

Difficult Negotiations

By Frederick Wolfmeyer, President

Sisters and brothers, I have returned from Washington, D.C., with the news that we have not gotten a new collective bargaining agreement ... yet. I was present at the negotiations as a member of the Rank and File Committee last week, and I was also privileged to be invited into the actual negotiation process by National Motor Vehicle Director Mike Foster. I was also tasked by him to put some of my ideas or suggestions on paper which then became part of some new contract language and incorporated into a proposal from the union. I do not know if that proposal will be agreed to, but if it is, I can look at Article 39 of the contract sometime in the near future, and see language I helped to write.

The USPS is taking a hard stance in these negotiations thanks to the position that president Trump has taken to privatize the Postal Service. It is as if the service negotiators are afraid to strike a deal with the union because Trump will be angry and fire all of them. Our union negotiators on the other hand are working very diligently and creatively to do their best to arrive at a new collective bargaining agreement, one that all APWU members will be happy with. Workplace rights are definitely under attack as are our wages, leave provisions, health insurance, COLA, and other benefits that the union has worked and fought hard to attain over the years.

There was a power point presentation by the chief operating officer (COO) of the post office which painted a picture of gloom and doom. First-class mail volumes are down; commercial mail volumes are down; transportation costs are too high; package volumes are high and encouraging because they are expected to go higher, but even with that revenue, the service just cannot afford to increase wages or keep the COLA or the no layoff clause. Remem-

ber, we are the only union, and probably the only workforce in the world, to have such a clause. Now the service wants to take away many of the benefits we have gained over the years and leave us with a gutted contract.

The APWU is fighting this regressive stance of the service by working hard to keep what we have and to get more — more career employees higher wages, and to keep our COLA and no layoff clause. We have been hailed as being the most productive postal workers ever and the cost of sending a letter is the cheapest in the world. In addition, we process more mail than any postal service in the world and deliver to over 156 million addresses safely and efficiently and that number is on the rise. However, we are being rewarded with more automation, an employer that wants the ability to hire more non-career employees with no benefits, and that wants to take away many of our workplace rights. And in Washington, we have a president who has declared that he wants to privatize the Postal Service. He calls the service's deal with Amazon a failed process that is costing the people of the nation a lot of money in lost tax money, not realizing that the Postal Service receives no tax subsidies but instead receives all of its revenue from stamps and postal services. The man in charge should become educated on these issues.

There will be a Day of Action rally on Monday, October 8, 2018, starting at 10 a.m. and going to noon. The location of the rally will be on 10th Street in front of the Eagleton Federal Building and is being held there in hopes that Congressman Lacy Clay will join us. This rally is to draw atten-



tion to pending legislation, HR-993, on which Congressman Clay is a co-sponsor and which is designed to help the Postal Service.

On the home front, management is still reverting jobs left and right. The Dashboard process is being used to justify any and all reversions whether in the plant, annex, the stations and branches and the associate offices. On September 29, there will be nine PSEs converted to career in the plant with another 10 in customer service who will attend window training. Once they pass the window training, they will be converted to career and get duty assignments in the stations and branches. The Missouri Postal Workers Union

fall seminar will be held October 12–14, 2018. State President Teddie Days will conduct his last seminar and then retire as state APWU president. If you would like to attend some very informative classes dealing with steward rights, filing grievances and issues such as attendance, please call the Union Hall and let us know you want to attend.

Speaking of retirement, remember that this is my last term as president of the St. Louis Gateway District Area Local. My term ends in August 2019 and I will not seek re-election, so we need some new young or younger members to step up and get involved in the local union. Until the next issue, be safe and attend your union meetings.

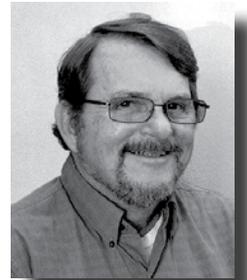
Executive Vice President

By Gene Hollenbeck

By the time you read this we will have between 15 and 19 new career employees. We would like to welcome them to the family. We also have a new transfer and welcome her as well. We will continue to work towards getting more of our PSE brothers and sisters converted to career status.

We will be meeting with the newly converted FTRs sometime in October to explain their rights and benefits. We will also answer any questions that they may have.

On a personal note I would like to thank all of you for the well wishes and prayers while I was out. I am back and getting stronger every day. Thank you for all of your support.



COME TO OUR SIDE OF THE FENCE

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

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

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



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Insured By
NCUA



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NeighborsCU.org

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

neighbors
CREDIT UNION
Where the grass is greener

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

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



Editor's

By Shelia Patton-Harris



Corner

I was privileged to be a delegate to the National Convention of the American Postal Workers Union that was held in Pittsburgh, Penn. I served as the chairperson for the Appeals Committee. This is a three-member panel with people from all over the country. I have served on this committee for the last four conventions. The Appeals Committee's function is to hear disputes between members and their locals. We read the local's constitution and any other relevant documents used to support the case. We usually interview the parties involved so we get a full picture of what is going on. We had three major cases this convention. It took us the whole convention, but we got through all of the material. I presented the report along with our recommendations to the whole convention.

Contract negotiations are ongoing. Our local president, Fred Wolfmeyer, is on the Rank and File Committee and will give us updates from Washington D.C. Hopefully we will get a decent contract, but if President Trump gets his way, the United States Postal Service will be privatized in the near future. He has put together a panel to find out if the Postal Service could be dismantled and if universal service could be discontinued. The planned August 10 release of the study of UPSP's finance has passed without any disclosure of what the presidential task force recommended to Trump.

As usual, I am asking you to attend the union meetings. With Mr. Trump in the White House we must stand together like never before. When he gets something in his head, he is prone to make decisions without being aware of the consequences of his actions. Even if you oppose the whole idea of unions, now is not the time to pull back. We need everyone to come together so that we present a united front.

On another note; strokes are a leading cause of death in the United States. Please be aware that if you have diabetes, hypertension, or any other chronic condition, it is vital that you take your medication as prescribed. One study cited that blacks experience strokes at a higher rate than whites because blacks are less likely to take their high blood pressure and diabetic drugs as directed. Most medications have unpleasant side effects, but nothing could be as bad as having a stroke. Other complications of diabetes and hypertension include heart problems, blindness, amputations and various other conditions.

Flu season is upon us. Getting a flu shot is something everyone should do, especially if you have a chronic condition. Eighty thousand people died as result of the flu in 2017-18. If you think that the flu is just a real bad cold, think again. Not only will a flu shot protect you, it will help to protect those around you.

Have a happy holiday season!!

Vigil held for postal worker killed by Portland State University cops outside campus police office

About 50 people attended a vigil for a Portland postal worker shot by Portland State campus police. Jason Williams, a 45-year-old Navy veteran was killed when two security officers shot him a total of 17 times. Witnesses say he was trying to break up a fight involving one of his friend's outside of the Cheerful Tortoise, a bar near campus, on June 29.

Washington fell at one point, got up and was holding the friend's handgun that had been holstered to Washington's hip before the fall and was shot when the officers ordered him to drop it.

Associate Office Director's Report

By Becky Livingston

As I write this article several important issues come to mind. What may be important to some may not be important to others, but I hope you find some of the information helpful as you maneuver through this thing we call life at the United States Postal Service. As you know, the APWU is currently in contract negotiations. While we have seen many issues regarding workforce benefits resolved for the PSEs, we are hopeful that further contract negotiations will result in increases in pay and benefits for the career workforce as well. Only time will tell. With that I am going to start with the first life lesson this article is going to focus on. This is really important, folks! **Please come to work! Please show up on time!** As you all know at the first of the year there was a VER (voluntary early retirement) offered to the clerk craft. If you haven't heard, the post office did not get the number of employees they wanted or needed to accept this offer and retire. So, guess what. Now they are focused on reducing the number of career clerks in whatever ways they can. When you report late to work two to three times a week, which shows up on TACS as AWOL (absent without leave), you are handing them your career on a silver platter. When you don't take the time to file FMLA documentation for you or your dependent's serious health condition but still keep calling in, this will show up on TACS as unscheduled leave and guess what, you are continuing to hand them your career on a silver platter. Please take the time

to file FMLA documentation and protect your jobs.

The Associate Office employees receive an official job discussion, a letter of warning, a notice of seven-day suspension, a notice of 14-day suspension before finally receiving a notice of removal; or a proposed notice of removal if you are a veteran. You can find yourself on the outside looking in real quickly if you continue to miss work. Failing to maintain a regular work schedule is the discipline most cited by the Postal Service.

Let's face it. The Postal Service has reduced the number of jobs each office has through reversions and abolishments. It is the union's job to file grievances on these actions. We all know there are anywhere from two to six PSEs working 40 to 50 hours a week right beside you, but it can take months if not years for the jobs to be posted if we are successful through the grievance procedure. In the meantime we have workers who are finding themselves exhausted and frustrated because they can't get the mail to the carriers fast enough. We all know it's all about getting the carriers to the streets.

The clerks are also requesting incidental leave and even when there are no folks scheduled off, they are being denied because the offices are not staffed to even have people go on their entitled vacations let alone a random day off to spend with family or even go to the doctor.

Clerks play a very important part in the overall daily operation of the United States Postal Service. If the postmaster or supervisor doesn't show up the work still gets done. We bring the mail in over the counter at

the post offices, prepare it for dispatch and send it to the Main

Post Office where there are more clerks, mostly working one person to a machine when there should be two, getting it ready to send back to the post offices the next day to start the process all over again. Don't get me wrong. All of the APWU crafts play a huge part. Without MVS the clerks wouldn't get the mail to work. Without the maintenance craft the machines could not process the mail and the offices would be unsafe and unhealthy places to work. And without support services, whom would the clerks call when they have financial issues or they have RSS technical issues? It takes us all to do our part in making sure the job gets done. What happens when the opening 2 a.m. person doesn't show up? Utter chaos ensues! A lot of offices used to have two people opening the office in case this happened. Now they have one clerk scheduled. When they don't show up because they are sick or something unexpected happens, they are made out to be a villain because, of course, the supervisor is still sleeping and doesn't report to work until 6 or 6:30 a.m. or sometimes later. Management should be there to manage their offices, not make it the responsibility of the clerk and then refuse to pay Level 7 pay when it is appropriate.

Bottom line is please come to work; it has a real impact on the office and your coworkers. If you have a serious health issue, please get it protected with FMLA documentation. If you need help securing the



required documentation needed to file for FMLA, please give me a call.

The final thing I would like to address is the idea that some folks think it is the steward's responsibility to know what your life's plan is. While I try to help folks with everything from emergency-placement/removal issues, attendance related discipline issues and FMLA, to failure to follow instruction/insubordination issues and employee assistance referrals; it is not my responsibility to help you secure jobs in other offices or guide you through your goals of becoming a member of management. While I have always stated that everyone's career choice is their own, it is not the union's responsibility to make sure you know and follow all of the established guidelines in the contract as you pursue your dreams, whatever they may be.

This is for the clerks who want to be the Lead-7 in their office for the Saturday/Sunday nonscheduled days but refuse to perform the duties and responsibilities of the Lead-7. The Lead-7 position was created to eliminate the use of the 204-B. This position can perform all duties of a supervisor except issue discipline or approve/disapprove leave. To state to a supervisor that you don't want those responsibilities can lead to discipline and I have had calls recently

from supervisors asking those very questions. Please make sure you want the responsibilities that come along with a Lead-7 position before bidding. The APWU has been trying to negotiate that the Lead-7 become a Level 8 or 9 but the U.S. Postal Service has not been receptive to that idea. Until then, please bid carefully. To all of the clerks who aspire to be a supervisor, please make sure you are informed as to what that entails. You may be a member of the APWU, but we are here to protect all craft members and clerk jobs, not to make sure you maneuver your way successfully into management.

For all of the folks who are wanting to transfer to other offices either for personal convenience or out of necessity because of the working conditions of your own office, please go to Ereassign and request opportunities for those jobs in offices that you would like to go. Please don't put in a request and then just sit back and expect everything to fall in place. Do your homework. It is not the union's responsibility to know where you live, what office you want to go to, or if you even want to leave your office, unless you ask. I would help anyone who asks and I have never turned anyone away. I don't always have the answers, but I never hesitate to tell you that I will find out and call you

back. The problem is that you call after it's too late.

The union at the local level does not have control of negotiated settlements and memorandums of understandings that are signed off by the national officers. We are just here to make sure the contract is followed; and if it hasn't been, we file grievances. Sometimes the hardest thing to do is tell people the way it is and not be able to tell them that I can help them with an issue that is contractually allowed. Those conversations are the hardest, but that is the tough part of this job. I have no problem letting management know they are wrong, but I find it most difficult to tell a clerk that management can do something. Don't get me wrong, it doesn't happen very often but when it does it's difficult.

To all of those folks who feel they have not been represented fairly, I will tell you it has never been personal, it has been contractual and I am sorry if anyone has felt that way. It was never my intent, but I only get to tell it like it is.

With that said, I was so happy to see so many Associate Office folks at the picnic and I hope you had a good time. As always, I hope everyone has a safe and happy fall and please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Director of Industrial Relations

By Paul Reid



Greeting brothers and sisters of the St. Louis Gateway District Area Local. I hope everyone has had a great and safe summer.

I am asking each one of you to come out in the upcoming months and hear first-hand about what is occurring on the local, state, and national level. There is nothing like getting information that is current and correct from your union officials. To be a union, we have to be on one accord and unified. Please be mindful and present at upcoming events and general membership meetings.

Yours in union solidarity.



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

Frederick M. Wolfmeyer, President
Phone: (314) 231-7665

1705 South Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63104
Fax: (314) 231-5709

September 2018

Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for being a great citizen and joining with your brothers and sisters in voting in this critical election. I'm writing to members of our union today to ask you to vote for the following endorsed statewide Priorities:

- Claire McCaskill for US Senate
- Nicole Galloway for State Auditor
- Yes, on Amendment One
- Yes, on Proposition B

We encourage you to have a Vote Plan. Below are some questions you should think through.

Have you thought about what time of day you'll be voting?

- Where will you be coming from at that time?
- How will you get there?
- Is that close enough to walk, or will you make a special trip and drive?
- Will you go by yourself or with someone else?

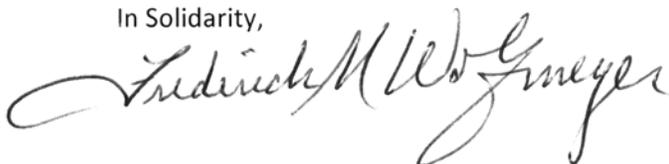
Polls will be open from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM and make sure to bring a Current Missouri Driver's License/State ID, Federal Government ID, or copy of a utility bill, bank statement, check, or government document that has your name and current address.

To look up your polling location visit voteroutreach.sos.mo.gov

We may call you after the election to hear about your experience at the polls.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the union hall.

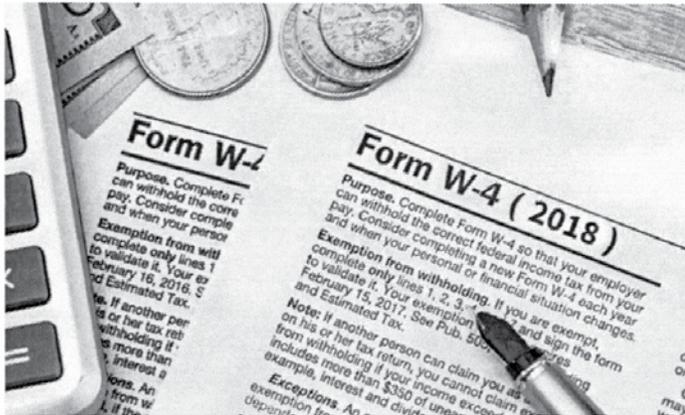
In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frederick M. Wolfmeyer".

PAYCHECK CHECKUP

By Robbie Robertson

****Employees should review federal withholding**



According to the USPS link, “The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) wants USPS and other employees to review their federal income tax withholding.

Several tax laws changed in 2017, which took effect this year. Please check your withholding now, so you can avoid any unexpected bill or tax penalty.

The IRS offers an **online withholding calculator** that can help you determine if you should submit a new Form W-4 to the Postal Service or your employer (local, state, or national) union.

You should review your most recent paycheck stub and federal tax return on hand. The calculator’s result are only as accurate as the information you enter.

According to the IRS, it’s especially important to check your withholding if you:

- Are a two-income family
- Have two or more job at the same time
***Make sure the second job is ZERO
- Work a seasonal job or only work part of the year
- Claim credits like the child tax credit
- Have dependents age 17 or older
- Itemized your deductions on your 2017 return
- Have high income or a complex tax return
- Had a large tax refund or tax bill for 2017

If necessary, you can go to PostalEASE to make changes to your Form W-4

If you have questions, you should consult the IRS, a qualified tax preparer or a tax attorney.

AMENDMENT 1 AND PROP B MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR OUR FAMILIES.

YES ON AMENDMENT 1

To clean up Missouri politics.

- ✓ Lowers campaign contribution limits
- ✓ Eliminates almost all lobbyist gifts
- ✓ Requires state government be more transparent
- ✓ Stops the revolving door of legislators becoming lobbyists
- ✓ Requires fair state legislative maps

CleanMissouri.org

YES ON PROP B

To raise Missouri’s minimum wage.

- 👤 Gradually increases the state minimum wage
- 👤 Helps wages keep pace with rising costs
- 👤 Boosts small business by creating more customers
- 👤 Helps families take care of their children

RaiseUpMO.org



Paid for by MOVE Ballot Fund, Rev. Teresa Mithen Danieley, Treasurer





AMERICA'S HEROIN EPIDEMIC IS BEING OVERTAKEN BY ANOTHER DEADLY DRUG ADDICTION: FENTANYL

How to cut the online fentanyl trade? Postal reform is key

Opioid bill to fight epidemic that killed 50,000 people last year — more than car accidents or gun deaths — must pass Congress

Buying illicit fentanyl — a drug that is killing people in the United States at a rate of 80 a day — is as easy as ordering a book online.

Websites openly advertise the synthetic opioid, offering customer service by email, bulk purchase discounts and shipping guarantees.

One Internet ad touted a price of \$580 for carfentanyl, a fentanyl derivative so powerful it is used to tranquilize elephants. Another advertised a “hot sale” on a fentanyl product after China put it on its list of controlled substances. “The product is gonna get discontinued and all must go” by July 1, the ad said.

The ease of buying fentanyl — which is frequently laced into heroin and fake pain pills — is likely one reason it has replaced prescription opioids as the leading killer in drug overdoses.

Another reason for the fentanyl explosion is that it’s easy to ship to the United States. You don’t need drug mules. Much of it comes by express mail. Investigators found that sellers prefer to ship the illicit drugs through government-run services, such as the U.S. Postal Service, rather than commercial carriers such as FedEx or UPS.

Why? Perhaps because the Postal Service, unlike those companies, has failed to require data in advance on all packages, such as who and where the package is coming from. Getting that electronic information from shippers and incorporating it in bar codes would allow Customs and Border Protection to target suspected packages and intercept illegal goods.

The advance data can save lives. Yet despite the urgency of stopping fentanyl, the Postal Service has moved at a glacial pace to get these critical data from foreign countries. Last year, the Postal Service got advance data on an average 36 percent of packages.

Soon, under a measure closer to final passage by Congress, that should change. The bill would require the Postal Service to get advance data on 70 percent of all international shipments by the end of the year, including 100 percent of those coming from China — the leading source of illicit fentanyl.

The postal reform is part of a huge legislative package designed to battle the opioid epidemic that killed more than 50,000 last year — more than traffic accidents or firearm deaths.

Reprinted from US Today



ST. LOUIS GATEWAY DISTRICT AREA P.O.W.E.R.



What is POWER?

APWU POWER (Post Office Women for Equal Rights) is the women's committee within the APWU. It unites women with their special concerns, yet works within the framework of the national APWU organization.

When was it founded?

POWER was founded in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 28, 1979, by the late sister Barbara Prothro. The APWU National Constitution was amended to include POWER at the APWU National Convention in Detroit, Michigan, in August of 1980.

Why is St. Louis Gateway APWU necessary?

The purpose of POWER is to provide assistance to the less fortunate with fundraisers and special projects throughout the St. Louis Community.

How do I joining APWU POWER?

Every female member of APWU is automatically an APWU POWER sister.

When are the meetings schedule for APWU POWER?

Per the structure foundation of the APWU POWER, meetings are held directly after February, May, September and November general membership meetings unless the chair calls for a special meeting. It will be posted two weeks before the meeting via postings www.stlouisapwu.org website, social media, and union board at the plant.

Come join our next meeting!

P.O.W.E.R. UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 27 - Making Strides Against Cancer Walk

Nov 2 - Trivia Night - \$25 person or \$200 table

Dec 8 - Scarfs, Socks, Hats & Supplies Drive

APWU-POWER PRESENTS



WHEN: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2
WHERE: FEFA HQ, 505 VANCE VALLEY PARK, MO 63088
TIME: 7 PM

2018 REGISTRATION

\$200 - List 8 Member Team

1. Team Captain-Name & Email
(Name) _____
(Email) _____
(Phone) _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Single Tickets \$25

Name/Phone _____

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REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

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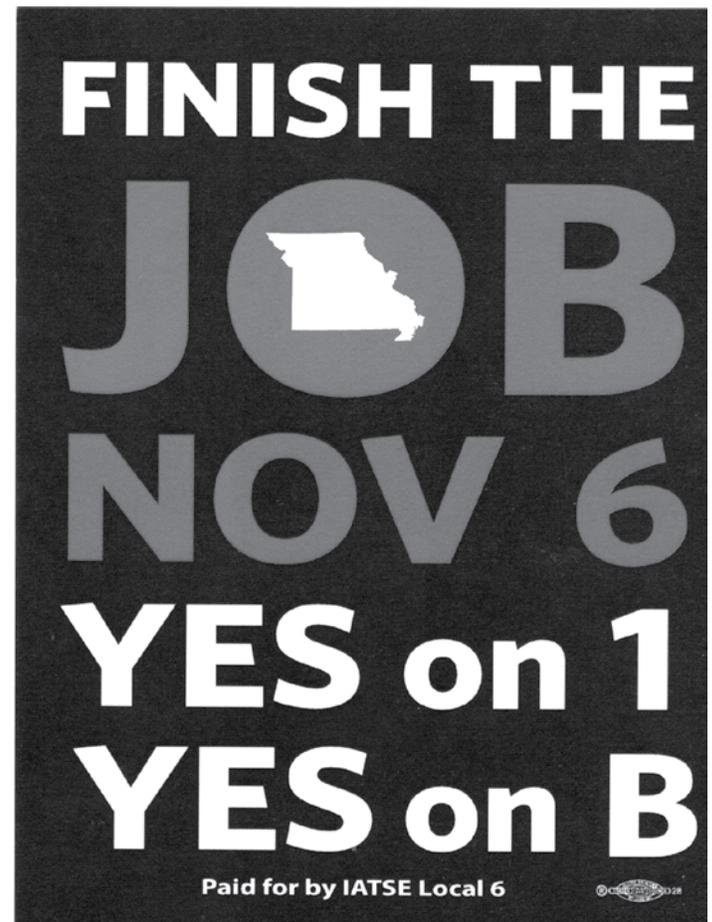
Can't attend but would like to make a donation of \$ _____

Return form/payment to:
St. Louis Gateway POWER
1705 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104



Allen, Adria
Barriger, Brad
Bess, Donna
Burnett, Duane
Butler, Eric
Campbell, Sherren
Carr, Howard
Clark, Gary
Hardge, David
Jenkins, AreiOnna
Joiner, Robert

Jones, Tenisha
Miller, Maurice
Nelson, Charlotte
Nichols, Tomekia
Pettiford, Andre
Rogers, Jewell
Shea, Dale
Singleton, Hope
Taylor, Claudia
Thomas, Allen
Tillman, Michael
Willi, Megan



Postal Raffle Pulse Winners

First place	\$300	Nita Williams
Second place	\$200	Deena Baeumner
Third place	\$100	Jacqueline Collins
Fourth place	\$100	Sheila James
Fifth place	\$100	Ronald Dodge
Sixth place	\$50	Frank Bonsignore
Seventh place	\$50	Keith Petty
Eighth place	\$50	Douglas Kuhn

Remember!

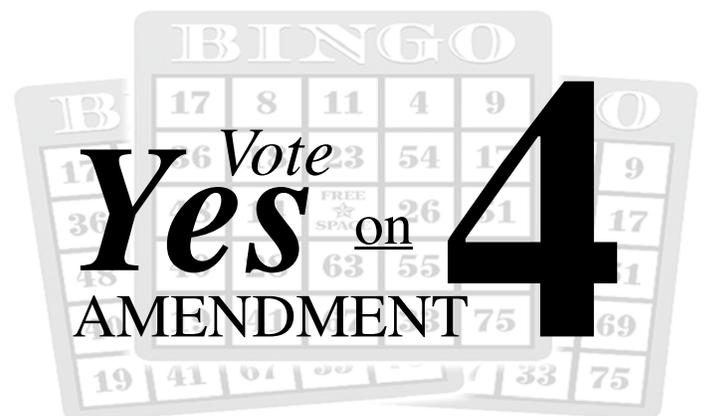
**Postal Workers Building Corporation
PWBC**

**Annual Shareholders Meeting
will be**

October 15, 2018

4:30 p.m. at the Union Hall

1705 S. Broadway



St. Louis Gateway APWU
 1705 S. Broadway
 St. Louis, MO 63104
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Press On

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

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Union Office

1705 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104
(314) 231-7665
 FAX: (314) 231-5709
 After Hours (314) 330-9641

Office Hours

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

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

GATEWAY LOCAL CALENDAR

<p>September 3 (Monday) September 5 (Wednesday) September 9 (Sunday) September 10 (Monday)</p> <p>October 1 (Monday) October 8 (Monday) October 13 (Saturday) October 15 (Monday) October 31 (Wednesday)</p> <p>November 4 (Sunday) November 5 (Monday) November 11 (Sunday) November 12 (Monday) November 22 (Thursday)</p>	<p>Labor Day Holiday Executive Board Meeting 2 p.m. General Membership Meeting 3 p.m. Stewards' Training 9 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>PWBC Annual Meeting 4:30 p.m. Columbus Day Holiday General Membership Meeting 9:30 a.m. Stewards' Training 9 a.m. & 6 p.m. November Executive Board Mtg. 2 p.m.</p> <p>General Membership Meeting 3 p.m. Stewards' Training 9 a.m. & 6 p.m. Veterans Day Veterans Day Observed Thanksgiving Day Holiday</p>
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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.