

## A Little Bit of This and a Little Bit of That

*By Frederick Wolfmeyer, President*

**B**rothers and sisters, I have just returned from the June 25, 2015, District Labor Management Meeting held at the NDC and I am very troubled. I am troubled because of management’s placating attitude toward the union that was represented at this meeting and their indifferent attitude in regard to the incident that occurred over the Memorial Day holiday where a supervisor pulled a gun on a group of MVS employees. This was brought up by me as an agenda item for discussion and management stated, “Oh, he (the supervisor) was searched when he arrived at work and he had no gun with him. Everything is alright.”

Everything is alright? Seriously? He came back to work two days later, had obviously been coached on what to do and say, and of course he did not have his gun. Would you have your gun? I know that if I had a gun in my car, and pulled it on some of the employees I supervised, I wouldn’t have it in my car two days later when I returned to work either. The problem here is his violation of the Postal Code of Conduct which covers off duty and off property situations.

### Code of Conduct

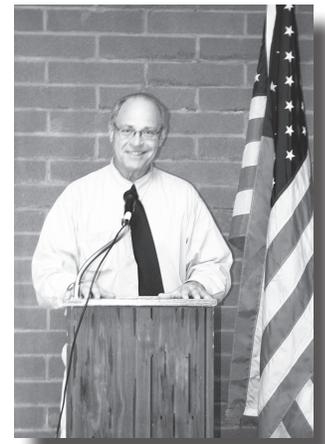
*“The Gateway Cluster is committed to providing a work place that is free of systematic mistreatments, threats, demands or profanity ... Towards that end, employees must:*

*Conduct themselves, during work **and outside of work**, in a manner that reflects favorably upon the U.S. Postal Service.”*

This supervisor was outside of work and punched a driver and pulled a hand gun on the group present at the MVS Bar-B-Que. This doesn’t reflect favorably on the U.S. Postal Service by any stretch of the imagination, but he was

allowed to come back to work and without any discipline — none.

So, now that I have the powers that be on record in the form of minutes from the District Labor Management Meeting stating that all employees will be treated fairly and equally in regard to their zero tolerance policy, we can now draw a comparison to any craft employee who might be a part of some similar situation. Please do not get the idea that I am condoning this type of behavior, but if you or any employee is accused of being involved in an altercation, I think this supervisor and now upper management have given us a “get out of jail” card to use to have the discipline thrown out or at least reduced to a lesser form of discipline.



### PSE Conversion

I am asked at least two questions per day about PSE conversion. This is a topic near and dear to all PSEs and I understand that completely. In April of 2015, 14 PSEs were converted to career and made unassigned regulars. Also in April, the plant manager reported that he was given the authority to convert 60 PSEs to career. Now that 60 would be minus the 14 that were converted on April 18, so now he has the authority to convert an additional 46 PSEs. But, I will tell you that he said he is not sure he needs another 46 PSEs converted to career. One look at the number of hours the PSEs are working will tell you that yes he does. So another grievance will be filed if he does not convert. In the stations and branches, there are 16 residuals so 16 PSEs

will have the opportunity to pref into a station and branch bid very soon.

## CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

The contract negotiations are in mediation right now, but our national officers do not expect there to be any accord reached in that forum. What that means is that the contract will be decided by an arbitrator who can then expand the use of a non-career workforce, create a third tier pay-scale and perhaps strip us of our COLA and/or our 'no layoff' clause. It is always best for the parties to reach an agreement and stay away from interest arbitration because both sides can end up getting something they do not want. The time frame we are looking at for a new contract under these circumstances is about 14 months.

## CONGRATULATIONS

I want to extend congratulations to all the new Missouri State Postal Workers Union officers but particularly those who are from the St. Louis Gateway Local: new Support Services State Director Robbin Nichols, new Maintenance Craft State Director Dean Hathaway, new MVS Craft State Director Paul Reid, and lastly new Clerk Craft Director Becky Livingston. The 2015 MPWU Convention was held June 26-27, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown

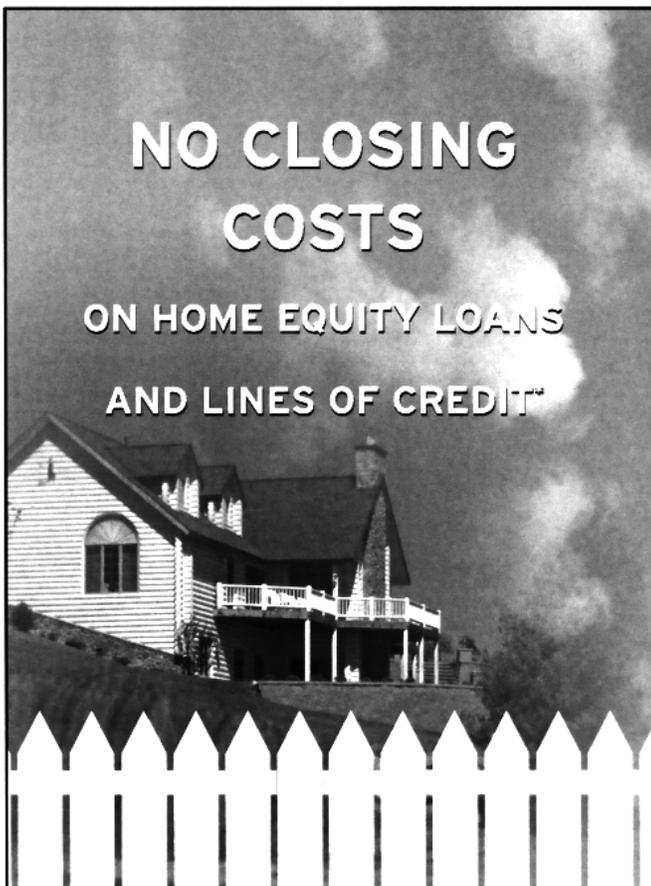
St. Louis. Election of officers was one part of the order of business that was conducted at the convention. One office that you all may not be too familiar with is that of the MPWU NE vice president. Veronica Mays of the support services craft was elected to that position. Congratulations, Veronica. All officers will serve a two-year term as your state APWU representatives.

## ANNUAL UNION PICNIC

I want to take this time to remind everyone that the union picnic will be Sunday, August 30, 2015 at The Aerospace Lodge located at 212 Utz Lane in Hazelwood, Mo. The lodge is just south of the I-270 and Lindbergh intersection behind the Hazelwood Post Office. The picnic will take place rain or shine, heat or cold as there will be an air-conditioned hall for your comfort along with the picnic grounds and pavilion outside. Good food, cold drinks, bingo, games and prizes all for **free** ... yes **free!** Please try to attend and have some good family fun.

## NEXT ISSUE

In the next issue of the *Press On*, I will be writing a series of articles dealing with St. Louis management and the business plan of the U.S. Postal Service. Until next issue, have a happy, and safe summer.



**NO CLOSING COSTS**  
**ON HOME EQUITY LOANS**  
**AND LINES OF CREDIT™**

Make your dreams come true with a Home Equity Fixed Loan or Line of Credit.

Use the equity in your home for home improvements, college tuition, debt consolidation, upcoming expenses... the possibilities are endless!

In addition, you'll enjoy:

- No appraisal or balance transfer fees
- No sudden jumps in monthly payments
- Pre-approval and a fast turnaround time
- Friendly, local service
- And much more!

Don't risk your future with an unfamiliar institution. Turn to your Neighbors today!

**314-892-5400**  
**www.neighborscu.org**

**neighbors**  
CREDIT UNION  
Here you belong.™



\*Membership eligibility required. Restrictions apply. Offer is subject to change. Contact credit union for full details.

# From the Desk of the Vice President

By Gene Hollenbeck



## I'M WORKING ON IT

**W**e are still working with management to get our PSEs converted to career. I have been working on this for over a year now and we still have not gotten all of the conversions that we should. I have been told by management "I'm working on the MHAs," or "I'm working on the CCAs." Well, it's about time that they start working on the PSEs. You know, the ones that actually process the mail, sell the stamps, work the window, you know do the work that brings in the money.

We have shown them the jobs that are available to convert the PSEs into. Management told us that they have been authorized to convert 60 PSEs for the plant and annex. Customer services, (stations/branches) have authorization to convert 18 PSEs. So when will they do our conversions? Who knows? I guess when they get done with the MHAs, CCAs and anybody else that they feel like doing before they get around to the PSEs. **And yet I'm working on it.**

They told us that they have to place the unassigned regulars first. What they didn't say was that they created the unassigned regulars by changing the tours. They also failed to place the first batch of PSEs that they converted in November of 2014 into residuals vacancies. They couldn't figure which jobs were residuals. We even gave them a list of all of the residuals positions. We continue to follow the job postings and when we find new residu-

als, we notify management. But, then again, they are busy with the MHAs, CCAs, whoever. **And yet I'm working on it.**

We will not give up until we get our PSEs converted to the maximum possible. We have a meeting scheduled for June 18, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. We will see what happens. Management in customer service has decided to replace the less-than-40-hour NTFT positions with traditional 40-hour positions. This involves some of the residual positions, which in turn will reduce the number of conversions at the stations and branches. **And yet I'm working on it.**

We also have residuals in the BMEU (Business Mail Entry Unit). We don't have a clear idea on how many residuals we have, because they have been converting PSEs without any notification to the union. We have a problem with this because the first three that were converted were placed in newly created positions that the career employees did not have the opportunity to bid. After we challenged the manager, she allowed those employees to select different positions. Still we were not notified. None of the unassigned FTRS have been allowed to opt for these positions as required by the MOU on filling residual vacancies. They have even allowed transfers from outside of the bid cluster. **And yet I'm working on it.**

Let us not forget our associate offices. We have somewhere around 18 residual vacancies. With

the AOs, we have to deal with each postmaster, and their area manager. This is always an uphill battle.

The biggest problem with all of the residuals is once they become residual after a certain amount of time, they seem to vanish from Web coins. If they aren't in Web coins, they don't exist. We then have to fight to get them put back into Web coins so that they can be filled as residual positions. **And yet I'm working on it.**

## UPDATE

We had our meeting with in-plant and customer service on June 18. They are checking out the residuals that I have been tracking for the last two to three years. We still haven't heard from the BMEU. I guess they aren't under the same contract as the rest of us. They will have to answer before we can place the unassigned FTRS and then PSEs. Once they verify my list of residuals, they should offer them to the unassigned FTRS. Then we should get some of our PSEs converted. **And yet I'm working on it.**

*Yea, Yea  
I'm  
working  
on it.*

## Highlights from the April and May General Membership Meetings

*By Secretary Treasurer Robin Robertson*



**G**reetings to my brothers and sisters. I pray all is well in everyone's household. We **do not** have April and May highlights from the general membership meetings for St. Louis Gateway District Area Local because we **did not** have a quorum. (Not enough members were present at the meetings to hold an official meeting) In the second half of **2015**, **your** voice and participation is **needed**. **#Period**.

# Show Your Union Pride at the Annual LABOR DAY PARADE

**Monday, September 7, 2015**

**Come on out and support your union!**



**Volunteers are needed for the Labor Day parade!**

**We are looking for marshals to represent APWU!**

**We are looking for motorcycle drivers for the parade!!!**

**It's time to rep your union!**

**Free T-shirts will be provided for everyone who attends the parade.**

**Non-attendees can purchase T-shirts for \$12-\$15.**

# What to do if a Postal Employee Dies

You might wish to clip and save this. Hopefully you will not have to use this, but will find it helpful to those who have the need.

1. Notify employee's immediate supervisor.
2. Notify postmaster.
3. Notify personnel section.
4. Contact the following:
  - a. The union
  - b. Veterans' Administration, if a veteran
  - c. Local banks and/or credit unions
  - d. Social Security Administration
  - e. Insurance companies
  - f. Internal Revenue and state Income Tax Departments.
  - g. Safety deposit box
  - h. Change deceased's name on important papers to survivor's name.
5. Notify immediate supervisor of time and place of services for deceased.
6. Have mortuary obtain five copies of death certificate.
7. Turn in locker keys, badge and other postal property to immediate supervisor.
8. Fill out the following papers (available in personnel office).
  - a. SF 2800 — Application for death benefits
  - b. SF 1155 — Claim for unpaid compensation (no designated beneficiary)
  - c. SF 1153 — Claim of designated beneficiary for unpaid compensation.
  - d. Claim for benefits, Federal Employee's Group Life Insurance
  - e. Check with personnel section for exact amount of annuity for yourself and minor children.
9. If previously married, have divorce papers.
10. If presently married, have marriage license.
11. A will is a vital necessity, this will eliminate costly court procedures

Survivorship annuity is **not paid automatically**. You **must** apply for it. In most cases, a veteran is entitled to \$150 for burial expenses. If the cause of death is due to a job related injury, the Office of Federal Employees Compensation will pay up to \$800 burial expenses minus any amount the VA gives. The survivor, in the case of a job related death, may also apply for an annuity from the OFEC.



## "I Don't Care About the Union"

Recently, I sat in on a meeting with a 204B, a manager, and a clerk. The 204B had just made regular. She felt that the clerk had disrespected her new-found authority. During the meeting, she made the statement, "I don't really care about the union. I don't pay union dues anyway."

I wanted to tell this naive young person that she would not have made regular without the intervention of the union she so flippantly dismissed. A grievance was filed on the conversion of PSEs. Management didn't convert her because they liked her. Their hands were forced by the union. I also wanted her to know that many employees have served as 204Bs, that she was not unique, and 204Bs are not permanent positions. They exist due to management's whim and certain criteria set forth in the contract. They can be sat down at any time without explanation or recourse.

This is a period of contract negotiations. Now is not the time to downplay the importance of the American Postal Workers Union. The Postal Service wants to take back everything the union has fought so hard to obtain. These benefits were not given to us, but were negotiated over a long period of time. There is no guarantee that the benefits you enjoy today, won't be taken away.

The only representative you have as a postal employee is the union. In grievance matters, you can't get an outside lawyer or bring in another entity to plead your case. On matters of wages, hours and working conditions, the union is the only game in town. Every employee, 204B or craft, should be firmly behind the union. No matter what level of management, you still have to deal with the union.

If you look back at the history of this union, you will see the many sacrifices employees have made to achieve what we have today. At one time, postal workers were eligible for food stamps because their wages were so low. The starting pay was \$6,176 annually and after 21 years of service, the top rate was \$8,422. There were no contract negotiations; we simply had to take what Congress mandated.

In March of 1970, postal workers put forth a show of strength that radically changed their situation. Postal workers went on strike. This strike crippled the nation. Thanks to that strike, postal workers have full collective bargaining rights, much better pay, good benefits and job protection. Following the strike the American Postal Workers Union was formed.

Every employee should be concerned about the ongoing contract negotiations. Every employee should be willing to put forth some sort of effort to support this local, even if you "don't care about the union." Every employee should be willing to pay their fair share by paying union dues. Remember, there is no such thing as a "free ride." Pay now or pay much more later.



Fred Wolfmeyer, Earl Staats, Gene Hollenbeck, and Mary Lou Brennan in front of the State Capital in Jefferson City, Missouri



# Hearing Protection Pointers

## How loud is too loud?

Decibels (dB) measure the intensity of sound — from 0 dB, which is the faintest sound the human ear can detect, to 180 dB, or the noise a rocket makes during launch.

## Hearing loss can happen in an instant

Experts typically consider exposure to more than 85 dB to be dangerous, which means things like motorcycles, headphones, lawnmowers and even crying babies have potential to lead to permanent hearing loss.

Permanent hearing loss can occur in as little as 15 minutes with exposure to certain sounds and almost instantly with unprotected exposure to sounds generated from firearms and certain power tools.

## Hearing protection pointers

You can and should protect your hearing by wearing earplugs, earmuffs, or avoiding loud noises altogether. Because once hearing loss happens, it can't be reversed.

If you use an iPod or other MP3 player with earphones:

- Set the volume at home or in a quiet place
- Ensure you can still hear sound around you or can still carry on a conversation
- Don't turn it up when you leave your house or go outside
- Consider buying noise-cancelling earphones that will block out street noise, so you don't have to turn the volume up loud to hear music comfortably



**Be proactive with your hearing health, to learn more about signs of hearing loss and treatment, or to schedule a free hearing consultation, simply call American Hearing Benefits at (866) 925-1287 today.**



www.apwuhp.com  
(800) 222-2798



# Central Region APWU POWER Educational Conference May 1-3, 2015



*By Robin Robertson*

**H**ello my brothers and sisters! We had an awesome networking experience with other APWU POWER sisters from different locals within the Central Region. The Central Region covers Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Forty-two women attended the conference. Five of the 13 states were in attendance. I am looking forward to eight states attending the next educational conference in Cleveland, Ohio in 2016.

APWU Research and Education Director Joyce Robinson opened the general session. Sis. Joyce introduced our own LT Rashunda Taylor (support services) to conduct the invocation. All I can say, "The Spirit was moving." LT Taylor did her thing! She allowed God to move within her in a mighty way. Prayer is needed in everything we do. After prayer Sis Charlotte Hiatt was choked up for a minute, but she helped lead the torch during this educational conference.

After the praise session, we proceeded with the conference by introducing our St. Louis Gateway District Area Local President Frederick Wolfmeyer and Missouri Postal Workers Union President Teddy Days. I am truly thankful for the support these leaders gave the POWER sisters.

The workshop included "Women

and Healthy Living" presented by Linda B. Hiette, the health education coordinator in St. Louis County Health Department. Lynn Pallas-Barber discussed clerk division issues. Sis. Lynn gave a very touching testimony, and it gave me a second wind knowing "all things are possible." You may have obstacles but you **can** still **do it!** Sis. Lynn spoke in-depth on the post plan issues within the clerk craft. Management is **not** your friend. Any issues on the workroom floor should be addressed with a steward or safety captain. If you have any safety issues, make sure to fill out the safety form.

Sis. Judy Beard presented "Common Sense Economics" and explained the importance of understanding and networking with different unions outside of the APWU organization. For instance, Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), and Jobs for Justice (JWJ) (MO) are different organizations fighting for the same issue.

Last but **not** least, Research and Education Director Joyce Robinson presented "You are out of Order." Sis. Robinson conducted an overview on "parliamentary procedure." Every leader should have a copy of "Roberts Rules of Order," the bible for parliamentary procedure.

The beautiful thing about the APWU Central Region is that we have some heavy women hitters at the national level. The women representing

our region to the upmost nationwide include: APWU Central Region Coordinator Sharyn M. Stone, National Assistant Director Clerk Division Lynn Pallas-Barber, National Director of Retirees Judy Beard, National Business Agent Linda Turney, National Business Agent Christine Pruitt, Accounting (per capita) Department (DC) Andrea Chapman. Each one of these women has shown in-depth knowledge and expertise within our Central Region. If I left someone out charge it to my mind and not my heart. As we learn and apply the tools and resources on giving back to other women and the community, we too will climb to higher heights.

Being a leader is a difficult task, especially when you're preparing for an educational conference from a different city. Our Central Region POWER coordinator, Charlotte Hiatt was a fly on a wall all the way from Indianapolis, Indiana. At first it was tedious because she would say, "Sis. Robbie I know I'm getting on your nerves, **but** I need this or that." I laughed it off and was thinking in my head, "Thank God, it isn't me!"

Special thanks to **all** the members and retirees within the St. Louis Gateway District who helped prepare the COPA baskets for the POWER education conference. Special thanks to the POWER sisters who incorporated this journey for us because without **you** it wouldn't be an **us!** Knowledge is **power!** Giving back is the **key!**

**St. Louis Gateway APWU POWER will post fliers on our next community event!**

**\*\*Every APWU sister is welcome to attend!**

**"A woman's place is in her union."**

# APWU POWER Educational Conference

*The APWU POWER convention was held in St. Louis, Missouri. POWER stands for Post Office Women for Equal Rights. Anyone interested in becoming active in POWER, please contact Robbie Robertson at the Union Hall 314-231-7665.*



# Retirement Seminar

Open to all career employees

Sunday, July 19, 2015



Not certified by the Federal Government

This will be the only time this year a retirement seminar is in your area. No matter how old you are or how many years you have to go, this seminar will give you the information you need!

## Who needs to come? You need to come if ...

- You have multiples of your base pay with your Postal Life Insurance.
- You have military time you haven't bought and you aren't sure if you should.
- You are depending on your Postal Life Insurance to protect your loved ones.
- You are retiring within the next five years.
- You want to know how to ensure your spouse is covered under your health insurance in retirement.
- You want to leave a survivor's benefit to your spouse and don't understand the cost.
- You want to retire early but you aren't sure if you can without an early-out offer.
- You are eligible to retire but aren't sure of how much you will make in retirement.
- You need more information on how to retain your health insurance in retirement.
- You don't understand the codes on your check stub.
- You want to retire early but don't understand the penalties involved.
- You want to understand your TSP options in retirement and which option will maximize your income.

One-on-one appointments will be available starting on Aug. 3 and 4. **If you cannot attend the seminar, you can request a one-on-one appointment by email.** You can do this by emailing us for an appointment at [greg@postalbenefitsgroup.net](mailto:greg@postalbenefitsgroup.net). Please email us your name, phone number, date of hire and date of birth. We will contact you **after** the seminar to set an appointment.

## YOU MUST REGISTER BY PHONE PRIOR TO ATTENDING

**DATE:** Sunday, July 19, 2015

**TIME:** 3 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Holiday Inn  
 3400 Rider Trail South  
 St. Louis, MO 63045

**To register** please call 800-955-8419. You can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Do your friends a favor and encourage them to come.

\* SPOUSES ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

To my brothers and sisters of the St. Louis Gateway District Area Local, I present to you Support Services Star Performance Awards and Service of Years Awards. These folks have done an excellent job within the St. Louis Accounting Service Center.

## Service awards craft employees! 390+ years of service!



Mary Ryan, 25 years; Patricia Dancy, 30 years; *Virginia Frazer (not present)*, 30 years; Pam Smotherson, 30 years; Dawn Piolet, 35 years; Maggie January, 35 years; *Gladys Donnell (not present)*, 35 years; Karen Moody, 35 years; James Curtis, 40 years; *Nina Johnson (not present)*, 40 years; *Jan Meyer (not present)*, 40 years.

First and foremost I want to thank **every** "Support Service" craft employee on a job well done. ACS/AHD deals with customers, employees, and vendors; sometimes on a daily basis. ASC deals with in-depth issues with customers, employees, stations, and branches. Support services union brothers and sisters getting recognized for their performance!

## Star performance award!

Cecilia Burgett (field sales); Lisa K. Smith (domestic claims); Tammy Dillard (contract services); and Joe Rapp (international accounts)



# Becoming a Steward and Steward Requests for Support Services

By Orlando Anderson, Craft Director



**G**reeting sisters and brothers of Support Services. I would like to take an opportunity to discuss the procedure for becoming a steward and the policy for requesting a steward in IT/ASC. When a person decides that they want to become a steward, they can notify any current steward, craft director, or the Union Hall. At the establishment of the next new Steward Training Class, notification will be sent to the individual and craft director by the director of research and education. The classes are generally held twice a week for 2-3 hours at the Union Hall on your time. Classes are held morning and evening to accommodate the various tours.

The extensive training will cover a variety of topics. The contract and its articles, effective grievance writing, time limits, and other pertinent subjects will be covered. There are numerous quizzes and a final exam. Just because you complete the course does not mean you are automatically a certified steward. Once the class is completed and you pass the final exam, the president, with the recommendation of the director of research and education and the craft director will first interview the candidate and establish that there is a need for an additional steward in the section. After the completion of these steps, the president will then notify Labor Relations with an updated list of the current and newly certified union stewards. This is when it becomes official and you are now an authorized union representative.

Because of this extensive process

to become a steward, I want to assure each and every IT/ASC employee that I have full faith and trust in every Support Services steward. Every one is fully capable of handling questions and grievances. No one will know the answer to every question. This is why we have other resources available such as the president, VP, craft directors, national business agents and national executive officers. In addition there are a multitude of websites, manuals, and handbooks at our disposal.

As craft director, I will never turn down a question asked of me, however, IT/ASC members have to understand that there is a procedure for requesting a steward. You must notify your supervisor that you are requesting a steward. The president notifies the Labor Relations Department of who is certified for each department and who are the primary steward and the alternate steward. Labor Relations then communicates this to the managers and supervisors. The supervisor will contact the primary steward and schedule a meeting time. The meeting is usually held in the Union Office, room 2162, outside of the accounting help desk. If the primary is unavailable, then the alternate will be contacted. If neither of the two is available the craft director will be contacted.

The duties of the craft director are spelled out in the local's constitution and by-laws. That does not mean that the director is unavailable or unapproachable. However, I will not undermine the abilities and competence of the stewards that the presi-

dent has certified. Some of our stewards have been around for decades and have a wealth of knowledge. Each steward does a wonderful job of keeping me abreast of issues, concerns and grievance matters.

Employees cannot request a particular steward. However, if there is a concern or past problem with a steward, arrangements can be made to contact the director or the president, in that order.

I assure you that all stewards have the capability of handling your matters, and when necessary, they will utilize the resources available to them. Please allow them to do their jobs and follow the correct procedure to request a steward.



*Karen Moody, account and control specialist, is retiring after 36 years of service. Good luck and enjoy.*

# June/July APWU MVS Town Talk

By Jeff Cooper-MVS Director



The MVS had an informational meeting on June 5, 2015. MVS drivers and vehicle mechanics were asked to attend. It was designed for drivers to get information on Article 32 subcontracting and Article 39 motor vehicle craft. We also had information readily available concerning OTDL, JCIM, incidental leave, LMOU and observed time for Q and A.

I would like to thank Mr. Paul Reid for organizing the sale of the

postal shirts and I would like to thank everyone who participated in purchasing a postal shirt for COPA. Four hundred dollars was raised and it was presented to the union president at the informational meeting on June 5, in behalf of the MVS motor vehicle craft.

Switching gears to the grievance portion of this article. Grievances are being filed to convert PSE's, OTDL issues and back pay for monetary grievances. When a problem arises, submit your written statement

to a steward and it will be handled. The grievance procedure must be timely. Whether it is a dispute or discipline, it requires prompt attention. Your grievance must be filed within the 14-day time limit. Exercise your Weingarten rights when talking to management or an official of the post office where the conversation may lead to discipline. Ask for union representation.

## The Missouri State Postal Workers Convention

The Missouri State Postal Workers Convention was held in St. Louis June 26-28, 2015. Elections for state offices were held. A number of topics were covered including our legislative platform for the coming years and information pertaining to the contract.



Start of the Missouri Postal Workers Convention.  
Invocation by LT. Rashunda Taylor.



Bob Kessler, senior national business agent



Attendees of the Missouri Postal Workers Convention

# It took USPS eight months to change national 911 policy after employee's death

Recently we learned that the widow of Oakland, California postal worker Samuel Macasieb, who died on the job after co-workers followed USPS policy and didn't immediately call 911, has had to take legal action against the U.S. Postal Service in order to claim the benefits she is entitled to. The lawyer arguing on behalf of Ms. Macasieb says that, "Following the incident, according to the court documents, the government denied federal benefits to Samuel's widow, claiming it was not work-related."

The national policy requires the supervisor or an employee to call postal police when someone needs emergency medical treatment. Only the postal police were allowed to call 911. This policy was still in effect up until last month, ten months after Mr. Macasieb's death.

## The OIG summarized the facts:

While on duty on August 8, 2014, a Postal Service employee sustained a head injury at a Bay-Valley District Postal Service facility in California. Two employees notified their supervisor of the incident and one supervisor called the postal police once other managers arrived at the scene. It took about 12 minutes from the time the injured employee was found until the supervisor notified the postal police and 11 additional minutes for the postal police to initiate the call to 911 emergency services. The employee later died from his injuries.

You might question why employees would have followed such a ridiculous rule — what could possibly happen to them if they had called 911? According to OSHA, one postal worker who called 911 to report a suspected carbon monoxide leak at a Missouri postal facility in 2009 was thrown in jail as a suspected terrorist at the instigation of USPS managers.

## From the lawsuit OSHA filed on behalf of the employee:

From December 4, 2009, through March 15, 2010, and at times thereafter, defendant's managers engaged in a concerted effort to pressure the county prosecutor's office to criminally prosecute the employee because he had reported safety concerns. NDC managers referred to him variously as a drug user, dangerous, unstable and "a terrorist," all without any factual basis. On March 30, 2010, with an indefinite suspension continuing, the employee filed a complaint with OSHA alleging harassment. On April 3, 2010, he was arrested by Hazelwood Police on charges of making a terrorist threat and making a false report. He was held in jail for approximately 18 hours before his attorney could arrange his release. All criminal charges against him were ultimately dismissed.

*Reprinted from Postal News.com*

**THE WEEKEND  
WAS A CRAZY  
LIBERAL IDEA.**



**In 1886, 7 union members in Wisconsin died fighting for the 5-day work week and the 8-hour work day.**



# Too Busy for a Face-to-Face Appointment?

Consider  
**Telephonic Counseling**

FLEXIBLE  
ACCESSIBLE  
CONVENIENT

Depending on your situation, you may find the convenience of telephonic counseling the right choice for you.

**Telephonic counseling increases your options:**

- The **flexibility** of seeking counseling telephonically, face-to-face, or a combination of both.
- The **accessibility** of speaking to a counselor at a more convenient time.
- The **convenience** of saving time not having to travel to an appointment.

USPS EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
**A Program You Can Trust**



**800-327-4968**

(800-EAP-4-YOU) TTY: 877-492-7341  
www.EAP4YOU.com

**Think telephonic counseling might work for you? Call today to find out.**

## Maintenance Craft

By Tom Nanna



**H**ello union brothers and sisters. We are now into the summer months. Hope you are having a great summer.

Maintenance jobs are under attack out in our stations and branches. Management at the stations and branches has taken it upon themselves to buy tools for the clerks to change mailbox locks in the lobbies. This is work that has been done historically by the PEM Shop employees for years. This is PEM Shop work. Not clerk work.

If any clerk is instructed to change the locks on the mailboxes, please request a steward and give a statement to the steward. The steward for the stations is Robin McCurry. Her number is 314-231-7665. Becky Livingston is the steward for the branches. Her number is 314-231-7665.

We all need to be diligent in protecting each craft's work. Management at the St. Louis P&DC is deliberately doing work each day that belongs to the maintenance craft and clerk craft. The supervisors seem to work hard poling the tray lines and running the machines and hauling mail to the elevators to be dispatched.

Grievances need to be filed when members see this happening. Give a statement to your steward. Protect your work.

Please stand up and protect your job. If management continues to do our work, there will be less employees and more work thrust upon our members. Management will expect you to work harder.

Maintenance has over 700 grievances at Step 2. There doesn't seem to be any slowing down in management's attack on our contract.

Labor unions are under attack. We need our unions to grow, not decrease. People who work in the private sector without a union still receive the benefits that unions have fought for: Five-day, 40-hour work week; vacations; 401 retirement; sick leave and personal days; health care benefits; paid holidays. If it wasn't for our unions fighting for these benefits, the private sector wouldn't have them either. Please support your union. Help keep the benefits we have fought for.

## USPS Seeks to Derail Efforts to Restore Service Standards

Web News Article#: 131-2015

**T**he Postal Service has signaled it will try to derail a measure approved by the House Appropriations Committee on June 17 to restore Postal Service standards to the levels that were in place on July 1, 2012. The committee's vote would rescind the lower service standards the USPS implemented on Jan. 5 which have wreaked havoc on mail delivery.

APWU President Mark Dimonstein praised the committee's vote, calling the amendment "a vivid example of how the demands of postal workers reflect the people's demand for good postal service." If enacted, the measure would require postal management to restore overnight mail delivery standards that were wiped out in January. It also would make additional plant consolidations less feasible.

But in a **statement on its website**, the Postal Service called the amendment "financially and operationally indefensible," and said it "encourages Congress to remove the requirement."

In addition to "immediate implementation costs," the USPS claimed "foregoing the benefits" of its "current operating model" would cost the agency \$1.5 billion annually.

Dimonstein said the claim was preposterous. "The Postal Service should, at the very least, be honest with the American people and with Congress," he said.

The APWU has vigorously opposed the degradation of service standards, calling it a step toward dismantling and privatizing the nation's mail system.

"We have a lot of work to do to win support for the amendment in the Senate," said Dimonstein. "We will soon be calling on our members to help. The vote on the amendment, which was offered by Rep. Chaka Fattah, D-Penn., was 26-23. Six Republicans joined all of the committee's Democrats to vote in favor of the measure.

# USPS Demands Cuts in Pay, Benefits, Job Security

## Contract Talks Hit Impasse

Contract negotiations between the American Postal Workers Union and the U.S. Postal Service ended without agreement on May 27.

The USPS scuttled any prospect of reaching a deal by insisting on severe cuts in pay and benefits, despite the fact that progress had been made on many non-economic issues, President Mark Dimonstein reported. "Management's economic demands and proposed changes to the workforce structure were completely unacceptable," he said.

The Postal Service proposals include:

- Eliminate cost-of-living adjustments as we know them
- Increase employees' contributions to healthcare coverage
- Create a new, permanent lower pay scale for future career employees with reduced benefits
- Increase the percentage of non-career employees
- Weaken protection against layoffs

APWU proposals include fair and reasonable wage increases, limits on sub-contracting, more career jobs, improvement for postal sup-

port employees, limits on excessing, and better service for our customers, Dimonstein said.

The APWU will participate in mediation, in accordance with the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, and proceed to arbitration if attempts to mediate a settlement are unsuccessful. Mediation will be conducted by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCA) and is expected to last 60 days.

"All the protections of the 2010 Collective Bargaining Agreement will continue in full force and effect until a new contract is reached," Dimonstein said.

### What Can Union Members Do?

"Our fight for a good contract now enters a new stage, but the role of rank-and-file union members remains critical," President Dimonstein said.

"Your continued involvement can make a difference as we move to mediation and possibly to arbitration, he declared.

"Postal management takes note of how many of our members are wearing union buttons, stickers and T-shirts, and how many union members participate in rallies and other activities. They take it as a sign of the union's strength," he said.

"I want to thank all those who stepped up to fight for a good contract. I urge every member to get involved and keep our momentum going as we enter this new period in our struggle," he said.

The "I stand with Postal Workers" postcards are an excellent way to let Postmaster General Megan Brennan know that the people of the country want what we want: Good Postal Service! Good Jobs! Good Contract! It's important that we continue to collect signatures to keep the pressure on management," Dimonstein said.

"Our struggle continues," he said.

**“Stay strong, stay united,  
and keep Standing Up  
and Fighting Back!”**



Alexander, Joshua	Kennedy, Matthew
Baker, Nicole	Kirksey, Aerrionna
Blanchard, Rodrico	Lauharn ,Nathaniel
Blount, Michelle	Lee, Brandein
Brock, Jontria	McDonald, Ciera
Brown, Deleon	Meaders, Christopher
Brown, Charles Jr.	Miley, Monica
Brown, Crystal	O'Neal, Candice
Brown, Charla	Page, Sheria
Bryant, Kala Ann	Parks, Teneisha
Cox, Cassandra	Pitre, Lydia
Dedert, Danielle	Quinn, Victoria
Dice, Tyler	Rakers, Shawn
Donald, Loyall	Robertson, Renisha
Ferguson, Tessa	Sowell, Sierrah
Frazier, Diamond	Stitts, Rosetta
Green, Jamar	Tanksley, Tracy
Gregory, DeAngelo	Taylor, Pamela
Grimes, Tanesha	Thomas, Jauwan
Halilovic, Ismir	Thomas, Michael
Hill, Kianna	Weddie, Jamie
Huggans, Lloyd	Wilson, Monica
Hughes, Christina	Wonderly, Karen
James, Arthur	Woolfork, Jennifer
Johnson, Antoin	Yates, Michael
Jones, Ricco	Young, Ginger
Jones, Jamikka	Zeno, Karen
Jordan, Gerria	



The winner of the APWU scholarship is James Walker, son of Lisa Walker. Mr. Walker will be attending Jackson State University.

*Happy 19th Anniversary*  
 to  
*Melvin and Shirley Sanders*  
 August 7



## Meeting

**Postal Workers Building Corporation**  
**Annual Meeting**  
 will be held  
 Monday – October 5, 2015 – 4:30 p.m.  
 at the  
 Union Hall – 1705 S. Broadway

RAIN, SHINE OR HEAT!  
OUTDOOR PARK AND AIR CONDITIONED BUILDING

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

**MEMBERS AND THEIR GUEST**



**ANNUAL PICNIC**

*COME EARLY – STAY LATE*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2015

Open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

*Where:*

Aerospace District Lodge 837 IAM/AW Machinists Hall and Park  
212 Utz Lane Hazelwood, MO 63042

SPECIAL GUESTS INVITED  
NATIONAL UNION OFFICERS

**FREE – REFRESHMENTS – FREE**

Beer, Soda, Bar-B-Que

**Fred Wolfmeyer**  
*President*

**Robin Robertson**  
*Chair Person*



**APWU ANNUAL PICNIC**

Come one, come all! The APWU Annual Picnic will be August 30, 2015, at the Machinists and Aerospace Workers Hall at 212 Utz Lane in Hazelwood. **Please RSVP by August 4, 2015.** Enjoy a day of food and fun with your co-workers and friends. There will be games for the kids, face painting and a clown.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tour \_\_\_\_\_

Number of guests \_\_\_\_\_

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

Cut out and return to: Robin Robertson, 1705 S. Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63104



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.....Melvin Sanders  
 Editor.....Shelia Patton-Harris  
 Dir. of Research & Education Becky Livingston  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Al "Mickey" Miller

**DIRECTORS**  
 Clerk Craft.....Joe "Earl" Staats  
 Maintenance.....Thomas Nanna  
 Vehicle Service.....Jeff Cooper  
 IT/ASC.....Orlando Anderson

**Union Office**  
**1705 S. Broadway**  
**St. Louis, MO 63104**  
**(314) 231-7665**  
 FAX: (314) 231-5709  
 Toll Free 1-800-992-2945  
 After Hours (314) 330-9641

**Office Hours**  
 Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Saturday: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

## GATEWAY LOCAL CALENDAR

July 4 (Saturday)	Independence Day Holiday
July 8 (Wednesday)	Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)
July 13 (Monday)	Stewards' Training (9 a.m. & 6 p.m.)
August 5 (Wednesday)	Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)
August 10 (Monday)	Stewards' Training (9 a.m. & 6 p.m.)
August 30 (Sunday)	Annual Union Picnic
September 7 (Monday)	Labor Day Holiday and Parade
September 9 (Wednesday)	Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)
September 13 (Sunday)	General Membership Meeting (3 p.m.)
September 14 (Monday)	Stewards' Training (9 a.m. & 6 p.m.)
September 30 (Wednesday)	October Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)
October 5 (Monday)	PWBC Annual Shareholder Meeting (4:30 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.