employees.

Station and branch employees are you still working shorthanded? Has management been helping you get the mail out? Has management instructed the CCAs to pick up their mail from you? Have you asked for a steward and given them a statement? If not, why not?

Remember the job you save could be yours.

Right now management is not allowed to post all of the vacant bids. They know that everyone is short staffed. They know that it takes more employees to do the job than what we currently have. Upper management has stated that our management must ask to post a position and if they feel we have earned that position then they will allow them to post. For the most they are being instructed to revert any and all vacancies. We have received proposed reversions notifications on several positions. If you noticed, on the last posting there were no station/branch positions posted. **So, when you are considering whether or not to bid, just remember that if you are successful your current bid will be reverted.**

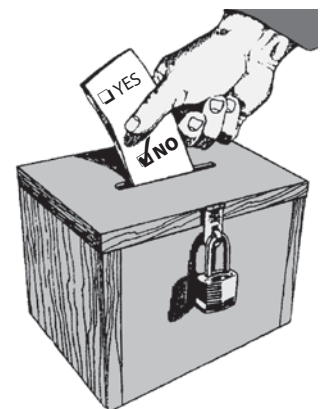
The right to work issue is now going to be on the August 7, 2018, ballot. It will appear on the ballot as:

Proposition A

On August 7, 2018

Vote NO on

PROPOSITION A



Associate Office Director's Report

By *Becky Livingston*



As I prepare to write this article I am getting ready to send copies of grievance settlements to clerks at an associate office that is severely short-staffed but are being told on a daily basis the office is at compliment. While I was happy with the fact that I was finally able to resolve the multiple grievances for violations that occurred at this office over the holiday season I was equally unhappy because of the lack of statements from the clerks to support those violations. I truly believe that the monetary settlements would have been quite a bit more substantial if I would have been provided more detailed information that included names, dates, times and specific bargaining unit work that was performed by management and carriers.

I know management is always accusing the union and the craft employees of wanting free money, but I'm sorry that is not how I look at it. Think about the price the clerks pay when they are required to work six days a week, 10 to 12 hours a day and are not allowed time off for a doctor's appointment, even when a 3971 has been submitted weeks in advance, or incidental leave won't be approved for you to spend quality time with your family.

What about all of the times you think your day is over and the supervisor "forgot" to let you know they will need you to work an additional four hours when management knew all day they had no one to perform the back-

end dispatch duties? This is the point I am trying to make: If management continues to revert full-time regular duty assignments and insists the office is completely staffed according to the district office, we need to make sure we hold them accountable when they perform bargaining unit work or instruct carriers to perform our duties. If all of the work is not recorded accurately on a **supervisor performing BUW and crossing crafts - violation log sheet** the union is not going to be successful when we try to resolve the bargaining unit/cross craft grievances. The log sheets need to be accurate, completely filled out and legible. The union will provide the **violation log sheets** to all clerks who request them.

In the past there have been APWU/class action grievances filed which included all clerks in an office or only clerks on the over-time desired list. These grievances are not as accurate as the grievances filed by individual clerks who are able and willing to step up and report violations and most importantly are actually in the building when the violations took place.

Of course, if during the course of visits to the offices or during discussions with management I find that there are violations happening, say a PSE from a Level 4 post office is improperly working outside their bid-cluster; there will be a class action grievance filed because the union caught the violation and the union fairly represents everyone. But I cannot continue to receive text messages

and phone calls stating, "They are doing it again," file class action grievances on the violation and receive no supporting documentation because clerks don't want to get involved.

Please help me help you. This is not about free money, folks! This is about saving jobs! I can guarantee you that if jobs were filled when they were vacated and the offices were properly staffed the post office would be spending a lot more money for wages and benefits for those clerks than for the grievance settlements they are paying now and they know that.

These grievance settlements are just a fraction of the work that is actually being performed by management and carriers because clerks don't want to get involved by reporting the violations. The days of not wanting to get involved are over. If you want to be a part of the grievance process and be compensated for all of the work that is being performed by management and carriers, please immediately request a steward when you see the violation. I will be happy to file a grievance for you.

Remember you only have 14 days to file the grievance once you see the violation occur. Record everything accurately and in great detail. It may take a while to go through the steps of the grievance procedure, but ask around, the results can sometimes be a pleasant surprise when you least expect it!

What Your Union is all About?

By Robin McCurry



Some members think that the union's only function is to file grievances. Grievances ... wrong!

*What is the APWU?

The APWU is the largest union of postal workers in the world representing more than 200,000 postal employees.

*What does the union do?

The primary job of the union is to negotiate, interpret, and enforce a National Agreement with the Postal Service.

*What are the benefits of belonging?

Membership in the APWU gives you a voice in determining your future. Members have the right to participate in local meetings to vote for local and national officers, to vote on the contract, to run for office and to petition for change in the union. Membership benefits include the magazine *The American Postal Worker*, members are eligible for the APWU Health Plan, APWU MasterCard, group legal services, term life insurance, short- and long-term disability plans, supplemental hospital cash, accidental death and dismemberment benefits, basic care hospital plan, a dental plan, and much more.

*Who can join?

APWU membership is open to APWU craft employees only.

*How much are dues?

Dues for PSEs are \$17.90 a pay period and FTR are \$29.23 a pay period.

*Suppose I have a grievance?

If you have a grievance — if you believe management has violated your rights or subjected you to harassment or discrimination — you should immediately talk to your steward about the problem. The steward, who is your representative on the workroom floor, will determine whether a violation has occurred and will try to reach a settlement with your immediate supervisor. If this effort fails, the union can appeal management's decision to a higher level.

*How are my dues spent?

National dues pay for all operating expenses of the union, including contract negotiations, grievance handling above the local level, and the cost for arbitration at the regional and national levels.

*How does the union negotiate the National Agreement?

A team composed of the president, the executive vice president, the director of industrial relations, and the directors of the crafts they represent. This team meets with Postal Service management several months before the contract expires. The team proposes contract language, the Postal Service responds, and through the give and take of negotiation they try to reach agreement.

*Do I get to vote on the contract?

Yes. A negotiated National Agreement becomes valid only with the approval of membership through a mail ballot. After the negotiating team reaches agreement with the Postal Service, a rank and file bar-

gaining advisory committee reviews the proposed contract. If they approve it, the contract is sent to the entire APWU membership for ratification.

*What about job security?

As spelled out in our National Agreement, all career postal workers have a lifetime guarantee of job security after six years of continuous service.

*How is the APWU fighting privatization?

Privatization is the Postal Service's attempt to contract out postal work, your work, to private companies that hire low-wage, non-union workers. The APWU has been successfully fighting efforts to privatize postal services for decades. The APWU monitors all attempts to contract out work that belongs to our bargaining unit and makes sure that the National Agreement is upheld. In May 1993, APWU won an important privatization dispute at the national level when an arbitrator ruled that remote bar code sorting work should have been offered to bargaining-unit workers. The Postal Service had contracted the work out to several companies at sub-postal wages. As a result of subsequent negotiations between APWU and the USPS, RBCS work is now staffed by APWU-represented employees.

Look for part 2 of this article in the next issue of the *Press On*. This article has been reprinted from the National APWU website.



Editor's

By Shelia Patton-Harris

Corner



Times are tough all over and the post office is no exception. At the Tennessee state convention, one of the national business agents reported that the service has a dilemma. When the early out was offered, the Postal Service anticipated that 15,000 employees would retire. Since there was no monetary incentive offered, only 9,000 people left. Now the service still needs for 6,000 employees to leave. Well, they came up with an idea. They will try to discipline those people out. The national business agent, Bob Kessler, stated there will be a big push on attendance related discipline. Please be advised that the Postal Service will use your own record to get rid of you. Many of us have been lulled into a false sense of security because management had not been issuing a lot of discipline for attendance. Far too many of us think that attendance is no big deal. So you get a PDI, what's the worst that can happen? If you are a PSE, they can try to remove you using the one and done policy. That means you get one letter of warning and the next step is a removal. The union has had some success fighting this policy but can you afford to be without a paycheck until your case is decided? If you are a regular, they can issue you your next step and again you have to fight it out with management. My best advice, come to work, use FMLA when you are sick and avoid getting discipline.

How many of you have never been to a union meeting? Some don't even know where the Union Hall is. We need 25 people to have an official union meeting. In a local of this size, we should always get at least 25 people to have what is called a quorum. The powers that be already know that most of you see no reason to attend a union meeting. You could spend that time with your family, doing fun activities, not coming down to the hall for some boring meeting. But when something goes wrong, you complain to your co-workers and say how terrible the union is. When you know there is a problem with your section, union officials may not be aware. Many people expect the union stewards to explain the problem at the meeting and come back with the answer. You as a dues paying member should take the responsibility into your hands to ensure the problems get handled. There are only 10 meetings a year. You should try to attend as many as possible. People fought and even died for your right to even have a union. Respect their sacrifices and come on out.

Remember, the man in the White House does not have the interest of the post office near and dear to his heart. He would love to find a way to break up the Postal Service and sell off the profitable parts. He doesn't care if you are a clerk, mail handler, supervisor or MDO. He thinks the deal the Postal Service has with Amazon is stupid and he wants to put an end to it. Now is the time for us to demonstrate our strength in

numbers. Most of the "old" people will be retired in the next five years. That leaves the work of the local and the union to those we leave behind. Please don't leave that work undone. The Postal Service should continue to exist for future generations.

On a personal note; recently I suffered from some medical issues that leave me severely short of breath. One night as I was attempting to walk from Metro link to the post office, I was having a hard time breathing. A concerned MVS driver asked me if I was okay and if there was anything that he could do. I thanked him for his concern and by that time I had caught my breath and continued on to work. The next night I had a similar incident but had made it to the back door on the dock. I was struggling to breathe when a young man came from the area where the MVS drivers sit and asked me if I was alright. It was the same young man from the previous night. I would like to thank MVS driver Richard Gutierrez for his kindness and caring spirit.





CLUW Women Leadership Conference and NEB Report

By Robin R. Robertson, BS, MBA

Kudos, to St. Louis Gateway District Area Local executive board and members for paying for the registration, lodging, and transportation for me to attend the CLUW Women Leadership Conference. I was sworn in as the co-chair of the Leadership Development Committee and Missouri state CLUW president on Thursday, May 3, at the National Executive Board Meeting. I would like to thank the Coalition Labor Union Women (CLUW) National Executive Officer Board (NEOB) for putting on an awesome Women's Leadership Conference and National Executive Board (NEB) meeting. Special thanks to the CLUW Young Women Workers putting on an awesome rally at the AFL-CIO on Friday, May 4. To our courageous young workers from Portland, Oregon, and Long Beach, Calif., and dynamic NBA/CLUW VP Rachel Walthall for spearheading the leadership for the Young Women Workers. Organizing and spearheading committees is **not** an easy task **but** these women showed dedication and determination to the CLUW/APWU organization. Our fearless CLUW Treasurer/APWU Legislative Director Judy Beard showed us as women anything is possible if you take action and put your heart into the task.

We stayed at the Tommy Douglas Conference Center, the headquarters of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU). This particular center has labor history. The food and hospitality were awesome. The staff and security

were very nice. There was a good attendance at all the classroom sessions. APWU was represented by 12 women at the Women Leadership Conference and NEB. Each session was made up with leadership skills training, understanding your chapter and state constitutions, and how to address issues in a diplomatic order (Robert Rules of Order). Understanding the financials and how to conduct meetings are important processes for leadership women and men. In fact, each facilitator was a union women leader and/or rank and file leader within their organization. In fact, most sessions were packed and knowing the financials was taught by our very own Legislative Director Judy Beard, Wednesday evening 6-8 p.m., yes, we were in class in the evening. Sister Beard emphasized how each class is very informative and that each "welcome pack" consists of the last two NEB meetings and the CLUW National Constitution.

The National Officer Board facilitators had a separate class and informational meeting for sisters who were selected to co-chair standing committees for the National CLUW Convention. I am proud to announce Executive Vice President Sherry McKnight will co-chair "Mature Working Committee," she also holds the position of CLUW VP for the State of Maryland. I, Robin Robertson, the secretary-treasurer of St. Louis Gateway District Area local, will co-chair "Leadership Development." I am the president of Missouri CLUW Chapter. Both committee groups allow us to assist on how we can incorporate each session within our own locals. Several other

APWU women co-chair various committees.

Enforcing the contract has always been our main focus **but** you need leaders (stewards, dedicated union members and officers) to assist building leaders and not breaking down potential leaders. Right now, we have a serious generational gap been the seasoned activists and the upcoming new generation activists. Basically, leadership training is imperative and you may have members who just want to be organizers and/or supporters. Hopefully each member who attended the CLUW Women Leadership Training will bring back the information and incorporate it in their steward training and POWER meetings.

I had the pleasure of networking with seasoned APWU CLUW members and/or former executive board officers who shared their experiences and solidarity among each other and how supportive they were even being 500 miles away from one another. The strategy is sisterhood in solidarity and how you can care for someone without feeling threatened and/or jealous. The most important allies are your brothers and sisters within and outside of APWU because everyone should have the same common goal fighting for the rights of equal pay, voter registration, sexual harassment and discrimination within the workplace. Working together to fight along with the community and against management.


I truly enjoyed the sessions (workshops) and the NEB meeting. On Friday, May 4, sister Beard was awarded the "Outstanding Achiever Award"

from CLUW presented by CLUW VP Rachel Walthall. The award was a surprise. We had the pleasure of having lunch on Friday with President Mark Dimondstein and Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Powell. President Dimondstein asked, "What are you taking back to your local?" President Dimondstein emphasized the importance on making sure the local has a CAT team. Everyone local at the table had a CAT team. I

was advised to get with President Fred Wolfmeyer and put a CAT team together. This will be an exciting project for me, especially since I am in Support Services. We all have to be mindful it does not matter what contract you're under, we are all APWU.

At the end of the day, "It's **all** about the members." Thank you again, St. Louis Gateway District Area Local, for entrusting me within your leader-

ship team as the secretary-treasurer. Thank you National APWU for encouraging me to pay my CLUW dues and attend my local CLUW meetings. To my brothers and sisters, I believe all executive board members should be paying dues to a local affiliation of your choice to help build networking skills because remember the members stay in the different communities within your jurisdiction.



Scholarship Reminder

The E.C. Hallbeck Memorial Scholarship will award a total \$8,000 (\$2,000 annually) to ten recipients (one male and one female, from each of the five APWU regions) to apply towards their four-year college tuition.

Vocation Scholarship winners will receive up to \$3,000 for specialized training in fields such as culinary arts, medical or dental assistant, electrician, real estate, auto mechanic, certified IT/computer education, cosmetology, massage therapy, etc. Eligible programs can be of a nine-month to three-year duration.

The scholarship deadline has been extended to **May 31, 2018**, for APWU to receive completed applications. The scholarships are open only to high school seniors. Applicants may apply for either a Hallbeck or Vocational scholarship, **not both**.



Incidental Leave

By Earl Staats, Clerk Craft Director



Hi everyone, it seems like spring may finally be here. I hope you all get the time to enjoy it. I want to explain incidental leave and how you go about getting it. Incidental leave is leave other than your scheduled vacations. It can be used for anything you want it for. This is important. In our Local Memorandum it states under Item 12 General "All Crafts" A. The issuing of annual leave during other than choice vacation period will be considered for approval on a **first come, first served** basis, based on the needs of the service. This is done in order to do away with **preferential treatment**. Example Billy wants leave to attend a daughter's wedding, Mary wants leave to attend

her son's wedding ... hmm how do you choose? This is why it's on a first come first serve basis.

Now you can write up incidental leave 30 days in advance and the supervisor is supposed to except your leave slip. Management is supposed to notify employees within five working days following the submission. If not so notified, the **leave will be approved**. Do not submit leave slips more than 30 days prior to the leave date, nor less than five working days before the first leave day to have the guarantee provision that it must be approved. Nowhere in the contract, ELM and the Local Memorandum does it state you must furnish "**proof**" before or after you take incidental leave. If proof is requested from a supervisor for incidental leave

you should ask for union representation.

Do not mistake incidental leave with emergency annual leave. When you write up for leave it should be with duplicate 3971s, one for you and one for the supervisor. Be sure the supervisor signs the slips showing that they received them. Supervisors can and most probably will ask for documentation dealing with emergency annual leave. Emergency annual leave is just using your annual leave in an emergency situation. Also one other thing, you don't have to put what you're taking leave for in the remarks section of the 3971, that may be where you would put your time the leave slip was submitted.

COME TO OUR SIDE OF THE FENCE

We started in 1928 as the credit union for postal workers. Today, we've opened our doors to everyone in our surrounding communities, but our roots remain. We can save you money on:

- Checking accounts with online banking, mobile banking, mobile deposit and more¹
- Auto loans with low rates and no payments for 90 days² (even on refinances!)
- Home equity loans with low rates and no closing costs³
- Mortgage loans with competitive rates
- Savings, CDs, money markets and IRAs
- Club accounts for youth, teens and seniors
- And more!

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Where the grass is greener

¹Message and data rates may apply from your wireless carrier. ²Interest will continue to accrue during deferral period. ³If loan is paid off and closed within 24 months from opening of loan, member must reimburse the credit union for fees paid.

Membership eligibility required on all offers. Restrictions apply on all offers. See Neighbors Credit Union for complete details on all offers.

Did You Know that the Postal Service ...

- Contrary to popular belief, the United States Post Office has no official motto. "Neither snow nor rain nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds," appears on a New York post office. This inscription was supplied by William Kendall from the architectural firm that designed that post office. Kendall said the sentence that appears is the works of Herodotus and describes the expedition of the Greeks against the Persians under Cyrus, about 500 B.C. The Persians operated a system of mounted postal couriers, and the sentence describes the fidelity, with which their work was done.
- Handles more than 43 percent of the world's mail. Its nearest competitor is Japan with only 6 percent.
- Depends exclusively on postage and fees rather than tax payer revenue for its operations. The Postal Service gets no tax dollars.
- Serves customers with nearly 40,000 post offices and retail units throughout the country.
- Operates a \$5.5 billion transportation network that included more than 200,000 vehicles and contract space on approximately 15,000 commercial flights daily.
- Serves more than 8 million small business customers.
- Operates the nation's largest alternate fuel delivery fleet with more than 7,000 vehicles powered by natural gas, electricity, and ethanol in 1996.
- The Postal Service is listed by *Fortune Magazine* as 29th on a list of the world's largest companies. Working with an annual budget of nearly 1 percent of the Unites States economy.
- Recycles more than one million tons of materials annually.
- Handles more that 41 million change-of-address cards each year as a free service to the 17 percent of the nation's population that moves each year.
- Serves as the largest credit/debit card acceptor in the nation with nearly 50,000 terminals at 33,000 postal locations throughout the country.
- Experiences an increase of \$1 million in costs when the price of gasoline increases by one cent nationwide.
- Delivers more in one day than FedEx does in a year, and more in three days than UPS does in a year.

Come One! Come All! Family Day is here again!!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018

From 1-5 p.m.

Aerospace Workers Hall

212 Utz Lane, Hazelwood, MO 63042



RSVP by JULY 6, 2017



APWU ANNUAL FAMILY DAY

Name _____ Tour _____

Number of guests _____ Pay Location/Section _____

There is a limit of six (6) guests per member.



Cut out and return to: Fred Wolfmeyer, 1705 S. Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63104

White House Budget for 2019 Continues Attacks on Postal and Federal Workers

The White House introduced its proposed Fiscal Year 2019 budget to Congress last week. This non-binding proposal begins an annual, month long government funding process and also showcases the Administration's funding priorities, setting the tone for budget negotiations.

For postal and federal workers, this budget is largely a reintroduction of last year's failed attacks on our pay and benefits, but takes them even further. It:

- Increases employee FERS contributions 1 percent a year for each of the next 6 years;
- Eliminates FERS Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), and reduces CSRS COLAs by 0.5 percent;
- Eliminates the special supplement;
- Reduces retirement benefits by using a "high five" salary average formula, rather than the current "high three" average;
- Lowers the G-fund interest rate to provide worse returns on Thrift Saving Plan investments;
- Increases the share postal and federal workers pay for care under the FEHBP;
- Slashes Postal Service personnel costs and reduces mail service to the American people to achieve \$44 billion dollars in postal-specific savings;
- Decrease FECA compensation for injured workers and institute a new waiting period before they can receive benefits;
- Cuts \$237 billion from Medicare.

Each of these proposals would be severe cuts to dedicated postal employees, both active and retired.

"We've been down this road before and once again we cannot allow the budget to be balanced on the backs of working people," said President Mark Dimondstein.

As justification for attacking our paychecks and retirement security, the White House cites the need to reduce the federal deficit, however, the White House and its allies seemed unconcerned with the deficit when they passed a \$1.5 trillion bill to finance tax cuts for the wealthy elite.

"Just as we feared when we fought against the disastrous tax proposal, the White House is coming after our hard-earned pay and benefits to 'fix' the deficit they are growing," said Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard.

Many of the Administration's disastrous proposals were incorporated into last year's House budget, as part of a \$32 billion dollar cut targeted at federal and postal worker pay and benefits. Postal workers, active and retired alike, rallied last year against the budget attacks and stood arm-in-arm with our sisters and brothers in the Federal-Post Coalition to defend our livelihood. We flooded Congress with tens of thousands of calls on our coordinated Day of Action against the budget, and thanks to our activism, we were victorious. Congress ultimately abandoned the House budget and instead adopted the Senate budget which excluded these terrible provisions.

As this year's budget process begins anew, we will bring that same vigilance and action to succeed.

Reprinted APWU Web News Article #1-2018





POWER:



The APWU Women’s Committee St. Louis Gateway District Area Local

What is POWER?

APWU POWER (Post Office Women for Equal Rights), the women’s committee within the APWU, was founded in St. Louis, Missouri on April 28, 1979, and incorporated into APWU’s National Constitution in Detroit, Michigan in August 1980. St. Louis Gateway District Area Local POWER Committee consists of: chairperson, co-chair, secretary/treasurer, and community event planner.

What is NECESSARY for St. Louis Gateway?

St. Louis Gateway women providing knowledge and skills needed to level the playing field for legislative and community outreach playing field. St. Louis Gateway POWER women will be responsible becoming more actively within the community, outreach, and COPA (the union’s political action fund).

Community Involvement includes:

- “Adopting” postal union families left homeless due to natural disasters
- Making yearly monetary contributions to domestic violence agencies;
- Donating books, clothing, toiletries, etc to schools, homeless shelters, and senior citizens’ home:
- Donate to “Sisters Helping Sisters Fund” which was established in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina to help women and children who were left homeless due to disaster.
- Making bi-yearly monetary contributions to UNCF (United Negro College Fund).
-

Congratulations to our Leadership of POWER 2018!

Chairperson	Mia Smith
Co-Chairperson	Wendy Scales-Smith
Treasurer	Robbin Nichols
Community Event	Sheila Patton-Harris

“A Woman’s Place is in her union!”

“Let’s start giving back to the community.”



Where's My MONEY CORNER

Support Services



According to the APWU website Support Services will be entitled to their FIRST COLA increase for 2018. You can always find updated pay information at <http://www.apwu.org/issues/pay>.

In March, the final month of the six-month adjustment period for their COLA under the 2017 IT/AS Agreement, the CPI-W unadjusted index (1967=100) rose to 725.202. The third COLA will be:

Per Annum	\$395.00
Per Pay Period	\$15.20
Cents Per Hour	\$.19

The COLA will be effective April 28, 2018, (pay period 10-2018, pay date May 18, 2018).



Legislative Issues

By Robin Robertson

Missouri Legislative Priorities



SUPPORT

Fight for **\$15 minimum wage increase in Missouri**. Advocates for increasing the minimum plan to organize and support the political candidates in Missouri who are willing to increase the state's minimum wage of \$7.85 an hour. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour and has remained that since 2009.

The Clean Missouri Initiative. The Missouri Constitution to be amended to:

- Change process and criteria for redrawing state legislative districts during reappointment;
- Change limits on campaign contributions that candidates for state legislative can accept from individuals or entities;
- Establish a limit on gifts that state legislators and their employees, can accept from paid lobbyists;
- Prohibit state legislators, and their employees, from serving as paid lobbyists for a period of time;
- Prohibit political fundraising by candidates for, or members of, the state legislature on state property;
- Require legislative records and proceedings to be open to the public.

OPPOSED

Missouri Proposition A, Right to Work Referendum (2018). Will uphold the contested legislation, Senate bill 19, which would enact a right-to-work law to mandate that no person can be required to join a labor union or pay dues to a labor union as a condition of employment. We

need family and friends to registrar to vote **now!** Defeating this proposition will overturn the legislation decision. We are working people and **voting** gives all of us a choice to **voice** our opinion by **voting!** Where's your voice?

- **Proposition A is wrong for Missouri.** It is an unnecessary, unfair government overreach into the workplace that distracts from the real issues like creating jobs and improving schools.
- **Real freedom in the workplace is about being able to balance life and work,** attend a parent-teacher conference, take a loved one to the doctor, and have time for what matters in life without feeling like you're falling behind at work.

The only way we can excel on these different legislative issues is by educating one another and registering our family and friends to vote. As members we have a habit of gossiping half true issues whether it's work and/or personal related. Let's **defeat this right to work by opposing Proposition A.**

This will affect our **community!** We as members are at the ground level. We need to assist and support the different affiliates with gathering voter registration forms and canvassing different neighborhoods. The affiliates include: A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI), Coalition Black Trade Union (CBTU), MO AFL-CIO, St. Louis Labor Council, and Jobs with Justice (JWJ).

One thing that each of us **must** do ... **vote.**



St. Louis Gateway APWU
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Press On

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Shelia Patton-Harris ... Editor
 PROUD MEMBER
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Union Office

1705 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104
(314) 231-7665

FAX: (314) 231-5709
 After Hours (314) 330-9641

Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Saturday: 8 a.m. - noon

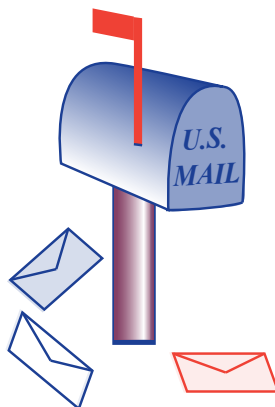
Steward Booths, Downtown

Clerk ... 314-436-5331
 Maintenance ... 314-436-4668
 MVS ... 314-436-5027

GATEWAY LOCAL CALENDAR

May 2	(Wednesday)	Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)
May 6	(Sunday)	General Membership Meeting (3 p.m.)
May 7	(Monday)	Stewards' Training (9 a.m. & 6 p.m.)
May 28	(Monday)	Memorial Day Holiday
June 6	(Wednesday)	Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)
June 9	(Saturday)	General Membership Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
June 11	(Monday)	Stewards' Training (9 a.m. & 6 p.m.)
July 4	(Wednesday)	Independence Day Holiday
July 11	(Wednesday)	Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)
July 16	(Monday)	Stewards' Training (9 a.m. & 6 p.m.)

There will be no General Membership Meetings
 in the months of July and August.
 The Union Hall will be closed on holidays.



Moving?
*Send us your new address
 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.