

# Press On

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

Volume 96 Issue 6

28

November/December 2018



# The Gift of Brotherhood

*By Frederick Wolfmeyer, President*

Just recently a good friend of mine died. This man was more than a good friend, he was a good man and a union man. His name was Frank and he was a Teamster for over 64 years and I worked with him at Ryder Truck Lines for 13 years. When I was first hired there as a city freight driver, Frank taught me many things to make my job easier. He didn't teach me how to skip corners or how to milk the clock, but how to do difficult things easier and safer. It was an honor to call him my friend and an even greater honor to have him call me his friend. Frank was 'old school' and his work ethic was beyond reproach. He loved his job; he loved his family; he loved his wife of 65 years; and he loved his union. It saddened me to see God call him home, but I know that if there is organizing to do in heaven, Frank is the one to do it. Our heavenly Father better be prepared for some tough negotiations.

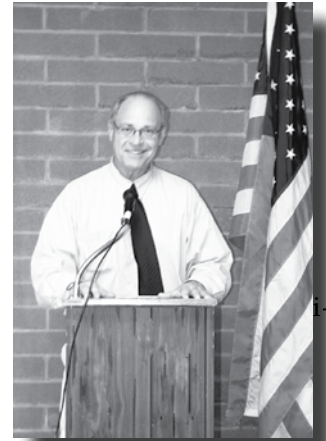
The important point here, however, is how proud Frank was to be union, how much he loved his union. Unions are definitely not perfect and the officers and stewards certainly are not perfect, but we try to do a difficult job the best way we can. And because of this effort that most union people exert, we become better men and women. Some of us phone bank; some of us canvass during elections; most of us police the contract and represent our members to the best of our ability. Yes, we make mistakes, but for most, it's not for the lack of trying. We work hard to earn respect and even harder to safeguard that respect because that is our reward — our reputation, our refusal to do anything unethical. And because of all this, we become a family. We are not family with just our APWU sisters and brothers, but family with the whole labor community. Someone needs help, we go and help. Someone needs people to walk a picket-line, we go and walk that line. Right to work needs to be defeated, we are there to get petitions signed and sisters and brother out to vote. We develop a camaraderie or even better, an unbreakable bond. We represent our own members, but we care about all members regardless of the union to which they belong. Sisters, brothers, family — these are the words that describe union people.

I believe that is why we prevail and strive ever so much harder than those in management. We have purpose and ideals and we strive to do the right thing. Do we fail? Of course we do because we are human and we are not schooled attorneys. But where is the camaraderie in management? Most people on the other side tout the company line and follow their orders like good soldiers or another term that could be used here is sheep. They get orders that all employees must become engaged and even though they know their own side is not engaged, they shout it out like it is some new-fangled idea that they just created. C'mon, union people have been engaged from the beginning of the labor movement and know more about it than management will ever know. Management people do not call each other sister or brother and certainly do not refer to themselves as family. Their ultimate goal is to get something for themselves. This is not something that is done for others, but for self or company which then, hopefully, results in something for self. No sisters, no brothers, no family, no camaraderie, only self.

I was at a management person's funeral recently and it was noticeably more detached than the union funeral I recently attended. People wondered who would get that person's position at the post office. Some said it was so sad because they really didn't know the deceased that well even after working with them for 30 years. Others came and left in less than five minutes. This was sad. There was no community, no sisters or brothers, no family, only an attitude of get in and get out.

My friend Frank had family and friends, union officers and stewards attend his memorial service, and they lingered for a long time. Many got up and told a story about Frank and reminisced about his good character and how he helped others who were in need without thinking about himself. What a difference. To those of you who are non-members, I feel sorry for you even though you get all the negotiated benefits of the union. But what you don't get is the un-negotiated benefit of a real family. To those who are members, remember we stewards and officers make mistakes and we get cranky and we fight just like relatives, but we represent you, and do so to the best of our ability. We are union. We are sisters and brothers, we are family, and that is what holds us together and makes us great.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



# Executive Vice President

By Gene Hollenbeck



First, I would like to thank all those who have served and those family members who are serving now. Our veterans and those who are serving now make this country great. All gave some ... some gave all. To those who gave all and their families, thank you for your sacrifice.

We are now in the holiday season. Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and then Christmas and New Year. I hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season.

Vacation selections should have began by the time the Press On reaches your doorstep. We have asked for a vacation meeting to set the ground rules for vacation selections. As of now we have not received a response to our request.

Management wants the employees to be engaged. Maybe if the employees were treated like they were a vital part of the operations rather than just a tool to use and throw away, they would be more engaged. Maybe if there were two employees to a machine as required, they would be more engaged.

I will give you some advice, if a supervisor gives you an instruction, follow it and then file your grievance. Article 3 of the CBA gives management the right to manage.

It also gives them the right to mismanage. Even if you feel the instruction is ridiculous, you still have to follow that instruction unless it will cause harm to you or others.

Management is reverting positions as soon as they become vacant. So, if you think you are going to get help from them, you are so wrong. We are grieving all reversions and have already won some of them with bid postings.

The penalty overtime exclusion period this year is December 1 to December 28, 2018.

Once again, thank you to all of our veterans and to your family members who are serving now.

Happy Thanksgiving, merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

## 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 more<sup>1</sup>
- Auto loans with low rates and no payments for 90 days<sup>2</sup> (even on refinances!)
- Home equity loans with low rates and no closing costs<sup>3</sup>
- Mortgage loans with competitive rates
- Savings, CDs, money markets and IRAs
- Club accounts for youth, teens and seniors
- And more!

Start saving money and open your accounts and loans online today!



Federally Insured By NCUA



314-892-5400

NeighborsCU.org

Downtown • Fenton • Florissant • Hazelwood  
Jennings • South County • St. Peters



<sup>1</sup>Message and data rates may apply from your wireless carrier. <sup>2</sup>Interest will continue to accrue during deferral period. <sup>3</sup>If 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.

## Director of Industrial Relations

By Paul Reid



**G**reeting brothers and sisters of the St. Louis Gateway District Area Local. I want to wish everyone a safe and pleasant holiday. This year of 2018 has had its ups and downs, highs and lows, and several accomplishments in all the crafts. This information has been presented by local, state, and national officers. To receive this information, you must attend general membership meetings and/or craft meetings conducted by your respective craft directors. Information you receive from a non-union officer, non-steward, or

the “swing room lawyer,” you take at your own risk. Ask them which of the last conventions, conferences, arbitrations, Step 1 or Step 2 meetings they attended. No matter the answer, walk away pleasantly and get the information from a current steward or officer.

We as a union have to do better at attending meetings and demonstrations promoting the betterment of our lives and employment. Management notices the lack of attendance for rallies, demonstrations and other events planned by the union. We can

do better. If you have suggestions of how we can improve attendance and participation, show up at a general membership meeting and share the wealth. Knowledge is power and accomplishing a united front is the purpose of a union, in my opinion.

I thank everyone who has attended a meeting. I hope to see many more of you in the coming year.

Yours in union solidarity.



## Director of Research and Education

By Dave Childers



**H**ello sisters and brothers. I want to thank President Wolfmeyer and the Executive Board for appointing me as research and education director. We have three members currently going through steward training and they will be completing their studies shortly. A new class will start after the holidays.

A few items to always remember:

1. The union must file a Step 1 grievance within 14 days of an issue (i.e.: discipline or contractual dispute). Please let your steward or the Union Hall know immediately so a timely grievance can be filed.
2. When reporting a safety hazard of any kind, please fill out a 1767 Hazard Complaint form and give it to your supervisor or steward if you wish to remain

anonymous. Either way you should make a photocopy of the completed complaint prior to submitting it. Management has the obligation to answer the 1767 complaint by the end of your tour. If your submitted it late in your tour, they must answer by the end of the next day. If you don't get a response within the required timeframe, report this to the Union Hall so President Wolfmeyer and I can address it with senior management.

Please remember to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detector.

And have a safe and happy holiday season.

Thank you.



I would like to wish each and every one a happy and healthy holiday season. This time of year we are all faced with stresses and challenges that can wreak havoc on our health. We must be gentle with ourselves and others. Taking all of our prescribed medications as directed goes a long way in ensuring we will have a great holiday season.

Stress can be overwhelming during the holiday season. If things get out of hand or if you just need to talk to someone, remember you have EAP. The phone number for EAP is 1-800-EAP4YOU or 314-345-2970. This is a benefit that may prove to be invaluable at any time, but especially during the holidays.

Recently, one of our co-workers suffered cardiac arrest while at work. Unfortunately he did not survive. It is important that everyone learn CPR. You may never have to use it, but in the case of an emergency you will be prepared. Do you know what steps to take if your husband, daughter, son, grandbaby or any loved one were to go into cardiac arrest? In Indiana, a postal employee went into cardiac arrest at work, but is alive today due to the quick action of two of his co-workers and a complete stranger. They performed CPR until help arrived. We have, in the shop steward booth, an automatic defibrillator, to be used if an employee or customer were to go into sudden cardiac arrest. This device has saved lives on numerous occasions.

Contract negotiations have been extended until Decem-

ber 7. The present contract expired on September 20, 2018, but we continued to work under the provisions laid out in the old contract. The APWU represents more than 192,000 employees who work as clerks, mechanics, vehicle drivers, custodians and some administrative positions. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

There is always strength in numbers. Google, which is not a union shop, had a walk out that affected offices all over the globe. Because they don't have a union, those who walked out risked losing their jobs. They felt so strongly about the issues that they banded together and made Google sit up and take note. If only a hundred employees in one office had walked out, Google would have probably paid little or no attention to their concerns. But when thousands of workers across the world took action, not only did the CEO make comment, it became a global news event.

We have a strong union but we sometimes forget the power of numbers. This local has got to come together to effect change. Participate in the local. Show up and show out when called upon. Come to union meetings. Vote in local union elections. Voice your opinion about matters of concern for you. This is your local and you have responsibility to engage in its activities. Don't complain to your co-workers and put the union down. If you don't like something about the union, become part of the solution. Work from within the organization to make it better.



## MVS Town Talk

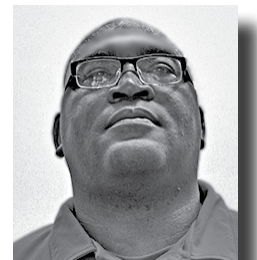
By Jeff Cooper, MVS Director

Greetings and salutations to my union brothers and sisters. I would like to wish you and your family a joyous and happy holiday season. May the new year bring health and wealth to one and all.

Another year has come to a close and the craft is still battling similar issues as the previous year. Throughout the year the opportunity arises to convert part time flexible employees to regular

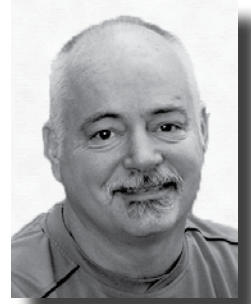
employees. The Collective Bargaining Agreement clearly defines the way these conversions need to be executed, but in the end the union still has to file a grievance to ensure that action is adjudicated properly. Drivers regularly approach their immediate supervisor to explain that they have monetary issues with their pay. Rather than rectify the pay situation, the employee ends up filing a grievance just to get paid.

The union is here for discipline or contract issues. You are aware of the issues that affect you. The union has an internet cite <http://stlouisapwu.org> where you can explore a wealth of information at your disposal. In closing, make sure you are aware of your Weingarten Rights, stay safe and be courteous and careful.



# Maintenance Craft Update

By Tom Nanna, Craft Director



**M**aintenance craft vacation picks are here. Maintenance can pick vacation selections for the entire year, even in December.

Maintenance craft sections are defined by:

**(1) Occupational group, by tour, main post office, and the following sections:**

- (a) BEM,
- (b) PEM,
- (c) PEM shop,
- (d) Building services,
- (e) MOS,
- (f) Area maintenance
- (g) Annex

**(2) Occupational group,**

- (a) Station and Branches
- (b) Station relief

**Maintenance;**

**(1) Vacation choices will be granted by sections according to the formula:**

**In each occupational group up to one (1) out of six (6) or fraction of six (6) employees on each tour will be granted leave during each week of the vacation period.**

**Employees who know in advance that they may be absent during the vacation selection period shall leave a list of selections for vacation periods in order of preference with their immediate supervisor.**

**Sample form:**

**Vacation Request Sheet 2019**

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2018/2019

**Please return this sheet with your first round selections to your supervisor no later than Dec. 5, 2018.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, because of possible or planned absence from work during the vacation selection period, am submitting these vacation choices. I have listed my selections in order of preference and understand that I will receive my selections based on SENIORITY and AVAILABILITY.

**The Union Official at can reach me at:**  
 (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ or (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_,  
 between the hours of \_\_\_\_\_ AM / PM and \_\_\_\_\_ AM / PM  
 I am non-scheduled: Sat / Sun / Mon / Tue / Wed / Thu / Fri (please circle)

**TOUR:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SECTION:** BEM / Building Services / MOS /  
 PEM (ET, MPE, & MMS) / PEM Equipment Shop (please circle)

**PAY LEVEL** \_\_\_\_\_ **JOB TITLE** \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST CHOICE**, in order of preference

(If you have any questions about this form, ask to see your shop steward immediately)

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_

# 2018 National Convention, Pittsburgh

By Robin Robertson



First and foremost, I want to thank St. Louis Gateway District Area Local for entrusting me as an elected delegate to attend the 24<sup>th</sup> Biennial National APWU Convention in Pittsburgh from August 17-24. The delegates flew in on Friday, to be in attendance of their official craft conferences on Saturday and Sunday. I attended the maintenance craft and support services breakout. They gave us flash drives for all the information needed for all four crafts. Our support services craft conference was very intense. Our craft was working on a previous resolution (salary increase for director) that did not go so well at previous conventions. There was a lot of discussion going back and forth regarding upcoming issues and challenges for our next contract. The hot topics focused on pay level increases throughout all three centers, divided equally, and do not always focus around Eagan and IT programmers.

Monday was the first day of the convention. We had some dynamic speakers throughout the week! The convention committee did an awesome job on the diversity of the speakers. I learned that as leaders we need to make sure we are voting for labor friendly leaders whether they be Democrat or Republican. Labor friendly leaders would help address our issues at the local, state, and federal levels. We need to focus on what's best for the Postal Service. This is our financial avenue. On day two of the convention, there was a rally that poured into the streets. One thing I've learned in the last eight years is organizing and rallying makes us powerful. No one person can do the job, but collectively we can do all things. We are powerful in numbers, mentally and physically!

In December 2017, the local passed a motion to donate \$500 to the state locals of Florida and Texas; Area locals of Puerto Rico, Virgins Island, and Long Beach, California that were affected by the hurricanes and fires. We received letters and thank you cards from each local and state officer. On day three of convention we were presented with an award from Virgin Islands Local 6176. I accepted the award in the absence of President Wolfmeyer. We should consider donating to Postal Employee Relief Fund (PERF) #10268 during the 2018 CFC campaign season. As a local our goal is to assist the members and supporting our brothers and sisters in a time of need.

Support services had a major win in the con-

stitution change of the increase in salary for the support services director for the 2019 elections. Three sleepless nights paid off. As a team we worked collectively. Constitution changes are hard to defeat and I am truly grateful for the 24<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Convention delegates who supported this resolution with no opposition. For example, we got constitution readings and changes coming up and if we don't have a quorum, we **cannot** conduct business. It's imperative to attend the general membership meetings in May, June, Nov., and Dec. of each calendar year. Better yet, attend all the meetings as your voice needs to be heard.

Please understand according to the Constitution and By-laws of the St. Louis Gateway District Area Local, **any** member can qualify to attend the State and National APWU Conventions. The meeting requirement mandates that the member must attend six general memberships meetings the prior year of the convention. Your craft peers will have an opportunity to select you to represent them if you meet that qualification. St. Louis Gateway District Area Local can send up to 25 delegates to represent the local. The local only sent 12 delegates to the National Convention in Pittsburgh, Penn. Two delegates paid their own way to attend the convention. The clerks are guaranteed up to six delegates, the AO craft can have one delegate, and the other three crafts can have up to two delegates. Thank you again for the opportunity to represent St. Louis Gateway District Area Local.



# Associate Office Report

By *Rebecca Livingston*

I would like to start by wishing everyone a very safe and happy holiday season. By now you are already seeing an increase in mail volume, but unfortunately most of the offices are still understaffed. This is due to reversions and management taking months to post bids that have been vacated due to retirements and transfers. Please remember that you were hired to fill one position, not two or three. Management standing behind you stating you aren't working fast enough and they could work circles around you, because in some offices they are, is harassment. If this is happening, please request a steward. The contract hasn't changed folks. Article 34.A of the Collective Bargaining Agreement states: The principle of a fair day's work for a fair day's pay is recognized by all parties to this Agreement. With that said, please remember that the only work you are responsible for is dictated by past practice, what you have done repeatedly for years and your last instruction, but all of those duties can only be performed as time allows. The idea that management would issue discipline to a clerk because there were only two window clerks for the whole day in a Level 22 post office, one of which is the only clerk in the office that processes BMEU, BRM and passports, is unacceptable. I would agree that retail and customer service should be the top priority, but I also believe that issuing discipline to someone because there were not enough hours in the day or clerks available to perform all other duties that only you are qualified to perform is definitely **punitive rather**

**than corrective in nature!**

Over the last several months I have been addressing issues regarding employees' own serious health conditions and reasonable accommodation requests. The Postal Service has a Reasonable Accommodations Committee that addresses these issues. Please remember that you can ask a steward to attend these meetings. Management has six people present and of course they really want you alone and would prefer I not attend. Please request a steward when they arrange the meeting time and place. I recently filed a grievance for a Lead-7 because I believe her due process rights were violated. After 12 years of being given reasonable accommodations of intermittently sitting on a stool at the retail counter, the stool was taken away with no fair warning. A request for updated medical restrictions was issued one day, giving the clerk 10 days to provide the information, and the very next day the stool was taken away, not giving the clerk time to provide the requested documentation. After all these years management is now telling me that they will only have two hours of work a day available for this Lead-7 clerk. Believe me, this is getting serious folks. This is just one of the examples of how management is creating their own "emergencies." Here we are going into the holiday season, it's a Level 22 post office, and the Lead-7 is at home perfectly capable of servicing customers and performing her duties with the intermittent use of a stool and management would rather she sit at home. This affects the whole office not just the life of the clerk. I have filed multiple grievances on her behalf but we all know the process can take a while.



I have heard from several clerks regarding the pay issues that affected over 90,000 people from all over the country. The union's position is that if you were shorted your overtime and can wait until the adjustment shows up on your check, please consider that option. In the past when there have been pay issues and clerks took the option of the pay advance on the hours that they were short, they have never felt like it was processed correctly and the advance will initiate a letter of demand. Please know that management is required to do an advance in the form of a money order if you were shorted more than eight hours on your check and would prefer not to wait. This would apply any time your check is not processed correctly. The union was given a copy of a mandatory stand-up talk regarding this payroll error that was issued to them on October 31, 2018. If you could, I would appreciate a call if your office was actually given the stand-up talk, either on October 31, 2018, or November 1, 2018. Please also know that now more than ever all employees should keep their own records as to how many hours were worked each week, to include overtime, night differential and Sunday premium pay if that applies. If for some reason you feel that all overtime was not given to you in the payroll adjustment, please call me and we will pull clock rings and make sure you were compensated for all hours worked.

I have been hearing that a lot of folks are seriously considering retirement or are close to retirement. Please let the union know when that big day



is nearing so we can celebrate with you. If I don't get to see you before you retire, please know that we appreciate your membership and continued support of the union. It takes all of us to address the issues and support each other through this journey called working at the Postal Service.

In closing, the Associate Office meeting will be held in December. I will be sending information to every office with details, but please plan to attend. There will be information regarding contract negotiations, which have been extended, and refreshments provided. If you haven't attended any

of these meetings we try to make it fun and you get to share your workplace concerns with union officers and clerks from other offices who are going through the same things. Who knows, you may make some new friends along the way. I hope to see you there.



## Support Services

By Director Orlando Anderson



**G**reetings sisters and brothers. As we approach the holiday season, I'd like to wish each of you and your families the very best of time and a prosperous new year.

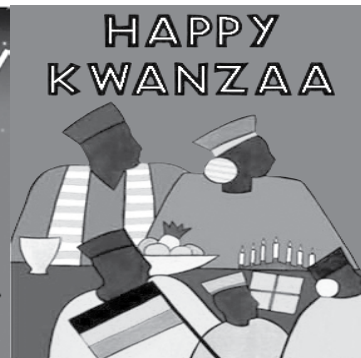
From August 17, 2018, through August 24, 2018, I attended the APWU National Convention in Pittsburgh, Penn. It was truly a great experience for me as I was fortunate to attend the National Presidents Conference (NPC) on behalf of President Fred Wolfmeyer. During the NPC, I gathered information on Regional Instruction 399 (RI3 99), where an inventory is required to distinguish clerk vs. mail handler work. Later in the week there was a Q & A specifically for RI 399 and I was able to ask questions, gather necessary documents and bring back to President Wolfmeyer.

Also, while at the National Convention, support services was successful in increasing the national support service director's salary to equal that of all other national craft directors. You may remember in an article I wrote in 2016, shortly after the National Convention, that we were successful in obtaining a support service national business agent, NBA. The NBA is primary responsible for grievance processing at the Step 3 level, as well as advocating arbitration cases. During that time, our national director was salaried at the NBA rate making the two positions equal in salary. This was the only craft where this existed. This year's convention was another success for support services in that, now the national director is compensated equally with the other craft directors for the work performed.

On October 17, 2018, I was invited to join President Wolfmeyer at the Priority Annex in Hazelwood, Mo., as the inventory RI 399 was conducted. This too, provided me with a tremendous experience and I thank Fred for allowing me the opportunity to participate. I was also able to draw on my previous experiences as a mail handler and as a clerk, to comment on the inventory, take notes, and give Fred feedback.

I would like to finally thank everyone who wears their union gear on Thursdays to support the national APWU contract team. Please continue to wear your gear on every Thursday as we will begin the support service contract negotiations on or around November 26, 2018. This contract will expire on January 20, 2019. I will keep everyone posted on the developments as they arise. As the year nears to its end, I again want to wish each and everyone a happy and safe holiday season and the best the new year has to offer. Happy holidays and as always,

In solidarity



# News Flash!

## Trump Plans to Privatize the Postal Service

**N**ow that I have your attention ... The president has not come forward with any decision on his plan to privatize the Postal Service. On August 30, Trump announced he was keeping secret the report of the postal task force until after the November elections. He is afraid of voter backlash if word got out about his plans to restructure the Postal Service.

The task force met with the Postal Service, unions and large mailers. They reviewed the financials, but haven't revealed any of the details of the proposed changes. The president may ask the task force to submit both administrative recommendations for the Postal Service.

The report was originally scheduled to be released on August 10 so that the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee could hold hearings.

The original instructions to the task force were to determine what changes were needed to make the Postal Service profitable and then to privatize it!

I know you are thinking he can't do that. Well, he is trying to change the Constitution on birthright citizenship, what makes you think he would not go after the Postal Service.

The Postal Service has billions of dollars of prime real estate that can be sold off for huge profits. The service could be divided up and the profitable areas sold off.

## Postal Service Employees Served as 'eyes and ears' of Law Enforcement

**P**ostal employees became the eyes and ears of law enforcement during the recent bomb scare. A postal employee alerted law enforcement to one of the suspicious packages.

FBI Director Chris Wray said his agency identified the suspect, Florida resident Cesar Sayoc, though a fingerprint found on the envelope containing a mail bomb mailed to representative Maxine Waters and a possible DNA connection on samples found on two additional packages containing explosives. Sayoc was charged with federal crimes, including interstate transportation of an illegal explosive, illegal mailing of explosives, threats against former presidents and certain other persons, threatening interstate communications, and assaulting current and former federal officers. If convicted on all counts, he is facing up to 48 years in prison.

Packages containing explosives were addressed to former President Barrack Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, actor Robert DeNiro, billionaire philanthropist George Soros, and former Vice President Joe Biden. Explosives were also addressed to former Director of National Intelligence Director James Clapper and former CIA John Brennan by way of CNN's New York headquarters. A package containing yet another bomb was addressed to former Attorney General Eric Holder, but was returned to sender, which was listed as Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

Each package arrived in a padded manila envelope with six American flag stamps and contained a PVC pipe, a clock, a battery, wires and what the FBI called 'energetic material' that could have exploded through heat, shock or friction.

Despite Friday's arrest, additional packages may still be in the mail stream. Postal inspectors and all postal employees must remain vigilant to ensure the safety of the mail, postal employees and our customers.

Postmaster Brennan issued the following statement, "Over the past week the men and women of the United States Postal Service and the Postal Inspection Service responded quickly and effectively to the threat of suspicious packages in the mail stream. We work closely with local and federal law enforcement to protect our employees, customers and the American public, and to speed the investigation and apprehension of the alleged perpetrator. We are especially pleased that there have been no injuries. This is a testament to the hard work of our postal employees who were vigilant and aided in these investigations."

## POWER Sisters are at it again

The members of POWER are keeping busy. They walked in the Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk. Here they are in their black and pink outfits. They held a trivia night that was pretty successful. They are holding a cap and gloves drive. The 2018 POWER conference was sold out. Sisters are doing it for themselves.



## New Clerk Craft Director

Wendy Smith-Scales, a long-time steward, was recently appointed as the interim director of the clerk craft due to the resignation of Director Earl Staats. Wendy stated. "I would like to wish each and every member happy holidays and a prosperous new year. I am looking forward to serving the membership to the best of my ability in the coming year".

## Hurt on the job? Having problems with OWCP/EEO? Help is on the way.

Paul Reid, our director of industrial relations, will be meeting with employees hurt on the job or needing help with EEOC on Thursdays. If you have questions or problems, please call the Union Hall at 314-231-7665 or 574-7184 to set up an appointment.

## Nominations for Delegates to the Missouri State Convention

Will held at the February  
General Membership Meeting  
on February 9, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

at 1717 S. Broadway  
(Lift for Life Academy School)

Convention will be held  
in Cape Girardeau June 6-9, 2019

Used desk and file cabinets for sale  
Cash or Postal money order  
Must pick up at time of sale  
Call the Union Hall at 314-231-7665

# Goodbye Tension, Hello Pension!

**Ronald Simmons**  
retired from Gaffney by way of Olivette  
with 41 years and 11 months

**Sheryl Grace**  
Retired from North County by way  
of Veto Reid with 32 years

**Vivian Johnson**  
Retired from Wheeler with 32 years

**Gwen Holmes**  
Retired from Gaffney with 33 years of service



**Angie Jackson**  
Retired from Ferguson with 33 years

**Stephen Hunter**  
Retired from Coyle



### Teddie Days

Missouri state president, retired from his state office at the fall conference. Mr. Days is a long-time member of this local, even serving as president at one time. He served also as the national director of motor vehicle. We wish Teddie much health and happiness in the future.

**Congratulations to all of our retirees.**

**Live long and prosper! Enjoy.**



Brown, Nathalee  
Dorsey, Clarence  
Fuhler, John  
Griffith, Angeliq  
Hill, Erica  
Hill, Trey  
Hitchens, Ivana  
Jackson, Markita  
Jones, Crystal

Maxwell, Sherita  
Morris, Joseph  
Petty, Aaron  
Reed, Eddra  
Reid, Candace  
Robinson, Amanda  
Schroeder, Ryan  
Spencer, Jamy  
Ware, Anna

We Wish to Extend  
Our Condolences to

The Friends and Families of:

- Michelle Oakley**
- Larry Rawson**
- Mary Matthews**
- Dennis Scott**
- Lawrence Joseph**

And the following members  
who lost loved ones:

- Rosie Lockett
- Melani Brown
- Sharon Grace
- Simuel Jefferson
- Angie Jackson and Robert Bailey
- Roosevelt Steward
- Kelly Palmisano
- Antwanette Randle
- Ricky Rob
- Adria Allen
- Sarah Mack
- Nancy Allard



Month of December  
Wrap someone in love by donating  
hats, scarfs, gloves



Join St. Louis Gateway DAL  
Post Office Women of Equal Rights (P.O.W.E.R.)  
in collecting new hats, gloves, scarves, and socks for all ages.

The items will be distributed to those less fortunate at the  
Gateway 180 Homeless Shelter  
at 1000 N. 19th St., St. Louis, Missouri 63106

Show some love! Share some love!

\*\* Donations items can be given to your local steward\*\*

Donate during hours of operation at:  
St. Louis Gateway District Area Local  
Union Hall  
1705 S. Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63104  
314-231-7665

**ARTICLE 6**  
**Officers, Nominations, and Elections**

**Proposed Add Language:**

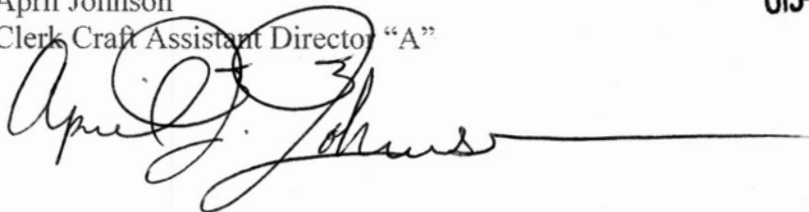
**SECTION 2. Eligibility for Office**

**E. Any APWU member seeking election to the St. Louis Gateway District Area Local of an elected office must be a member in good standing (if eligible) of APWU Health Plan in order to be declared an official candidate. (Effective January 1, 2019).**

**F. The Secretary-Treasurer shall, after certifying the constitutional qualifications of each candidate, published in the July Special Election edition of the official publication (The Press On), the names of the candidates for the St. Louis Gateway District Area Local. The official publication will be published no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> of the election year. The Press On containing the candidates statements of not more than Three Hundred Fifty (350) words, must be mailed to every member in good standing, to the address on record in the files of the St. Louis Gateway District Area Local, at least Twenty-Five (25) days before the election deadline.**

**SECTION 7. Notice of and guidelines for upcoming election nomination will be published on the front page of the Press On in the May/June issue that precedes the issue contain the candidates statements and/or post on bulletin boards at all the stations, branches, and associate offices and general mail facilities the notice of nomination must include; offices to be filled by election, place of nomination, time and date of nomination, form of nomination (letter of intent or orally which to have their names placed on the ballot for a particular office may submit a letter of intent to the Secretary-Treasurer indicating the office for which they wish to run. These letters must be in the possession of the Secretary-Treasurer prior to the opening of nominations at the June meeting of the election year. No ballot cast for other than those nominees whose names appear on the ballot will be valid. All ballots will be counted or any part thereof wherein the wishes of the voting member can be determined. In case of a tie vote, the winner shall be determined by a special election in December. The judges of the election committee shall maintain control of the special election.**

Submitted by:  
 April Johnson  
 Clerk Craft Assistant Director "A"



In the office of  
 the Vice-President  
 American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO

OCT 19 2018

**RECEIVED**

**ARTICLE V  
Funds-Bonds**

**Current language:**

**SECTION 4.**

1. The President is authorized to pay bills for normal operation and all business expenses of the local.
2. The President is authorized to make expenditures necessary for repairs and upkeep of the building.
3. The President is only authorized to make expenditures on the Local's credit card up to the current limit. The limit may not be exceeded or raised without the approval of the Executive Board and the General Membership.
4. The local shall lease an American made vehicle(s) for official Union business. The Executive Board shall establish and approve a vehicle lease/use policy.
5. To keep the local organized the President shall be paid twenty-two (22) cents per member per month.

**Proposed language:**

1. The President **and Executive Board** is authorized to pay bills for normal operation and all business expenses of the local.
2. The President **and Executive Board** is authorized to make expenditures necessary for repairs and upkeep of the building.
3. The President **and Executive Board** is only authorized to make expenditures on the Local's credit card up to **\$1500.00**. The limit may not be exceeded or raised without the approval of the Executive Board and the General Membership.

**Proposed add language:**

**SECTION 4.**

**6. Three cents (.03) per member month shall be paid quarterly to the Missouri Postal Workers Union Auxiliary Treasurer.**

**7. Three cents (.03) per member per month shall be paid quarterly to the National American Postal Workers Auxiliary Treasurer.**



Submitted by:  
Robin "Robbie" Robertson

**RECEIVED**  
OCT 19 2018  
In the office of  
the Vice-President  
American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO

**ARTICLE 8  
Prohibitions**

Current language:

**SECTION 1.**

The General Membership Meeting shall have final authority to override decisions of the Executive Board or of the President in regard to expenditures of the Local. Expenditures of the Local shall be subject to the following in accordance with the above:

- A. It shall be prohibited for any officer or member of the Local to enter into any contract, loan, or promissory note, either written or verbal, involving monies or expenditures of the Local without the prior approval of the Executive Board and the majority of the members present and voting at a General Membership Meeting.
- B. It shall also be prohibited for any officer or member to make a fraudulent report in connection with the items above.

Proposed language:

- C. **It shall also be prohibited for any officer or member to attend an Executive Board meeting, steward training, or general membership meeting inebriated. If the officer or member is presented to be inebriated they would need to excuse themselves from the meeting.**

Submitted by:  
April Johnson  
Clerk Craft "A" Assistant Director

American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO  
the Vice-President  
in the office of

OCT 19 2018

RECEIVED



## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

### ARTICLE IX POWER

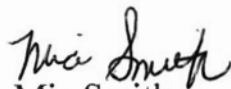
**Current language:**

Membership in the POWER Committee shall be open to all APWU members. The committee shall participate in community activities giving visibility to the Local. The committee shall sponsor a minimum of two (2) programs each year with special emphasis on family issues. The committee shall work in conjunction with other committees especially organization. The committee shall network with other women organizations and work to enhance harmony within the union.

**Proposed added language:**

**When POWER satisfy the two (2) programs each year the following year the local shall transfer \$2000.00 to the St. Louis Gateway District Areal Local POWER Account in January. (Effective date January 1, 2019).**

Submitted by:



Mia Smith

Chairperson, POWER

**RECEIVED**

OCT 19 2018

In the office of  
the Vice-President  
American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS AMENDMENT  
ARTICLE 11  
Succession of Officers and Vacancies**

**Current Language:**

The following order shall be the line of succession of officers of the Local in the event of death or resignation of the President.

- Executive Vice-President
- Secretary-Treasurer

**Proposed Add language:**

**Section 1.**

The following order shall be the line of succession of officers of the Local in the event of death or resignation of the President.

- Executive Vice-President
- Secretary-Treasurer

**Section 2.**

**The following order shall be the line of succession of craft directors of the Local in the event of death, resignation, and/or vacancy of the Craft Director.**

- Assistant Craft Director A
- Assistant Craft Director B (if applicable)

Submitted by: Robbin Nichols  
Steward

**RECEIVED**

OCT 19 2018

In the office of  
the Vice-President  
American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO

**ARTICLE 14  
Officers and Stewards Benefits**

**Current Constitution States:**

**Article 14 Section 3 reads:**

**SECTION 3. STEWARDS**

- A. All Stewards and Officers shall receive a yearly salary equal to the amount of dues paid during the calendar year: they must meet the following requirements:
1. They shall have attended at least seven (7) steward training meetings of the local in the current year.
  2. They shall be paid for the calendar year January to December, if qualified:
  3. They shall be paid in December of each year, before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Proposed Constitution Change:**

**Article 14 Section 3 reads:**

**SECTION 3. STEWARDS**

- A. All Stewards and Officers shall receive a yearly salary equal to the amount of dues paid during the calendar year: they must meet the following requirements:
1. They shall have attended at least **six (6)** steward training meetings **and five (5) general membership meetings** of the local in the current year.
  2. They shall be paid for the calendar year January to December, if qualified:
  3. They shall be paid in December of each year, before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.



Submitted by: Kimberlie Calmese  
Clerk Craft "B" Assistant Director

**RECEIVED**

OCT 19 2018

In the office of  
the Vice-President  
American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO

St. Louis Gateway APWU  
 1705 S. Broadway  
 St. Louis, MO 63104  
 Address Service Requested

PRST STD  
 US Postage  
**PAID**  
 St. Louis, MO  
 Permit No. 860

## Press On

Official publication of the St. Louis Gateway District Area Local of the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO published bimonthly. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor of the local. All articles submitted for publication are subject to editing.

**Shelia Patton-Harris ... Editor**  
 PROUD MEMBER  
 POSTAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

### OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL

**President**.....Fred Wolfmeyer  
**Vice President**.....Gene Hollenbeck  
**Secretary-Treasurer** .....Robin Robertson  
 Dir. of Industrial Relations.....Paul Reid  
 Editor..... Shelia Patton-Harris  
 Dir. of Research & Education....Joe 'Dean' Hathaway  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Robin McCurry

### DIRECTORS

Clerk Craft.....Joe "Earl" Staats  
 Maintenance.....Thomas Nanna  
 Vehicle Service..... Jeff Cooper  
 IT/ASC.....Orlando Anderson  
 Associate Office Director .....Becky Livingston

### Union Office

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

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

### Office Hours

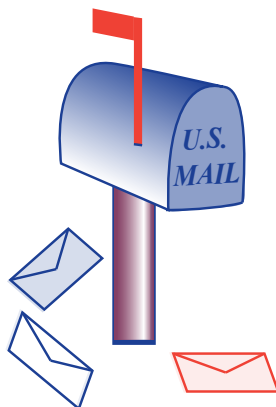
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Saturday: 8 a.m. - noon

Steward Booths, Downtown  
 Clerk ... 314-436-5331  
 Maintenance ... 314-436-4668  
 MVS ... 314-436-5027

## GATEWAY LOCAL CALENDAR

November 2	(Wednesday)	Executive Board Meeting	(2 p.m.)
November 4	(Sunday)	General Membership Meeting	(3 p.m.)
November 5	(Monday)	Stewards' Training	(9 a.m. & 6 p.m.)
<b>November 11</b>	<b>(Sunday)</b>	<b>Veterans Day</b>	
<b>November 12</b>	<b>(Monday)</b>	<b>Veterans Day Observed</b>	
<b>November 22</b>	<b>(Thursday)</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day Holiday</b>	
December 5	(Wednesday)	Executive Board Meeting	(2 p.m.)
December 8	(Saturday)	General Membership Meeting	(9:30 a.m.)
December 10	(Monday)	Stewards' Training	(9 a.m. & 6 p.m.)
<b>December 25</b>	<b>(Tuesday)</b>	<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	

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.