



Press On

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

Volume 90 Issue 5



September/October 2012

WAKE UP!



IT'S TIME TO VOTE TO SAVE OUR JOBS!

WE ARE IN FOR A FIGHT

By Frederick Wolfmeyer, President

Sisters and brothers, I am back from the APWU National Convention, and will report on that further into my article. First and most importantly, I must report on a recent development in the 631 stations and branches. I was called by the USPS lead MCSO on Monday, August 27, 2012 and asked to attend a meeting with the new acting postmaster, Cathy Vaughn, regarding some restructuring at the stations and branches. Another name for this 'restructuring' is excessing. The union learned at the August 27 meeting that management is intending to sectionally excess approximately 27 clerks and then create 10 NTFT bid assignments of less than 40 hours. Most clerks at the stations were regulars as of the effective date of this contract and cannot be forced into a bid of less than 40 hours or more than 48 hours.

Management told the union that they are proposing this excessing because there has been a decline in the mail volume at the stations and branches, however, they did not provide any data to the union at the meeting. As of September 10, 2012, we are still waiting to receive the information relied upon by management to decide to excess these clerks. Absent this information, we cannot determine if their decision is valid. From what I have learned from talking with several stations' managers, there has not been a significant decline in mail volume. In fact, some managers have told me they are facing possible discipline for delaying the mail. They stated that they do not have enough clerks to work the mail now and have no idea as to how they will get the mail processed and to the carriers for delivery if they lose any more clerks. The union will review all information, once it is received, and determine if the excess is warranted or not.

What Can You Do?

The union had heard from several clerks that certain stations' managers had said that the union had agreed to the excess and had signed off on an agreement. This is simply not true. In an effort to set the record straight and let the members know the real story, I scheduled a series of informational meetings at the Union Hall on September 4, 5, and 6, 2012. These meetings were well attended and I told the clerks what they must do.

1. If a manager or supervisor is performing your work, report it.
2. If you are told to scan mail as if it is completed and

it is not, then request a shop steward and we will report this fraud to the OIG.

3. If light or limited duty carriers are performing clerk work, it must stop. Record the violation and then call for a steward. The contract

is very clear on this issue. If there is an excess, carriers on light or limited duty **cannot perform clerk duties.**

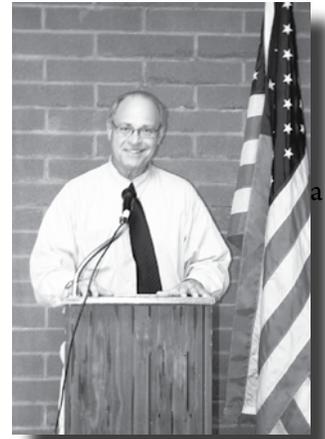
The above points are very important and will help save your job. There are several stations and branches where management is performing bargaining unit work (BUW). Those of you at Des Peres, Maryville Gardens, Gravius Annex and many more locations see it every day. Now is the time to put a stop to it and preserve your jobs. Managers and/or supervisors should not be putting up box mail, working flats, UBBM, parcels, working empty equipment, etc. You know what your work consists of and they are not to perform BUW. The contract states that only in an emergency can management perform BUW. An emergency is something not of a recurring nature and happens only once in a while ... not every day.

The union will be talking with management and we will keep all station and branch clerks informed. If you have any questions, please call the Union Hall.

The National Convention

The national convention was preceded by the craft conferences on August 18 – 19, 2012. I was able to briefly attend each conference but worked primarily on the Resolution Committee the first four days. The resolutions put forth by various locals across the country dealt with many contractual issues as well as legislative, and constitutional issues. There were several elected officials who addressed the convention along with Ed Schultz of the 'Ed Show' that airs on MSNCB nightly. Mr. Schultz, the self-proclaimed voice of the middleclass, gave a very inspirational talk which left the delegates standing and applauding at its completion. President Obama addressed the convention through a taped video and let us know that he supports all postal workers and their right to collective bargaining.

The convention was much less contentious than in the past and actually ended a day early. I was disappointed

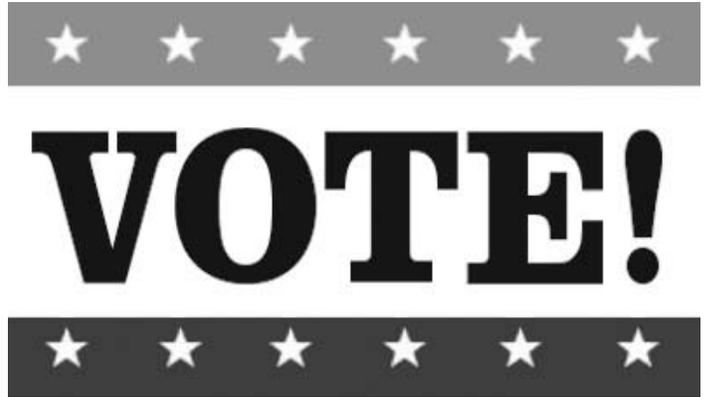


with a few of our St. Louis delegates who decided it was not necessary to attend all of the convention sessions even though you, the members, had elected them to represent you. I believe that you were extremely short-changed and I addressed it by speaking with these delegates. In the future, they will have to reimburse the local if they are absent without a good reason.

General Election

Sisters and brothers, the general election is fast approaching. Soon you will be asked to vote for your choice for president of the United States and also for U.S. senator and/or U.S. representative. The local tries not to endorse any particular candidates, but must ask you to vote your job. We know there are many issues of importance, but none are more important than your job or, in other words, your economic livelihood. We must vote for those candidates who support saving the Postal Service or else there is no point at all. Those candidates whether Democrat or Republican, who support saving the Postal Service, our

collective bargaining rights and who would not abrogate our agreement, must be the candidates we all elect. Never has an election weighed so heavily on our jobs. I will address the election again just before November 6, 2012, in the next edition of the Workroom Floor Edition of the *Press On*. Until then, I wish you and your families all the best. Always work safely and watch for those managers performing our work.



Calculate Your Savings *Lower Your Payments*

While banks work on the next product that can squeeze an extra nickel out of their customers, Neighbors Credit Union builds services that save our members time and money.

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Wake Up

By Shelia Patton Harris



I attended the National APWU Convention in Los Angeles, California, on August 16, 2012. I was on the Appeals Committee. This committee is charged with handling internal problems within the different locals. The work was fascinating and very involved, but I enjoyed it. Unfortunately, I missed most of the sessions because of my work on the committee.

One thing that was made very clear was the disastrous effect the election of Mitt Romney would have on the Postal Service. The Republicans have made it very clear that if they win in November they want to close post offices and look to privatization of the service.

Telling you who to vote for is not my intent, but this election is pivotal for the Postal Service. This is one time that everyone must vote his or her self-interest. The big three — guns, gays and babies — which are trotted out every election, pale in importance when our jobs are on the line. Think about this, if you are a Republican, Democrat, or independent, is your ideology worth your livelihood. It's not as much about which party as it is about which candidates are most likely to represent our best interests in office.

If a political party made it part of their agenda to attack seniors, students, women and unions most of us would rally together to defeat that party. That same party calls on God to back their policies. House Representative Emanuel Cleaver said it best, "God will not be pimped for politics."

An estimated 20 percent of APWU members voted Republican in 2010! They helped to elect the very people who now want to eliminate union-wage jobs, health and retirement benefits, collective bargaining and service to the American people. It is difficult to comprehend how any part of the 99 percent repeatedly smash their thumbs with a GOP hammer and still don't understand where the pain is coming from.

It is vital that every member of your household who is a registered voter go to the polls and vote. Gather up friends and neighbors and go to the ballot box.

The 1 percent is counting on your apathy. Too many of us think that our one vote just doesn't count. So, we don't vote and then cry about the outcome. Now the 1 percent is using voter suppression rules to keep poor and elderly folks from voting. Wake up! This is how we,

the 99 percent, are kept down. We think that someone else is going to the polls so why should we bother. We don't exercise a right that people fought and died for. It is in the best interest of the rich that voter turnout is low. They will go to the polls and make sure that their cronies get out to vote. Nothing makes them happier than apathy and the low turnout of the poor and middle classes. This assures them control.

"If (federal) jobs are lost... so be it." Speaker of the House John A. Boehner, R-Ohio.

"The government exists to serve the American people, but Americans are now forced to pay for a bloated, inefficient federal workforce that is too often rewarded with pay raises and job security for unacceptable job performance." Representative Darrell Issa, R-Calif., chairman of the committee with jurisdiction over federal pay and benefits.

Please, for the sake of our jobs, get out to vote in the coming election. Consider the ramifications of the outcome. Make a wise choice, but we must get out and cast our ballots. This is not the time to sit on the sidelines and let someone else worry about things.



Than Ever

By Edward M. Smith

Business leaders, politicians, even some union members believe that unions do not matter anymore. They say there was a time and place for unions, but that era has passed. They cite the fact that union membership in the United States stands at less than 12 percent. They cite the Wisconsin recall, the passage of right-to-work laws in Indiana, and the 2012 Democratic National Convention taking place in a city with one of the lowest union membership rates in the country. Unions don't matter they say.

They are wrong. Unions matter today more than ever.

If we want to rebuild the middle-class in this country, we need strong unions. It is not a coincidence that the decline of the middle-class began with the decline in union membership. A study published last year in the *American Sociological Review* by Bruce Western of Harvard University and Jake Rosenfeld of the University of Washington found that "between a fifth to a third of the growth in inequality can be explained by the decline of unions."

We see the result of this decline every day. More of our citizens are working in low wage jobs, are without health care, and are without the means to save for retirement.

As they did nearly 50 years ago, union jobs offer workers good salaries, pensions, and health care benefits that give families the economic security they need to send their kids to college or trade schools, to invest in their communities and to have a secure retirement. This is not some socialist ideal. It is the American Dream

and unions help to ensure that more Americans have a chance to live it.

In addition, unions matter if we want to retool and retrain our workforce for the global economy. You often hear of employers not being able to find skilled workers. Unions and their training programs are a critical component of the answer to this problem. At their own expense, unions and union contractors provide training and apprenticeship programs that teach the latest construction and building techniques, with a focus on safety. This training gives our workers the ability to compete with anyone in the world. These union training programs should be rewarded and encouraged and the workers who graduate from these programs should be put back to work rebuilding the nation's infrastructure and rebuilding our economy.

More importantly, unions matter because who else will speak on behalf of workers? The Chamber of Commerce speaks for the interest of business and AARP speaks for the interest of the elderly, but who speaks for workers everywhere? Unions do. If workers are to have a share in the future prosperity of this country, they need unions to advance their issues. Otherwise, the voices of corporations, the rich and the well connected will drown out the voices of average American workers.

In order for unions to remain strong, we must remain united at the ballot box. We can-

not allow our opponents to divide us politically. We must support each other's causes and leaders, and stand united in the common interest of organized labor — the right of to collectively bargain for wages and benefits. Union members must vote in their self-interest, not against it.

If we want to do something about this nation's inequality, if we want to rebuild the middle class and if we want to train the greatest work force the world has ever seen, we need unions.

Unions matter. They mattered in the past, they matter today and unions must remain strong if they are to matter in the future. If unions do not stand united and do not fight for the needs of working Americans, then Labor Day is meaningless. It will be just a day off in September.

That matters to me and it should matter to you.

Edward Smith is the president and CEO of Ulico Inc., the only labor-owned insurance and investment company. He has been a member of Laborers' Local 773 for 44 years.





CBTU Convention

By Christine Smith

A brief history of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU)

The organization is lead by one of its five founders, William Lucy. CBTU held its first meeting on September 23, 1972, at the La-Salle Hotel. It was one of the largest gatherings in the history of the labor movement. CBTU is not a black separatist or civil rights organization. It is a fiercely independent voice of black workers within the trade union movement, challenging labor to be more relevant to the needs and aspirations of black and poor workers.

I attended the CBTU Convention on May 23, 2012, at the Renaissance Grand Hotel in downtown St. Louis. After leaving first time attendees class, I moved to a break out session and heard Tracy Martin, Travon Martin's father, address the delegation on the need to stop black on black crime and push for new laws to protect all children from predators. Tracy Martin is a native of East St. Louis and was here visiting family. He was a very moving speaker.

The next day a town hall meeting was held. Panelists included Emanuel Cleaver, Lacy Clay, G.K. Butterfield, Gwen Moore, Cedrick Richmond and Deepak Bhargava. They addressed voter suppression. Intimidation, increased ID requirements, and limited days to vote early are all tactics being used to disenfranchise poor, elderly and black voters. The necessity of having more poll workers both in and outside of the polling places was stressed. If President Obama is not re-elected, head start, social security as we know it, PEL grants and the middle class will no longer exist.

Friday the 25th was youth day. There were apprenticeship programs in partnership with public schools. Mentoring, peer groups and other activities to encour-

age youth to accomplish their goals were held throughout the day. There was a break-out session for women that discussed domestic violence, premature infants and future cancer walks.

On Sunday night there was election of officers and an awards banquet featuring guest speaker Rev. Jessie Jackson. The convention was overwhelming at times, but it proved to be very rewarding.



Hatch Act Revision — A Lesson in History

In 1975, meetings were held to try and persuade the House Postal Subcommittee on Employee Political Rights to allow government workers to participate in the political process. Postal workers at that time were prohibited from participating in political campaigns. Most of you take the freedoms you enjoy now for granted, but understand the union has had to fight for many of those freedoms.

BOTH CLEVELAND AND ST. LOUIS CALL FOR HATCH ACT REVISION

During April and May, the House Postal Subcommittee on Employee Political Rights went right to the grassroots to test public opinion on revision of the Hatch Act.

Hearings chaired by Rep. William Clay, D-Mo., sponsor of H.R. 3000 and chairman of the subcommittee, were held in St. Louis, Cleveland, Brooklyn, New York City and in Maryland and Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C.

General President Michael C. Amann of the St. Louis local testified that the Hatch Act keeps government workers from being equal to other citizens in politics.

"I ask you," he said, "are the postal motor vehicle operators driving tractor-trailers loaded with mail any different from tractor-trailer drivers in private industry?"

"Yet one man has complete freedom to exercise his rights as a citizen. The other man is strictly limited."

Burrus said the same comparison could be made with his maintenance craft who keep postal machinery, running though they are no different than aircraft or automobile workers.

"The Hatch Act," he said, "is no longer necessary."

General President William Burrus of the Cleveland local reminded the subcommittee that this nation has always had to struggle with forces that could deny identifiable groups the guarantees of citizenship.

"It is all so simple," he said, "to decree that no government worker should participate in politics — but that is the easy way and, in adopting that position, millions of Americans are denied basic rights. But history proves that the rights denied one group compromise the freedom of all."

Burrus said the nation needs H.R. 3000 because democracy needs it to prove we are truly a free people.

In St. Louis, Amann was accompanied to the witness stand by State President Charles Jett and State Legislative Director Ed Brennan and by National Legislative Director Pat Nilan who was also present at the Cleveland hearings.

Reprint from June 1975



IN CLEVELAND, General President William Burrus and Vice President Francis Bates of the Cleveland Local are seen above adding their voice in favor of Hatch Act amendments. Rep. Lou Stokes, D-Ohio, at right, another member of the Clay Subcommittee, was present for these hearings.



*TESTIFYING last month before the House Postal Subcommittee on Employee Political Rights during field hearings on revision of the Hatch Act in St. Louis, Mo., are (above) State Editor Ed Brennan, **General President Michael Amann of the St. Louis Local**; State President Charles Jett of Missouri and National Legislative Director Pat Nilan. Rep. Gladys Spellman, D-Md., and Subcommittee Chairman William Clay, D-Mo., are seen at left.*

LABOR DAY



Fear Mongering, Anger and Hatred

It seems no outrageous or divisive statement is too much anymore. Politicians, mostly Republicans, seek to scare and enflame passions rather than concentrate on the issues.

Bob Morris, a Republican legislator in Indiana recently said this group "... is the tactical arm of Planned Parenthood. It is a radicalized group with a homosexual agenda that promotes abortion while seeking the destruction of traditional American values." The group he was accusing and attempting to scare and raise anger about is — the Girl Scouts! I honestly have never met a 10 or 11-year-old girl

who advocated the destruction of traditional American values, especially by selling cookies.

Then there is wacko Rush Limbaugh and his outrageous accusations at a woman he has never met before who spoke about birth control for medical reasons. The names he called her and the films he wanted of her would make you call him a pig or worse (much worse if it was your daughter referred to that way!)

Or Republican candidate Santorum who said he read a speech by John F. Kennedy regarding separation of church and state and wanted to "retch" and "throw up."

Ohio Republican Governor Kasich refused to ask for federal FEMA help for days for Ohio areas devastated by tornados. His reason — he was trying to play up to the Tea Party and show how "with them" he is, despite death, injury and severe property damage to his Ohio population. People were hurt, hungry and cold for days due to his largess.

There will be much more as election season continues, so use logic when you hear the divisive issues used to cause fear and hatred. **Ignore the vitriol and vote for your job and your future.**

Source: Kevin Gallagher — 101 Facts

HAPPY
COLUMBUS
DAY



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APWU

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American Postal
Workers Union

*WITH VALID ID

No More Scabs

People who chose to not pay union dues are known as freeloaders, free riders, or scabs. Whatever the appropriate adjective they are also equal beneficiaries of grievance payouts because a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) law requires unions to represent all bargaining unit workers regardless of their membership. That rule on the street is known to the non-members as the “duty to fair representation” and to the union member it is “representation without taxation.” It means that non-members get the same wages and benefits as those of us who choose to disburse a few dollars from our hard-earned money as symbolic for a future return on our investment.

Everybody wants the benefits of a pension, health care plans, safety, equal opportunity, organizational policies, higher pay, regular hours, breaks, choice vacation, voting rights, and trained representatives in times of conflict. The Postal Service is a better workplace because of the unionized force that paid their dues long before many of us were even born. How many postal employees couldn't care less and won't pay one red cent? Too many. Why should any labor force work on behalf of scroungers?

Free riders weaken union solidarity and impair our financial means to speak for the masses. With fewer members we minimize potential benefits and impede our economic muscle. Eventually we will collapse from the weight of the moochers hopping the turnstile and riding the union subway system for free. Before long we won't have enough money to operate, and no one to stand up for us. One by one we will be tossed out onto the street.

The law should require everyone who benefits from union representation to share in the cost of union membership just like the membership costs associated with shopping at Sam's or Costco, country club memberships, and home ownership associations that all charge a fee for incidentals, and safeguarding.

Without our fair share of taxes, the city can't repair the roads and the fire department would not be able to respond to a blaze.

Maybe we should adapt the “Rand Formula” where dues are mandatory regardless of a worker's union status. “Designed to ensure that no employee will opt out of the union simply to avoid dues yet reap the benefit of the union's accomplishments.” Additionally if a person were to claim religious objections to paying dues, then their dues could be contributed through the combined federal campaign to a jointly agreed upon charitable trust.

There is no reason that this union should continue to tolerate scabs. The forces that seek to divide and conquer are counting on us to keep member versus non-member conflicts stewing so as not to concentrate on the major issues. Scabs, it is your union too, please pay your fair share!



**ANTI-
SCAB
BILL
NOW!**



How the Post Office Died A Postal Parody

By Don Bradshaw

November 6, 2012

The election results are in and not only did Mitt Romney narrowly win the presidency, the Republican controlled house added to their majority and for the first time since 2006, the GOP now controls both houses of Congress, taking the Senate with a total of 51 seats. Romney, in his acceptance speech said, "If there is profit to be made, I will ensure the private sector has a chance to buy it up, existing government failure-like the post office."

December 31, 2012

The lame duck Congress passes a resolution extending the Bush tax cuts for all wage earners. President Obama signs the legislation saying, "It's just a formality now, whether it gets signed by me or my successor. By signing it now, citizens will not be faced with a change of rates at a later date." Included in the legislation, unrelated to the tax legislation, are provisions affecting the U.S. Postal Service's ability to borrow money and a firm rebuke of requests to forgive the pre-payment of retiree benefits 75 years in advance and the enormous overpayments to the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) and to the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). Rep. Dennis Ross said afterward, "There haven't been any overpayments and I don't like Cliff Guffey."

January 27, 2013

On the first day of the new Congress, legislation is introduced in the House declaring the U.S. Postal Service insolvent, ending the First Class mail monopoly and beginning the process of "restructuring" the organization. Rep. James Lankford said after the session, "There is unfairness abundantly exhibited by postal employees who think they are somehow entitled to a job, or to benefits or to a retirement. We'll just see about all that."

March 1, 2013

The Senate, acting on legislation originating in the House, passes a sweeping postal "reform" bill, declaring the U.S. Postal Service insolvent. Labor contracts were declared null and void. Lay-offs will begin in July. Senate Democrats fight for continuation of annuities and benefits for those already retired, but to no avail. The GOP dominated Congress will consider every option available to them. Sen. James Inhofe was the deciding vote against continuing annuities for those already retired. Inhofe said, "Everything and everyone is on the table. We can't afford to pay exorbitant annuities to "so-called" federal employees who spent the better part of their careers doing nothing but calculating their retirement." Rep. Eric Cantor was quick to congratulate the Senate for following through on his proposal to enlist the efforts of FedEx and UPS to "pick up the slack" where necessary, saying "Capitalism reigns supreme. There's money to be made here."

April 15, 2013

On tax day, the president announces that the U.S. Postal Service legislation should be used as a blueprint for all federal agencies. Under the postal plan, urban postal processing centers will be sold to private enterprise. Current employees will be laid off but will be considered, along with the general public, for private sector postal jobs, starting at \$8 per hour. The "new generation" postal jobs will be part-time with no benefits. All rural post offices will effectively close on July 4, 2013, with the land and buildings to be sold at auction. Rep. Tom Cole succinctly opined, "There's potential, in every little hole in the wall town, to take possession of a landmark. That's got to be worth something to someone. I'm thinking of buying Beaver."

July 4, 2013

Congress passes and the president signs the final version of legislation concerning the former U.S. Postal Service. The legislation cuts retiree annuities by 50 percent, but exempts members of Congress; it becomes effective January 1, 2014, and includes major cuts to retiree benefits as well. Health insurance, for instance, will be the responsibility of the annuitant. Monies paid in to FERS and CSRS by current employees, by legislative action, will be confiscated and applied to the national debt. By a voice vote, the Senate overcame a filibuster by Sen. Bernie Sanders that sealed the fate of the once proud institution and to the employees who called it a job.

Reprinted from the Spectrum



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

Michael Wilson
Husband of Betty Wilson

Irving Underwood
Stepfather of Angela Jackson



Diana Thomas (R) won the COPA raffle.



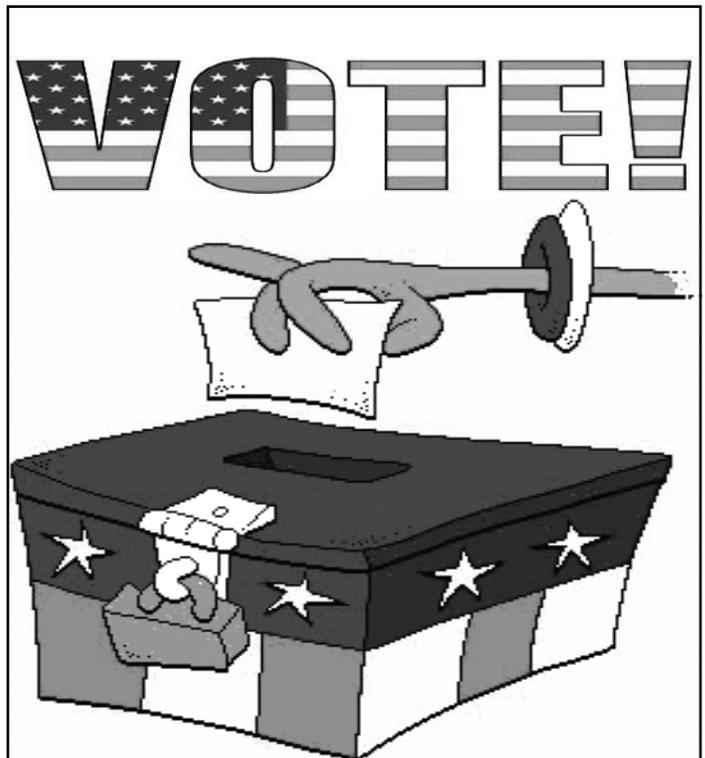
Meeting

Postal Worker's Building Corporation Meeting

The annual shareholders meeting
of the
Postal Worker's Building Corporation
will be held on

October 9, 2012
at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at
1705 S. Broadway



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SEPTEMBER

Abbington, Ross
 Allen, Aurelia
 Allen, Graylan
 Alsop, Pamela
 Anthony, Sharon
 Aydt, Julie
 Beck, Cathy
 Belt, Paul
 Berry, Lora
 Blackmon, Antha
 Blackwell, Jacqueline
 Boatman, Sheryl
 Bolden, Louis
 Boles, Vivian
 Brewer, Edward
 Brickey, Thomas
 Brown, Duane
 Brown, Marquis
 Buckner, Reginald
 Buettner, Roger
 Burbridge, Kimberly
 Burns, Andrea
 Causey, Carmella
 Connelly, Suzanne
 Crawford, Larry
 Curtis Jr., James
 Dancy, Wendell
 Dangelo, Fred
 Darnell, Pamela
 Delaney, Jacqueline
 Dixon, Mildred
 Dumas, Janis
 Eddings, Anthony
 Ellis, Maria
 Fell, Terry
 Finnegan, Michael
 Fogel, Earl
 Foster, Dean
 Freeman, Beverly
 Gay, Yvette
 Gillespie, Marcia
 Glaser, Rose
 Hanks, Lawrence
 Harris, Anthony
 Harris, James "Pat"
 Harris
 Harris, Justine
 Harris, Larry
 Hendon, Edwin
 Henson, Ruth
 Herrington, Nakia

Hughes-Stewart, Joyce
 Irving, Ray
 Jackson Kathy
 Jenkins, Paula
 Jennewein, Christopher
 Jerman, Michael
 Johnson Jr., Harry
 Johnson, LaVonne
 Johnson, Ramona
 Johnson, Robin
 Johnson, Valerie
 Jordan, Kevin
 Keethler, Gary
 Klein, Laura
 Landrum, Darren
 Liles, Mathew
 Magee, Debra
 Mason, Robert
 May, Lisa
 McIntosh, Wanda
 McNeil, Shannon
 Mctyer-Johnson, Jan
 Mebane, Darryl
 Minor, Brenda
 Miramonti, Frank
 Moore, Annette
 Moore, Diane
 Moran, Larry
 Murphy, Vincent
 Nance, Cassandra
 Nicholas, Alan
 Nuckols, Nadine
 Palisch, Steven
 Parrish, Clifford
 Patrick, Stevie
 Prothro, Gizel
 Redden, Andre
 Reed, Patricia
 Reidt, Geoffrey
 Sacus, Charles
 Sanders, Jacqueline
 Savoy, Alan
 Sayles, Sandra
 Schneider, Gerard
 Seeger, Gary
 Simard Jr, Wilfred
 Simmons, Ronald
 Sims, Sheila
 Smith, Christine
 Smith, Gale
 Stephens, Martin
 Strode, Erma

Thomas Jr., Richard
 Thomas, Nathaniel
 Timmings, George
 Tracy, James
 Tucker, Sandra
 Turner Jr., Lehman
 Werner, Suzanne
 West, Nora
 White, Marvin
 Wilderman, Timothy
 Williams, Annette
 Williams, Annie
 Williams, Flavia
 Williams, James
 Williams, Nita
 Wilson-Tate, Michelle
 Woods, Barbara
 Woods, Wanda
 Ziyad, Janis

OCTOBER

Allen, Bruce
 Altom, David
 Anderson, Joyce
 Archambo, Michael
 Arnold, Nino
 Bates, Stanley
 Beeler, Edwin
 Berner, Donna
 Blanchford, James
 Bland, Herbert
 Bond, Countee
 Bowers, Arnett
 Boyer-Potter, Mary
 Brewington, John
 Brooks, Harold
 Brown, Garry
 Brown, Jimmy
 Brown, Latasha
 Burton, Edith
 Calmese, Kymberlie
 Campbell, Pamela
 Carter, Susan
 Chatman, Sylvia
 Collins, Bernard
 Cook, Beverly
 Cook, Denise
 Cook-Ingram, Emma
 Cooper, Keith
 Cunigan, Ina
 Dauphin, Gary
 Davis, Michael

Doria, James
 Dozier, Joseph
 Dukes, Lisa
 Dumaka, Ilam
 Eason, Gay
 Edinger, William
 Evans, Catherine
 Evans, Susan
 Fell, Lawrence
 Flood, Susan
 Fuller, Esther
 Galati, Michael
 Galow, Kelly
 Gardner, Leonard
 Haake, Dennis
 Hamilton, Yalonda
 Harlan, Lisa
 Harris, Duke
 Hayden, Tracey
 Henderson, SamEarl
 Hendrickson, William
 Herrmann, David
 Hibbler, Shanteala
 Hittler, Patricia
 Hoeflinger, Patricia
 Hogan, Melvin
 Holley, Pamela
 Holmes, Gwynn
 Holmes, Mark
 Huddleston, Joye
 Hunter, Rachell
 Jarvis, Mary
 Jaycox, Michael
 Jefferson, Simuel
 Johnson, Nina
 Kelly, Robert
 Kincaid, Vernon Jr.
 Kindle, Dave
 Kollenberg, Michelle
 Kroeger, Denise
 Lambert, Kiane
 Lewis, Raymond Jr.
 Lloyd, Michael
 Mack, Sarah
 Manuel, Dana
 Marks, Gwendolyn
 Marty, George
 Matthews, Richard
 Mazique, Elaine
 McCall, David
 McKenna, William
 Meyer, Roland

Middleton, Ralph
 Misuraco, Joseph
 Mizell, Pamela
 Montgomery, Keith
 Moody, Sheila
 Mosby, Larren
 Mount, Michael
 Murphy, Virgil
 Nevils, Toni
 Nunn, Claudius
 Perry, Zylvia
 Potts, Douglas
 Price, John Jr.
 Quirion, Karry
 Randels, Sandra
 Reagan, Pamela
 Riley, Daniel
 Robinson, Venetta
 Rodgers, Una
 Rowland, Kelvin
 Sacus, Pamela
 Silver, Timothy
 Simmons, Darrell
 Sinskey, Brian
 Smith, Rachel
 Smith, Patrice
 Smith, Todd
 Sostman, Yvonne
 Spencer, Dianna
 Spight, Carliss
 Stephenson, Frankie
 Stinson, Cheryl
 Swanigan, Stanley
 Switzer, Scott
 Szczepanik, Charles
 Taylor, Derrick
 Terry, Robert
 Thompson, Charlene
 Tyson, Kenneth
 Walls, Kendall
 Ward, Rudolph
 Welch, Daryl
 Werner, David
 Westbrook, Susan
 White, Delores
 Wilkerson, Kim
 Williams, Herman
 Williams, Michael
 Wilson, Jackie Jr.
 Winkeler, Dennis
 Wooten, Sharion

Watch Your Mail, Tell Board of Governors: Honor the Contract — Join the Fight to Save the USPS

APWU members have begun receiving brochures that include a tear-off card to mail to the chairman of the USPS Board of Governors, calling on him to instruct the postmaster general to: Adhere to the Collective Bargaining Agreement and work with the postal unions — which represent hundreds of thousands of dedicated postal employees — to save America’s Postal Service.

Union members, retirees, friends and supporters are being asked to fill out the card, sign it, affix a stamp and send it in. The mailing is the result of a resolution adopted by delegates to the union’s National Convention in August.

“The Board of Governors sets policy for the USPS,” said APWU President Cliff Guffey. “We want postal employees and supporters to let the board know that we intend to fight to preserve the Postal Service — and we want the board and the Postal Service’s top executives to join the battle.

“They must abandon the policy of dismantling the postal network and slashing service,” he added. “That strategy is doomed to fail. It will drive away customers, weaken communities, and kill jobs,” he said.

“Management’s failure to implement the terms of the contract is inexcusable,” Guffey continued. “We should be working together to save the institution we love and that America needs,” he said. “I urge all members to make their voices heard.”

APWU Web News Article 107-2012, Sept. 18, 2012



The union learned on Monday, September 17, 2012, that the St. Louis installation has received an impact statement excessing 95 full-time level 6 clerks out of the installation and/or the craft.

The union is currently dealing with a sectional excess in the 631 stations and branches and during the research on this issue, the union has learned that there has been no significant drop in mail volume as management has claimed. The real reason behind this is that management is not meeting their budget. In their Customer Service Variance (CSV) reports, management uses an unrealistically low number of hours for what they call their “benchmark,” and then show the actual hours used for a particular task along with what they call their “earned hours.” The volumes, however, do not show a significant drop in volume. In fact, in some stations and branches, just the opposite is true, there is an increase.

Now, management is trying to apply the same flawed argument for the P&DC and the Annex. They

claim mail volume has dropped dramatically, modifications to machinery have taken work from the clerks, and too many hours are being used. I have heard that management wants to cut 350,000 clerk hours out of the St. Louis installation and that is simply ridiculous. A reduction of that amount translates to **more** than 95 clerks when calculated on the 1,792 hours per year associated with each full-time employee. We all know that the plant cannot get the mail out now, so what makes management believe that they can be productive with 95 fewer clerks? Overtime usage is up. Dispatches consistently run late, and management still works nearly 100 percent of the clerk employees on the holiday schedule. But despite all of this, management plans to excess 95 clerks.

There is a meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 27, 2012, to discuss this excess and the union intends to question the entire impact statement. APWU Regional Coordinator Sharyn Stone and Clerk National Business Agent Dennis Taff will be at the meeting and we will keep everyone informed as to the outcome.

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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

October 8 (Monday)

October 9 (Tuesday)

October 10 (Wednesday)

October 13 (Saturday)

October 15 (Monday)

October 31 (Wednesday)

November 4 (Sunday)

November 5 (Monday)

November 11 (Sunday)

November 22 (Thursday)

December 9 (Sunday)

Columbus Day Holiday

PWBC Annual Shareholder Meeting (4:30 p.m.)

Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)

General Membership Meeting (9:30 a.m.)

Stewards' Training (9 a.m. & 7 p.m.)

Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)

General Membership Meeting (3 p.m.)

Stewards' Training (9 a.m. & 7 p.m.)

Veterans Day Holiday

Thanksgiving Day Holiday

General Membership Meeting (3 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.