Hello union brothers and sisters. It is truly wonderful to serve as your president, despite the job being far more demanding than one may think. That being said, I would like to say thank you on behalf of all the elected officers, stewards and committee members. Thank you Detroit District Area Local membership for sticking with us and being patient with us. I apologize for this first issue being late. The delay was due to me working a schedule of six days a week and 8 to 16 hours a day since taking office.

In this issue, I am going to touch on issues that are pertinent to our membership at this time. There are so many and it is an overwhelming process, but I promise you we will get these issues resolved to the best of our ability.

STATE OF THE UNION
I would like to talk about the State of the Union and where we intend to go from here. We plan to follow the APWU-DDAL Constitution completely. This means you must keep us in line by asking the questions and demanding that we answer them completely and truthfully. Even if you do not we will do it to ourselves.

GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION ISSUES
The grievances and arbitrations that were processed in the Detroit District Area Local are back in place and are being properly processed by the DDAL. The DDAL believes the USPS is not bargaining in good faith and is violating the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) on several fronts and for various reasons. We believe these are the reasons.

1) The last administration withdrew more grievances than they arbitrated and the USPS had such a small workload of cases, they felt no need to settle anything let alone arbitrate it. I can tell you confidently, that the practice of having Arbitration Case Reviews (shake-outs), every 90 days like the past president did is over and is a thing of the past. We will give the USPS every opportunity to settle or resolve cases, but we will settle them within the confines of the grievance arbitration process outlined in the CBA. This process is Step 1, Step 1A (Mod-15), Step 2 and then Arbitration. This is the process and it will be adhered to and respected. This is the system that we are all part of and it will serve us all. Whenever you have a grievance and believe the USPS has done something or performed an act that you believe violates the CBA, make sure you ask your supervisor to be released and go to the union office and report the violation.

2) The USPS DETROIT DISTRICT HIGHEST RANKING MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS DO NOT CARE ABOUT THE EMPLOYEES OF THE DETROIT DISTRICT or about the Grievance Arbitration procedures. If they did, they would not blatantly violate the CBA and then act as if they are not aware of the violations. If they did care, they would have given the excessed employees the proper notification and kept the relocating inconveniences to a minimum, as mandated by Article 12.4.A. The only thing they care about is their bonuses and making their last 3 years with the USPS their highest in terms of pay so they can be compensated more in retirement.

3) The Senior Plant Manager at the GWY is denying 90% of grievances at Step 2 and is clogging up the grievance procedure. The USPS is saying we are flooding the system, but in truth, the system is being delayed due to their step 2 person not settling grievances at the lowest level.

4) The Union inherited many cases that were faulty, but we will get past this point and start getting to the important cases awaiting arbitration. I have predicted and still believe that USPS Detroit District management is going to yield a grievance in excess of at least one million dollars the next 3 years if they do not start doing the right thing when it comes to the employees in the Detroit District. They already gave up so much money in Ann Arbor, that the USPS got rid of the people who were handling those grievances. If it soon happen here, so make sure you file your grievances and continue to be vigilant in reporting all violations.

5) The USPS has management personnel that do not respect unions. They really never dealt with unions and believe by the time the issues get to arbitration, they will be long gone and will not be held responsible for the many contractual violations that have occurred in the Detroit District since 2007 to present.

6) Employees continue to ask me, what is the status of the grievance that was filed on behalf of the many grievance violations the USPS did in late 2008 and all of 2009? That grievance has not been ruled on yet. I did have the pleasure of asking the Arbitrator about that and he said it should be soon when he rules on that grievance. The Arbitrator informed me that the grievance had about 25 different issues that he must decide on, and he must rule on each issue separately. He also informed me that the grievance has about 150 exhibits that he must go thru, and another 48 witness testimonies that he must consider. He did say he did not know how long it may take, so hopefully, it will come back in our favor and he will give the decision before the end of the summer.

MEMBER’S RIGHTS
The past few years HAVE BEEN CHALLENGING, DISTURBING and UNEASY for our members. The DDAL’s plan is to work thru these challenges ALONG SIDE OUR MEMBERS. The DDAL cannot promise that these times will be easy or comfortable. In truth, the USPS will do it’s best to make it disturbing and challenging for us. However, I promise you that this administration will continue to fight for ALL the rights of our members despite any of the attacks that the USPS management attempts to impose on the DDAL officers and stewards. The DDAL officers and stewards are committed to fighting tooth and nail for ALL MEMBER’S RIGHTS; this applies to all crafts, tours and facilities.

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Stacey Carr  Recording Secretary
James Stevenson  Clerk Craft Director
Jason Rushing  Maintenance Craft Director
Alvin O. Branch  MVS Craft Director
Debbie LaMay  BMC Facility Director
Michael McCain  480 Director
Iva E. Williams  PAM Facility Director
Regina “Gina” Favors  Director of Legislation
Marcus D. Smith  Director of Organization
Tony Corbin  Assistant Clerk Craft Director
Raymond Allen Morgan  Assistant MVS Craft Director

Associate Editor’s Report

Danny Sawicki  Associate Editor

I would like to thank President Ulmer and the Executive Board for allowing me to serve you as the associate editor of YOUR newspaper. Again, this is YOUR newspaper and I am taking this appointment very seriously. Please let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions for our newspaper. Our next issue will have a question and answer column, “Ask the President.” Also, we are going to have a “Members achievement column”. Special events, accolades, anniversaries, etc., will be listed along with a picture. I will post more information at your workplace at a later date.

Currently, we are facing anxious times at our workplace, but we are very resilient people and we can get thru this together. Historically, we are among the leaders nationally and legal department and action by our executive board. Needless to say this has been a very time consuming process but a necessary one to secure the local’s funds. One major factor in the ongoing financial situation is the loss of members due to retirement and downsizing by the postal service. Our local lost 382 members from December of 2008 to December of 2009. In our first 90 days at office, we have lost an additional 72 members. We do not see that fact reversing itself in the near future.

With all that being said, we are working hard to get on a sound financial footing. I have made payment agreements with two vendors where we have substantial bills. These agreements will make it possible to pay off about $47,000 by the end of this year. I anticipate a similar agreement with our attorneys although that may take more than a year to complete. We are looking at every vendor and every expense and working to reduce costs. Here are some of the things we have done so far to save:

- SAVINGS by paying receipted fuel costs for this event was made by a vote of the executive board. The board’s decision rested on the fact that all the new officers need training and this local will continue to make training along with representing a high priority. To become solvent and get on a strong financial footing, we have to save at every turn while carrying out our obligations to all members. Hopefully every published report will show an improved financial situation for our local.

The Inheritance

Jane Duggan  Secretary-Treasurer

I imagine everyone is familiar with the idea of an inheritance. Many people look forward to receiving their inheritance... something a person or persons who went before us leaves behind. Usually an inheritance is something good.

Well, I’m here to tell you that’s not always the case. Our current administration received on behalf of the entire local a terrible inheritance... debt, debt and more debt. On the day of the two hour transition from the last secretary treasurer to the current secretary treasurer, I received a stack of un-paid bills totaling over $78,000 and a negative balance in the check book.

Since taking office, we have been hit with an increasing number of inherited debts and we have received word from both our attorney and one of our printers that they are holding outstanding debts from last year. The printer bills are related to the 2009 election. We haven’t seen what all the attorneys are billing for.

The outstanding debt on the day of the March membership meeting was well over $100,000. That is before the printer and the attorney weigh in.

Equally serious is the fact that three of the local’s bank accounts were locked out to the former secretary-treasurer. That means that although in at least one case we can see what’s in the account, the current officers have no access to the money or control over the accounts. As soon as this came to our attention, we moved to gain control.

We sent two written requests to the former secretary treasurer to come in and go to the bank and sign over our accounts. She did not cooperate in this matter. Therefore we had to look to other avenues to gain control of the local’s money. We are finally in control. It has been a lengthy process involving our local’s management and legal department and action by our executive board. Needless to say this has been a very time consuming process but a necessary one to secure the local’s funds.

One major factor in the ongoing financial situation is the loss of members due to retirement and downsizing by the postal service. Our local lost 382 members from December of 2008 to December of 2009. In our first 90 days at office, we have lost an additional 72 members. We do not see that fact reversing itself in the near future.

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- SAVINGS through reduced costs for phones, internet, paper, etc.

- SAVINGS through designating one person to request supplies for each location and then tracking those supplies.

Any single item may not sound like much but taken collectively we are on the road to recovery. And, in some cases even one item makes a big difference. For instance, if we paid mileage for the state training trip it would have been about $150 per car times 7 people. Instead we paid fuel costs of about $40 per car for 3 vehicles to take 7 people. In effect, we paid less for the group to go than we would have paid in mileage for one person.

The decision to go to receipted fuel costs for this event was made by a vote of the executive board. The board’s decision rested on the fact that all the new officers need training and this local will continue to make training along with representing a high priority. To become solvent and get on a strong financial footing, we have to save at every turn while carrying out our obligations to all members. Hopefully every published report will show an improved financial situation for our local.

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Your Key To Security

Detroit Postal Worker

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Editor: Christopher Ulmer
Associate Editor: Danny Sawicki

Opinions expressed in this paper are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Editors or the Detroit District Area Local.
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**The Heat Is On**

Each time we bring these problems to our understanding employer, who has concern and highest regard for the well-being of employees, we are fed the same old line of deceit: the postal service is concerned with the welfare and safety of each employee and we place their well-being as one of our highest priorities.

There is no question as we are a union have a most difficult task ahead of us. It will not be an easy execution to transform management into contractually doing the right thing. It will not be easy to change their way of thinking to respect and treat employees with dignity. Yet, history has shown that it can be done.

Each one of us has to focus on doing OUR job, no one else’s! By this, we must remember that we are hourly paid bargaining unit employees. We do not get paid to manage, staff units, make sure jobs are being completed and making sure everyone is on their assignment. The later part is what management if paid to do.

If we are window clerks, we work the window. If the customer line is backed out the door, it is not our job to order other clerks to the window. We should not rush the customer through the line by taking short cuts in our transactions. Management is responsible for watching their operations. If you get an irate customer, call a supervisor to the window.

If you are a mail processing clerk, do your job as a mail processing clerk. If your coworker does not show up for work, you do not have to do their job along with yours. There is no requirement that you have to work up a sweat to get paid. A fair days work for a fair days pay is what the contract says. If your running a machine and the machine is running out of mail or the bins are overflowing, don’t run up and down the machine in an unsafe manner to get the work done. You should work safely at all times. If you need help, don’t let a supervisor tell you to work faster (in an unsafe manner). If you fail behind, it is managements job to staff the machine with more people to get the work done.

Often times we want to do the right thing, working faster if we are short staffed, cover for our co-workers when they may call into work with an emergency. That may work for a while, but eventually it catches up to you with job related injuries or illnesses and a whole lot of stress.

We have to re-condition ourselves. When we see a supervisor dong bargaining unit work — FILE A GRIEVANCE. When you see employees crossing crafts — FILE A GRIEVANCE. If you are being harassed by a supervisor for not working faster — FILE A GRIEVANCE. If you are denied a day off you request in advance — FILE A GRIEVANCE.

One small word of advice, I have seen employees who never call in sick, who work through their breaks and jog up and down the machines to get the mail worked quickly.

I have seen employees who volunteer for every assignment and ones who go above and beyond the call of duty for the post office. Then when it comes to their job being eliminated, they go just like everyone else.

As much as management pretends to be concerned about your welfare and well being, trust me, it is the furthest from their minds, for their loyalty is only to themselves.

That’s why we have a union.

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**Women Hold Up Half The Sky**

Saturday, March 20th, our local POWER (Post Office Women for Equal Rights) Committee held its annual Women’s History Month celebration. It was a wonderful event attended by local members, officers, Regional Coordinator Sharyn Stone, Central Region clerk craft NBA Linda Turney and National Retiree Director Judy Beaud.

One small word of advice. I have reiterated the postal service’s concern for the welfare and safety of each employee during these trying times. Yet, time and time again, we see little or NO concern or assistance from management as our jobs are being eliminated, as we are being excluded, and where management is denying us our basic contract rights.

One would never guess we are outstanding postal employees with great production levels, when employees can’t even get a scheduled day off to attend a doctor’s appointment. Many are at an all time low in the post office. Employees are doing the work of two and sometimes three, because units are short staffed. Supervisors are calling employees at home and asking them to come to work sick because their office is short staffed.

Of the NY Times Sunday magazine focusing on women written by Nicholas D. Kristof and his wife Sheryl WuDunn. Since then, their book HALF THE SKY has come out. The title comes from the Chinese saying: “Women hold up half the sky”. Kristof and WuDunn put forward the notion that just as in the 19th century, the paramount moral challenge was slavery, in this century, “it is the brutality inflicted on so many women and girls around the globe sex trafficking, acid attacks, bride burnings and mass rape”.

If you think we don’t all need to give some of our attention to the issues facing women, consider some of the following statistics taken from the NY TIMES article:

- A 1% of the world’s landowners are women;
- 21% of young women surveyed in Ghana said their sexual initiation was by rape;
- 5000 honor killings take place each year . . . most in the Muslim world and
- 130 million women around the world have been subjected to genital cutting.

More recently, the March 6th - 12th issue of the British magazine THE ECONOMIST was titled “GENDECIDE: What happened to 100 million baby girls?”. The issue spoke at some length about the skewed sex ratio (boys to girls) that occurs in countries where sons are given a greater value. The lopsided ratio is created when society sees daughters as having less value and so they are aborted or abandoned at birth. The two worst cases at present seem to
Management is hell bent on removing Detroit District employees and positions. It is quite clear that no matter how many employees retire, how much mail is delayed, or how much overtime is utilized, management has decided to push forward with eliminating bargaining unit positions. The Postal Reorganization Act which requires “prompt and efficient” service for all customers has become a joke. Work that was being performed efficiently at GWY has been transferred to the Metroplex. Despite working 12 hours a day and 6 days a week, the mail cannot be processed. I believe that it is not a coincidence that the Detroit District has been the only District in the state of Michigan to require employees to move hundreds of miles from home or out of the state. Detroit District employees were herded out of the state as if they were cattle without enough time to lock their back door.

Fake Numbers — Management has been manipulating data and operational figures in its attempts to justify reductions in positions. Yes, the economy is distressed, yes mail volume is down, and yes postal employees are thankful for their jobs, but the bottom line is “The work is still there.” Mail that should be at the customers house waits to be rescued as it sits downtown, at the Metroplex, or looping around the state in the back of a (Contract) tractor-trailer. There are not enough clerks to cover vacations, NYS days, annual leave requests, normal sick leave usage, lunches, or breaks. What does management do? Instead of staffing the operation with enough clerks they have decided to violate the contract by doing bargain unit work themselves or ordering letter carriers to distribute the mail. The CPC machines were strategically removed from the city stations resulting in long lines, dissatisfied customers, frustrated clerks, and the main goal (less hours on the WOS reports). The empty standby rooms are a perfect example of bad decisions to excess productive employees as most operations could not run absent these so called “Not Needed” employees. The union is challenging all of these violations in the grievance procedure and has to file labor charges because the postal service has refused to provide requested information.

Change of Schedules — Let us make this very clear. Form 3189 is used strictly for an employee’s “preferences” (new duty stations). Every single employee attempts to execute a change of schedule form so that management is able to circumvent payment of “out of schedule premium or overtime”, you are helping to eliminate jobs and justify the reduction in personnel. Yes, you may enjoy coming in 2 hours early and punching out early but you are shooting yourself in the foot. I have seen clerks reporting to work 4 hours early without being paid overtime to cover another employee’s vacation. This demonstrates that we do not need more clerks despite the obvious fact that the compliment of employees is deficient.

Clerk Silence — It is imperative that clerks inform the union and document violations of the contract. When the Heights Station (former Vice-President) Christopher Ulmer and Myself won $90,000,000 for the clerks. Each clerk was paid $15,000.00 check for Thanksgiving. This was achieved by documenting the violations. The union currently has class action grievances (less $1,000 per month per clerk) in for every station but in order to be successful we need your help to continue documenting the violations. Many of the tips I receive concerning crosscrotch work and supervisors’ performing our work comes from individuals who are not clerks. Every time a supervisor so called (helps on the window), does the cage, performs dispatch, separates mail, runs a truck, passes out mail, etc. you should be informing the union and documenting. When letter carriers are passing out parcels, staging DPS, dropping tubs, scanning and recording parcels, distributing mail, dropping showpiece, etc. you should be informing the union and documenting. We cannot stop management from violating the contract but just like what occurred at Brightmoor, an arbitrator can put thousands of dollars in an upper supervisory’s pocket or be documented. Management has become so blatant that they are admitting the violations are occurring but are instructing the supervisors not to allow the union in the building to investigate and observe the actions. We are at war people and the job you save could very well be your own.

[Involuntary Reassignment] Federal law under Title V of the United State Codes grant federal employees certain rights when they receive a directed assignment in violation with their seniority (for commuting area). You may be eligible for a Discontinued Service Retirement (similar to an early out) and or Severance Pay should you decline the reassignment. If you are over the age of 40 you receive an additional 10% per year. Under no circumstances should you resign if you cannot move to a new location. The postal service has to make a decision what to do with you if you decline the assignment prior to your report date. If the postal service Involuntarily Separates the employee you are still eligible for unemployment. If you simply resign, quit, or are fired you may be found ineligible for benefits. Management conveniently has not informed employees of any of these rights with hopes that if you do not decline the reassignment and you cannot report to the new location you will be fired by the gaining installation additionally saving the postal service from paying you unemployment. Be sure to decline your reassignment prior to your report date and maintain confirmation of all your correspondence. Management basically ignored many hardship letters and phone calls, so keep proof of everything you send to management.

In closing, I would like to state that I recently visited our congressional representatives in Washington, D.C. I was armed with a letter from our President, Christopher Ulmer and informed our representatives of exactly what is occurring in the Detroit District as it relates to Customer Service and the treatment of Postal Workers. There are only three basic avenues in which postal workers can obtain justice. The federal court, congressional intervention, and the grievance procedure. Your union has gone to court, enlisted congressional help, and filed numerous grievances. We are also holding an informational rally to inform the public. Maybe if we cut back on those $30,000 bonuses upper management received for delaying mail and cutting jobs we would not be sending employees to Pittsburgh. We have a federal requirement to provide a service to the public and that cannot be pushed under the rug.

Fake Numbers + Change Of Schedules + The Clerk Silence = Excessing
We Are Under Heavy Attack For Excessing

What if you are their only option? If not able to make the move, do you place them in a convalescent center? Whether you realize it or not, there have been employees that those ones that have been identified that have faced with these or similar questions.

If you are an employee excessed or ones that have been identified to be, there are so many questions and not enough answers. Concerning excessing, the postal service has painted a perfect picture about the window of opportunity for you and your family. In my opinion, if I wanted to move my family to Des Moines, Iowa, I would simply sit in the middle of a cornfield typing this editorial. The honest truth is the postal service doesn’t care about 15 years of loyal service that you have provided to our customers and the community. All that concerns the post office is the bottom line. Whether that bottom line is accurate, honest, or if it will even work is another story.

After serving the APWU for 12 years, the USPS removed several members from the DNDC and re-assigned them to the carrier craft. Before they had time to prepare, these employees were identified to be excessed and out the door as letter carriers. These are employees that have worked inside for all or most of their postal careers, and have had no clothing allowance offered. A few members were lucky enough to know employees that had previously carried mail and borrowed the appropriate clothing. Other employees struggled with items that were not fit for the elements, but made adjustments or purchased new. Down winter jacket $125, insulated water proof boots, borrowed, gloves, hats and scarves, $60. Your first day as a letter carrier, throw a 40 lb. sack on your shoulder, carry mail on one of the coldest days of winter…priceless! Do you find it a coincidence that the postal service is now pushing a 5-day delivery? What will happen to the employees just recently excessed into the Carrier Craft? The NALC does not have the no-lay-off protest clause. We are all aware these employees will start a new period of seniority. Just another example of how the postal service values you as an employee.

All employees should be aware of the operational coding they are on the clock. Stand-by code 3400 represents waiting on mail as in no mail in the building, or no available work in the building. At any time, if you feel that you have been put on the 3400 code and it is not warranted, please notify a steward. 3400 code is not for down time, i.e.: mechanical problems, building transportation problems, lack of equipment, or when mail is in the building and due to a management decision, the sorters are running. Supervisors have been caught fraudulent logging hours on the 3400 code to save work hours. The stand-by and the 3400 code both represent a negative and inaccurate way to measure work hours, which could possibly lead to more excessing. A couple of years ago, there was a rumor the DNDC was going to be primarily a Mail Handler facility. Who knew that when the impact statement came out that 30 Clerks, 3 VOA’s, 6 TTO’s and 102 Mail Handlers would be identified to be excessed? If you think excessing is a rumor, then you don’t know the Postal Service. It is very clear the Postal Service doesn’t know what direction they are going in, but plan to proceed at any cost, whether it be the demotion of service, employees or family. If you have been excessed or have been identified to be excessed, please contact your union officials so the appropriate grievances can be filed.
Hello Brothers and Sisters!

Let me start out by saying thanks to the many sisters and brothers that once again elected me to represent you. I will do my best to represent all. I want to thank our stewards: Larry Walker, Maria Johnson, Chester [All] Kohlmeier, Stanley Prokop, Barbara Board, Misha Kimbrough, Jeffery Hutton, Mike Sands and Eddie Meister, all of them have stepped up to the plate to protect our contract.

We are in a constant battle to protect our jobs. Some of our family and friends have left us to go to Pittsburgh, or to the Carrier craft. They may be gone but are not forgotten. We will continue to fight to bring back everyone. Right now bids are up for grabs, but don’t be discouraged, we are going to make sure everything gets done contractually. Speaking of the contract, EVERY MEMBERS needs to be well informed. When you see a supervisor doing bargaining unit article 1.60, don’t be afraid to write a grievance. You may not be the one to get paid this time, but you may also not be the one to get shipped out of your craft because of supervisors or managers taking your work. We need to protect all our jobs.

I encourage all our members to GET INVOLVED. You may not want to be a steward, but there may be a committee that you want to work on. Posted on our union board (right outside the union offices), you will find bulletins of different committees needing help. LEARN THE CONTRACT. Remember that an informed member is a dangerous tool to management. I plan on doing a few things to help members get involved. If you want to know, ASK ME!!!

Hello Sisters and Brothers, as we transition into spring, it is time once again to begin thinking about elections. Yes, I know we just finished with some elections, but now we must think about who we want to lead our great state. We will be voting for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and more. We need to think about what impact we can/may have in selecting the best candidates for the job. At recent meetings we have discussed holding candidates we support accountable. We must really concentrate on reading between the lines, looking beyond the rhetoric and selecting persons who genuinely care about the voter from whom they are seeking support. We should be seeking the persons who not only SAY’S what they think we want to hear but who actually lives, does and shows (via their votes, bills and sponsorship) that they have OUR best interest at heart.

We also need to give a lot of consideration to the other issues that may be on the ballot come November. While I know that November is the one month, and with the holidays, when you turn around there it is! We have already begun screening candidates for State Officers, Representatives and Senators. We are in dire times right now and we need to look at who can best represent our issues, who will support us, the workers, not the special interest corporate bigwigs and greedy CEO’s who got us into this mess in the first place. We must find and support candidates who will do all they can to turn Michigan around. That being said, I would ask that you all please make sure you are registered and that you DO vote in the primaries in August. Some of these are the official vote for November and in the regular elections (in November).

At our last Union meeting, a motion was made to “have a picket by the end of the month!”. While I applaud what the members want and fully understand their anguish at what is happening to them, I wish they would have given a little more thought to what they asked, and the time frame they limited us to. At an AFL-CIO meeting just a few days before ours, a member called for a “Day of Solidarity” is in the planning stage. The point I am trying to make is that whatever we do, we need to make sure that it is effective and not haphazardly put on. We should not rush into something and not be fully prepared. The motion made and passed by the membership did not (in my estimation) take all of this into consideration:

1. Because it only gave us a week and a half to prepare.
2. It was to be held at a place that was not slated for any action at THAT time.
3. It was stated at the meeting that our President would be out of town (which to an outsider, person would appear as though we are not even supported by our leaders.)

I would like to ask how many of you have supported our other Union brothers and sisters when they “walk out”, picket or otherwise demonstrate? It is important that we do show solidarity as there is strength in numbers! In any event, we must do all that we can to insure that this picket is successful and will be a solid lead-in for the others that follow.

I’ve been told that most folks do not like having long articles to read, and after the first few lines you have probably lost them. So while I try to keep this article brief, there is a couple of issues that I believe bear watching. First, the H.R. 173 (papering the Postal Service to continue providing mail delivery 6 days a week, in an important piece of legislation. You should contact your legislators and ask them to please sign on to cosponsor this bill. So, contact your legislators, have your friends and family in other cities, states do the same! Secondly, there are a lot of issues going on in our Union (as there are in ALL other Unions), but if we are going to persevere in our struggles to maintain the quality of life that we and those that came before us fought (and sometimes died) for, a good education for our children and grandchildren, good jobs and all of those things that labor fight for, we must get active and stay involved in the process. Watch out for “right to work” activities. No, this issue is not dead and will more than likely flare up again this election cycle, probably under another name. There are also efforts to gain through zones. Two bills (S.B. 945 and H.B. 4081) have been introduced to amend 1939PA 176, to allow these right to work zones. PAY ATTENTION to this as we must keep our state from becoming a “Right to Work State”. So as you can see the “right is not over”.

There are so many issues and struggles that we are dealing with and need to keep addressing but all cannot fit into this one issue. Therefore, in order to hold on to my intention to not make this article too long, I will end on these notes that has been uttered so many times before by so many powerful activists: we cannot stop “cause the struggle is not over” and as a notable fighter for justice, MILLIE JEFFREY often said, “You never win freedom permanently. You have to win it time after time...whether it is in Union rights, civil rights or equality for women. We have to keep at it and at it.”

In Peace and Solidarity.

Legislative News & Views

Hello Sisters and Brothers, as we transition into spring, it is time once again to begin thinking about elections. Yes, I know we just finished with some elections, but now we must think about who we want to lead our great state. We will be voting for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and more. We need to think about what impact we can/may have in selecting the best candidates for the job. At recent meetings we have discussed holding candidates we support accountable. We must really concentrate on reading between the lines, looking beyond the rhetoric and selecting persons who genuinely care about the voter from whom they are seeking support. We should be seeking the persons who not only SAY’S what they think we want to hear but who actually lives, does and shows (via their votes, bills and sponsorship) that they have OUR best interest at heart.

We also need to give a lot of consideration to the other issues that may be on the ballot come November. While I know that November is the one month, and with the holidays, when you turn around there it is! We have already begun screening candidates for State Officers, Representatives and Senators. We are in dire times right now and we need to look at who can best represent our issues, who will support us, the workers, not the special interest corporate bigwigs and greedy CEO’s who got us into this mess in the first place. We must find and support candidates who Board, Misha Kimbrough, Jeffery Hutton, Mike Sands and Eddie Meister, all of them have stepped up to the plate to protect our contract.

We are in a constant battle to protect our jobs. Some of our family and friends have left us to go to Pittsburgh, or to the Carrier craft. They may be gone but are not forgotten. We will continue to fight to bring back everyone. Right now bids are up for grabs, but don’t be discouraged, we are going to make sure everything gets done contractually. Speaking of the contract, EVERY MEMBERS needs to be well informed. When you see a supervisor doing bargaining unit article 1.60, don’t be afraid to write a grievance. You may not be the one to get paid this time, but you may also not be the one to get shipped out of your craft because of supervisors or managers taking your work. We need to protect all our jobs.

I encourage all our members to GET INVOLVED. You may not want to be a steward, but there may be a committee that you want to work on. Posted on our union board (right outside the union offices), you will find bulletins of different committees needing help. LEARN THE CONTRACT. Remember that an informed member is a dangerous tool to management. I plan on doing a few things to help members get involved. If you want to know, ASK ME!!!

Hello Sisters and Brothers, as we transition into spring, it is time once again to begin thinking about elections. Yes, I know we just finished with some elections, but now we must think about who we want to lead our great state. We will be voting for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and more. We need to think about what impact we can/may have in selecting the best candidates for the job. At recent meetings we have discussed holding candidates we support accountable. We must really concentrate on reading between the lines, looking beyond the rhetoric and selecting persons who genuinely care about the voter from whom they are seeking support. We should be seeking the persons who not only SAY’S what they think we want to hear but who actually lives, does and shows (via their votes, bills and sponsorship) that they have OUR best interest at heart.

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Greetings and salutations to all of my brothers, and sisters that are members of this great and powerful institution, referred to by us as “The American Postal Workers Union.” We are, and have always been, in the midst of tremendous times while in the performance of the various duties that we manage to accomplish for our employer, and most importantly the American public, with whom we have a sacred trust to perform these tasks as efficiently and as expeditiously as we possibly can. As this is my first communication as a newly elected officer in this union, I feel it is necessary to express to you just as the title of this article says, (“The Plain Truth”). We as members of this union have to re-examine and re-align our priorities as union members, and I will explain each concept separately. First, re-examination: educating themselves to what rights and benefits they are entitled to in accordance with the National Agreement that governs their respective craft. This in particular to their union, ie: attend meetings to become informed and educated by the officials that they have elected. (3) don’t read, or even possess a copy of the contractual agreement that governs their employment with the postal service. Too often I hear a phrase that I hear, “That’s what I pay union dues for.” These members, as well as the non-members who get the haphazard attempt of postal management to realign operations, (direct the blame of mismanagement and incompetence to some other entity other than where it rightfully belongs). But, before we continue, I would like to tell you of one else of their shortcomings, we have to re-align our own thoughts and attitudes about who, what and where we are, and what is to be expected from us as union members.

This is not an easy, or welcomed process. We are by nature reluctant to changes in our normal, or abnormal routine. But nevertheless, it is going to occur as surely as day becomes night. It is the informed member who will make these changes with the least amount of difficulty, and know what course of action to take to correct any wrong doing or injustices done to them by uncarrying, unfeeling, self-serving individuals, who ever they may be.

It is encumbent upon every member, and non-member to become active in this struggle. We must reverse this assault upon our right to earn a decent, and meaningful wage for ourselves, and end the ones that depend upon us continued on page 11
The American Postal Workers Union and the United States Postal Service have jointly agreed to produce answers to the most frequently asked Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) questions. These question and answers should eliminate disputes concerning basic FMLA issues.

**SECTION 1 — WHO IS COVERED**

1. Q. What is the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993?
   A. In general, the Act entitles eligible employees to be absent for up to 12 workweeks per year for the birth or adoption of a child; to care for a spouse, son, daughter, or parent with a serious health condition; or when unable to work because of a serious health condition of the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent. These absences do not provide more annual or sick leave than which is already provided to postal service employees.
   – Source: 825.50

2. Q. Which employees are eligible?
   A. Employees who have been employed by the Postal Service for at least one year and who have worked at least 1250 hours during the previous 12 months are eligible.
   – Source: 825.100

3. Q. Is FMLA protection available for all employees?
   A. No. Employees who have been employed by the Postal Service for at least one year and who have worked at least 1250 hours during the previous 12 months are eligible.
   – Source: 825.10, ELM 444.22

4. Q. I am absent on protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act, and my transitional employee appointment term expires next week. How will that affect me?
   A. The Family and Medical leave Act does not affect the terms of your appointment.
   – Source: 825.216

5. Q. Do COP, OWCP, workers compensation, or military leave count toward eligibility requirements under the FMLA?
   A. COP, OWCP, court leave, and short periods of military leave count toward the 12-month eligibility requirement. However, none of the times mentioned count toward the 1250 hours worked eligibility requirement.
   – Source: 825.302

6. Q. If both spouses work for the Postal Service, does the USPS let both take up to 12 work weeks each of protected absences under FMLA each leave year?
   A. Yes.
   – Source: ELM 515.43

7. Q. Can an employee who is separated or divorced take a protected absence under the FMLA to care for a spouse or ex-spouse with a serious health condition?
   A. For an employee to take such leave, the couple must be legally married.
   – Source: 825.113

**SECTION 2 — WHAT IS COVERED**

8. Q. My mother-in-law who lives with me is ill and requires my care. Does management have to approve my leave arrangement?
   A. No. The FMLA only provides protections for covered conditions of a spouse, parent, son, daughter. Leave taken to care for anyone else would require approval under normal leave policies.
   – Source: 825.112

9. Q. My knee problem was diagnosed during an appointment with a health care provider. He ordered three months of physical therapy treatments. Are the visits and the treatments covered by the FMLA?
   A. Yes, where properly documented as a serious health condition, the absence would qualify for FMLA protection since it involves a continuing treatment under the supervision of a health care provider. The health care provider is stating that lack of treatment would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than 3 days needing intermittent FMLA leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule must attempt to schedule the absence so as not to disrupt the employer’s operations.
   – Source: 825.114

10. Q. My wife’s doctor said she needs almost total bed rest for the last two months of her pregnancy, and I need to stay home to care for our other children. Is this condition covered under the FMLA?
    A. FMLA does not cover baby-sitting for the other children. However, where properly documented that the husband is needed to care for her, the wife’s serious health condition would entitle the husband to a FMLA protected absence.
    – Source: 825.117

11. Q. If I use a midwife for both my prenatal care and the delivery of my child, will my pregnancy still be a condition covered under the FMLA?
    A. Yes. Pregnancy is a covered condition under the FMLA. Midwives are considered health care providers if they are authorized to practice under State law and are performing within the scope of their practice as defined under State law.
    – Source: 825.114 (b)(2), 825.118 [c]

12. Q. An employee had a baby and took leave during a period when she was not eligible under the FMLA. Now she is eligible, and the baby is still less than 1 year old can she take the 12 workweeks of protected absences under the FMLA?
    A. Yes, only the time taken when eligible under the FMLA counts toward the 12 work weeks.
    – Source: 825.112

13. Q. Is an employee entitled to 12 workweeks of protected absences under the FMLA for placement or care of an adopted or foster child?
    A. Yes.
    – Source: 825.112

14. Q. I took a week of protected leave to care for my baby who was born 2 months ago. Now I want to take the week of July 4th off to be with my baby. Since caring for my newborn is a condition covered under the FMLA, does my supervisor need to let me off for the week of July 4th?
    A. No. Not necessarily. You are requesting time off for the birth and care of a child on an intermittent basis. Therefore, your request for the week of July 4th is subject to your supervisor’s approval in accordance with current leave policies.
    – Source: 825.203

15. Q. Can an employee take protected leave under the FMLA to look for child care?
    A. If the employee’s supervisor approves the request, an employee can request and receive approved regular leave for such a purpose.
    – Source: 825.112

16. Q. An employee has a recurring degenerative knee condition that qualifies as a serious health condition. The certification indicates his condition may flare up to 2 days per month and render him incapacitated for duty. Consequently, the employee requested covered absences under the FMLA with little or no advance notice. Does this meet the criteria or intent of the intermittent leave entitlement under the FMLA?
    A. Intermittent absences due to a chronic condition which incapacitates an employee are covered by the FMLA.
    – Source: 825.114, 825.117, 825.203, 825.204

17. Q. Is treatment for substance abuse covered under the FMLA?
    A. Yes, if certified by the health care provider as a serious health condition. Absence because of the employee’s use of the substance, rather than for treatment, does not qualify as a covered condition under the FMLA.
    – Source: 825.114 [d], 825.112

18. Q. Can the flu be considered a serious health condition under the FMLA?
    A. Yes, if it complies with the definition of a serious health condition under the FMLA.
    – Source: 825.114

19. Q. If my child is sick, can I now take sick leave to care for him?
    A. Yes, under the National Agreement-Memorandum of Understanding on Sick leave for Dependent Care, employees may use up to 80 hours of their earned sick leave to care for a spouse, parent, son or daughter. Sick leave for Dependents is only protected to the extent that the FMLA illness qualifies as a serious health condition under the FMLA.
    – Source: 825.114

**SECTION 3 — HOW AN ABSENCE IS COVERED**

20. Q. How do I apply for leave under the FMLA?
    A. See your supervisor for an application. Request for Notification of Absence, with the supporting documentation. Leave under the FMLA is not a separate category or type of leave. You may request annual leave, sick leave or LWOP for your absence under the FMLA. Just as in the past, in an emergency situation a phone call, telegram, etc. will suffice until it is possible for you to submit the necessary paperwork.
    – Source: 825.302, 825.303, 825.203

21. Q. Do I have to mention the Family Medical Leave Act when I request time off for a covered condition?
    A. No. However, an employee must explain the reasons for the absence and give enough information to allow the employer to determine that the leave qualifies for FMLA protection. If the employee fails to explain the reasons, the leave may not be protected under the FMLA.
    – Source: 825.208, 825.302, 825.203

22. Q. Do I have to use all of my annual leave balance before I can take LWOP for a condition covered under the FMLA?
    A. No, you need not exhaust annual leave and/or sick leave before requesting continuous paid leave. The use of leave, paid or unpaid, is subject to management’s approval consistent with the handbooks, manuals, the National Agreement and the FMLA.
    – Source: 825.207, ELM, NATIONAL AGREEMENT.
by Jane Duggan

ACTIVITY ROUND UP

The local office has seen a flurry of activity in recent months. Main-tenance and MVS have had special meetings. Steward training was done on a Saturday. Our local Retiree Chapter has had committee meetings with some regularity.

The Legislative Committee has met several times and had a number of open meetings involving more members in the planning of a series of rallies and picnics to fight the push for five day delivery. Their work has paid off in good turn outs at every event and growing enthusiasm for the struggle.

At least one meeting was dedicated to sign making. Members brought in their own materials and showed some real creativity. More recently, sticks were prepared to make it easier to hold the signs up on windy days.

The Entertainment committee has been busy planning the annual picnic for July 18th. A lot of work goes into event planning including finding a site, picking a menu, planning activities for the day for adults and kids and a whole lot more.

April 24th, a Saturday, we held steward training from 9 til 5. Seventy- 

three people participated. The sessions were led by local officers and Special Assistant to the President, John Merritt. Many people said after-wards that it was the best steward training they’d ever attended. A number of officers and stewards participated in role playing making the information come to life.

Sunday, May 2nd, maintenance held a special meeting after the mem- 

bership meeting. Fifty maintenance members were present. They were joined by ten officers and the Special Assistant. Eleven maintenance craft stewards were introduced so the members could see them.

Two days later, the full time officers went to Monroe Michigan, on the morning of May 4th. They met from 7 til 10 PM with fifteen (15) members from the outlying offices including Temperance, Monroe, Lambertville and Luna Pier. These members get a chance to discuss a variety of issues including clocks being altered, being ordered to falsify time scans, inti- 

mation and more.

On Sunday, June 6th at 3 PM, MVS members met with their craft officers and the three full time officers. A wide range of subjects were covered and a lot of feelings were aired. The President made it clear that ALL MEMBERS are welcome to bring any and all concerns to him.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

In accordance with the Local constitution, Article VII, Section 1(3), the following Committee appointments are listed below:

ARCHIVIST
Erika Field Daniels
Debra Willis
Alvin Hall
Shuronda Ulmer

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
Jacinthia Hogans
Johnnetta Holt
Lori Hunter
Alvin Hall
Jacqueline Mickens
Shalissa Harvey
Debbie Coles

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE
Debbie Chambers
Renee Sheppard
Michele Hamons
Tonya Payne-Lawson
Manuela Webster
Carl Littlejohn
Darren [D.J.] Hill
Samantha Young

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Alvin Hall
Jacinthia Hogans
Shalissa Harvey
Alfreda Parker

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Debra Willis
Alvin Hall
Shuronda Ulmer

ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
Renee Sheppard
Valerie Hairson
Patricia Johnson
Shuronda Ulmer

RI-399
Tonya Payne-Lawson

Attention: APWU Members

These appointments are effective immediately. All of you will be notified of our first meeting.

In Solidarity,

CEU:rm/IBT#243

Women Hold Up Half The Sky

continued from page 3

be China and India.

These statistics can only be ad- dressed by local, national and in- ternational attention being given to these issues and by developing and following the leadership of women directly affected by these horrible statis-

tics.

POWER’s guest speaker made it clear that violence against women takes many forms: beatings and rape are two but denial of education, de- nial of health care, despised wages, and emotional abuse are all forms of violence and all of these forms need to be recognized.

Female postal workers receive the same pay as men doing the same job but overall in Michigan, women make 71 cents on the dollar in re- lation to men’s wages. We need to bring our strength to bear on this is- sue. We need to recognize and participate in Equal Pay Day activi-

ties in April.

There is an old saying: “Think globally, act locally.” In the case of making full equality a reality for women, we certainly must act lo- cally. But on a larger scale, we have to join in the struggle to fight for education, health care, equal access and pay equity on every front. We need to join in the struggle.

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Attention: APWU Members

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In Solidarity,
by Loren Adams, District 6 Vice-President

Economic storm is fast approaching, but many simply ignore the obvious — perhaps as a means of survival. I remember how Grandma Emma Adams used to herd us kids down to the storm cellar every time she heard the thunder roll. She remembered the day a tornado swooped up her two aunts at Belleville, Arkansas around 1908, and she didn’t want a repeat.

The APWU is fast approaching a storm of decision day — negotiations during the time of the greatest economic strain on the Postal Service in 80 years as well as the entire United States since the Great Depression.

Yes, escaping by avoiding or ignoring seems to be a temporary fix. But the day of reckoning eventually catches up to those that choose to treat. There are good reasons the ostrich buries its head in the sand and turtle withdraws into its shell. But eventually the predator gets the best of them. The sense of false security goes like this, “If I just ignore the problem, it’ll go away.” ( Somewhat like, “If we build it, they will come.”)

No war has ever been won by soldiers on retreat. By the same token, the Postal Service has been needed by being led by the meek, the weak, or the inactive. The Union needs an optimistic, proactive, positive, solutions-based leadership that will meet this challenge with unwavering determination.

Yes, we’re facing crisis of Apocalyptic proportions. Yes, national leaders are dropping out like flies as they apparently watch the same storm approaching that we are. But many, like the titans of the Titanic first to abandon ship?!

The question remains, “But what can we as individuals (despite national officers jumping ship) do to prevent it?”

Almost every day I’m confronted by members inquiring as to what’s happening on the national level, new national officers seemingly forcing to drive five-day delivery down America’s throat, etc. I tell them I don’t have all the answers, and that management seldom comes to cates with me — even for that which they’re contractually obligated. It’s as if we’re peering through a tinted glass trying to see on line if I sure don’t have all the answers, but I have a few suggestions for the near term.

The first suggestion would be to SAVE MONEY. I realize most postal employees think “This too will pass, so we can carry on as usual.” But I wouldn’t count on it this time. Cut expenses to bare-bones and delay big purchase items. Get your credit card debt down to ZERO.

Pay off your car and home, if possible. The hard fact is we don’t know how much we’ll be earning this year, so keep that primary thought in mind.

My second suggestion is to pick new, national officers with some SPINE. And some BRAINS. Negotiations are not a walk in the park. We need a Mother Jones in these tough times to steer APWU back on course, and there are some great national leaders from which to choose. How can you discover this? Pay attention to the online and via publications, and talk to local and state leaders in-the-know.

My third suggestion is probably the most important. Get INVOLVED in your local union. Go to meetings. Visit your coworkers when they have issues. Recognize special days and dates in their lives. Back them up with witness statements when request- ed. Become a shoulder to cry on, or become that morale booster so desperately needed in times like these. Make your workplace a vi- brant community instead of a mis- sable compound. There’s strength in numbers; that rule never chang- es. The stronger the locals are, the stronger the national organization. And the only way to build strength is to show genuine concern for one another. UNION is not simply about the Contract or work issues. “UNION” is about UNITY, and the only way to build this invaluable soli- darity is to care for those around you. Be sincere about it too.

I’m reminded of the “Prayer of St. Francis” written around 900 years ago. So, let:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, Where there is hatred,

We’ve fought to improve our health care system for decades — now we’ve won and health care reform is law. But how does it affect you? Here’s what else the health care reform law does for you:

1. You will continue to have the employer-sponsored health coverage you win at the bargaining table.

2. The proposed excise tax has been put off until 2018 and the large employers who pay a penalty if their employees have to get subsidies in the exchanges to buy their coverage will increase.

3. The National Agreement requires the payment of severance pay to employees who voluntarily terminate their employment through early retirement.

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The President’s Report . . .

Important Information For Our Membership

continued from page 1

NO! TO 5-DAY DELIVERY

The APWU opposes the 5-day delivery plan that the USPS has asked congress to approve. The USPS has other viable means to reduce their deficit, but again, the USPS would like for their employees and the U.S. public to suffer financially to make their administrative decisions. USPS management once again would like to diminish your constitutional rights and reduce service to the public rather than stop the massive discounts given to mailers. Get more information on our national page on this issue.

INFORMATION RALLY FACTS

The APWU-DDAL has held 3 informational rallies since April 2010 and they have been informative and productive. Many DDAL members, officers and stewards have participated and they all worked hard to arrange and conduct the rallies in a professional manner. I thank you all. It was the mind set of this administration to conduct such rallies to help keep the members and the public aware of the many different issues the USPS has been doing to hurt our service. Watch for more bulletins and make it a priority to come join us.

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN DETROIT

The DDAL will be hosting the American Postal Union’s Biennial National Convention in downtown Detroit at the Cobo Hall Convention Center, August 23 thru August 28, 2010. If you meet the membership requirements and want to attend, let the DDAL know so we can put you in as a convention delegate. It will be the final National Convention for APWU’s National President, William Burruss, who is retiring after 53 years of dedicated service to the APWU. It was here in Detroit in 1989, at the National Convention where he announced his candidacy for the position of National Executive Vice-President. It will be a spectacular ceremony honoring him on Tuesday, August 24, 2010. The tickets are $40 per seat and $400 per table (10 seats).

NATIONAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The National Election of officers is this year, and all members in good standing will be receiving ballots in October to cast their vote. If you do not receive a ballot let us know and we will let you know what to do and who to contact. Other voting information will be coming to you in the next issue.

There will be informational sessions on how to cast your vote and who the APWU-DDAL supports.

STEWARD TRAINING

The first steward training of the year was held April 24th, 2010 at the Union hall. The training was well attended by 84 of the 91 stewards that have been certified by the union since January 28, 2010. Use your stewards!

Inherited Financial Despair

Upon taking the office of president in January of this year, the financial situation of the union was far more disastrous than we were led to believe. In fact, I and the membership were never told that we were in this much debt. The debt was not mentioned until two former officers sent letters to the entire membership (at a cost of about $1,250.00 to $2,500.00). With that being said, the new administration plans to be very open and up front with the membership with their money and all other issues.

Member Decline = Loss in Revenue

The DDAL has lost a substantial amount of members and with this loss also comes a loss in revenue. This administration will have to make cost saving cuts. It will affect the way we conduct all affairs of the local. It will also affect our annual Christmas party, kid’s Christmas and Halloween parties and the annual picnic.

We are considering the process of eliminating one full time officer. We are studying the constitution to determine if the APWU-DDAL secretary-treasurer can be changed to a part-time position. This action would save us about $60,000 a year. I know these are drastic measures, but these moves and changes are absolutely necessary for the survival of the DDAL. If all goes well, the DDAL hopes to become deficit free by the latter part of the year. I will tell you that we (the APWU-DDAL) are here to stay!

No More Lost – Time Double Paying

We intend to get rid of some of the deficit by eliminating the old costly practice of DOUBLE PAYING people. Past administrations paid people lost time even though the person never lost time from work. THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL STOP THIS PRACTICE. They got paid by the union and by the USPS. By stopping this practice, the Local will save about $45,000 to $50,000 dollars a year. We will also eliminate excessive lunches the Local paid the election committee. There is an estimated local a substantial amount of money, approximately $3,000 to $5,000 dollars. The Union will continue to compensate members for their lost time, but members will now have to actually lose time from work in order to receive this benefit. Union members will be paid for their time spent at the union office, or on official union business, but the compensation will be at a lower rate of pay than their postal wages.

Our Picnic

Our picnic will be held July 18, 2010 at Lower Huron Metro Park. Keep a lookout for more information which will be coming soon. We look forward to seeing you and your family. Please come out and share in food, fun and a good time with you union brothers and sisters.

Final Thoughts from the President

The DDAL Detroit District management is doing any and everything to put employees in position for them to lose their jobs. Protect yourself by fully documenting, keeping track and taking notes of your work area, your clock rings, and the operation(s) you are working on. This is needed, because the APWU-DDAL knows that employees are working on the workroom floor, and we need the data to prove it. The data that the USPS is compiling is trying to make it look like we are not working and therefore lets us not needed. The USPS uses this false data to justify employing more excess employees. We know and they know that they do not need to employ excess employees now, and we need to prove it! In conclusion, for all your needs, I have a open door policy, so you can visit or call anytime with your concerns. I promise you, we will get these issues resolved to the best of our ability and in a timely manner. As hard as it may be, be patient and stick with us, we are all in this together! Thank you.

Congress And Politicians Against 5-Day Delivery

Here are some phone numbers and e-mail addresses to politicians who are against 5-day delivery. Call them and tell them you support their efforts against 5-day delivery.

Senator Susan Collins R-ME
Phone: (207) 781-3431
E-mail: senator.collins@honorificcommitteecm

Senator Dick Durbin D-ILL
Phone: (312) 535-4952
E-mail: durbin.senate.gov/con...

There are many others that we will list in future issues.

APWU members are urged to contact their U.S. representatives to encourage them to co-sponsor House Resolution 173, which urges the Postal Service to continue six-day delivery.
Meet Your Secretaries

When you call or visit the Detroit Area District Local, these are the lovely ladies receiving your calls and directing you to the proper channels to answer your questions. Next time you call or visit, make sure you say HI to Regina and Diana.

20530 Southfield Road
Detroit, Michigan 48235
(313) 532-9305

Regina Merritt
Diana Laird

Congratulations to our DDAL Officers elected to important State positions serving the Michigan Postal Workers Union (MPWU).
Local officers elected to State Offices:
Michael McCain, Director Research and Education
Richard Blake, Clerk Craft Director
Jason Rushing, Maintenance Craft Director
James Stevenson, Area 2 Director

With Deepest Sympathy

The APWU offers our deepest sympathy to the family of Postal employee “Reginald Raines” who passed away April 2nd 2010. We would like to express our condolences to the following employees on their loss of a loved one:

John Carter  Elizabeth Johnson  Phyllis Covington
Monesha Lawson  Deborah Fielder  Mannie Matthews
Chaune Fields  Sarah McGruder  Clois Foster
Trina Peters  Michele Hamons  Tommy Wade, Jr.
D.J. Hill  Samantha Young  Angela Johnson
Deborah Lloyd Bryant  Keith McGee  Denise Clark
Annette Turner  Kevin Bannister  Diane Corbett
Tammiie Thomas  Curtis Cavaness  Myron Johnson
Perez Lanier  George Russell  Larry Patton
Leonard Morales  Gary Myrick
Robert Arnold  Eric Bolen
Chuck Garcia  Pat Chornoby

Our condolences to the families of retired employees:
Melvin Altimus, Jr.  Benjamin Bell
Elizabeth Sevels  Shirley Thomas
Andre Turner  Laode Johnson
Angie Fowlkes

We apologize if there are any employees that we may have overlooked. For those we have missed, please call me so we can honor them in the next issue. Danny

Next Membership Meetings
SEPTMBER 12, 2010
OCTOBER 3, 2010
NOVEMBER 14, 2010
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Cari’s Easy Cheesy Potatoes

by Danny Sawicki

I had to pull teeth to get this delicious recipe from my wife. She finally succumbed to the pressure. This dish is great as a side, or add burger and or bacon and you have a main course. NUM-NUM. For the next issue, let us all work to get that TACO SALAD recipe out of her.

2 – 32 oz. bags of frozen hash browns, (not shredded)
2 large cans cream of chicken soup
1 cup sour cream
2 8 oz. Bags of Colby jack shredded cheese.
Mix all ingredients and bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 - 2 hours or until the hash browns in the center are soft.