The President’s Report . . .

Thank You DDAL Members

If you have any issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your President, Executive Vice President, Craft Director or any other Officer or Union Rep to help you with your issue(s).

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

The elected and appointed officers of the DDAL have been trying to do all we can to work our way out of the financial hole that we inherited. I must say the people that you elected into office has done a tremendous job in getting the Union out of the financial hole, especially considering the limited resources the Union has. I must inform you that the DDAL is not completely out of its financial crisis yet, nor are we near the point that we need to be near for this Union to remain financially solvent for years to come. The leadership watch over. I vow to the Officers, Stewards and the Entire Membership of the DDAL that I will never lose sight of them and that I will always fight for every right, privilege, opportunity, and benefit that the members are entitled too, even the ones nobody knows about yet. I thank you so much and I know I am truly blessed to be the President of such relentless people (fighters) who are well informed and who have dedicated leaders (fighters) fighting for them and their rights.

DETROIT DISTRICT LABOR RELATIONS A FAILURE?

The DDAL has attempted to meet with DDLR on a number of issues and to no avail has labor relations resolved know violations. I believe that the managers of Labor Relations should be investigated by the OIG for allowing the managers and supervisors of the Detroit District to lie, Cheat, Steal from the U S Citizens of the Detroit District with out doing anything to stop their waste and abuse of the financial resources of the USPS.

If you have any issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your President, Executive Vice President, Craft Director or any other Officer or Union Rep to help you with your issue(s).

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

The elected and appointed officers of the DDAL have been trying to do all we can to work our way out of the financial hole that we inherited. I must say the people that you elected into office has done a tremendous job in getting the Union out of the financial hole, especially considering the limited resources the Union has. I must inform you that the DDAL is not completely out of its financial crisis yet, nor are we near the point that we need to be near for this Union to remain financially solvent for years to come. The leadership watch over. I vow to the Officers, Stewards and the Entire Membership of the DDAL that I will never lose sight of them and that I will always fight for every right, privilege, opportunity, and benefit that the members are entitled too, even the ones nobody knows about yet. I thank you so much and I know I am truly blessed to be the President of such relentless people (fighters) who are well informed and who have dedicated leaders (fighters) fighting for them and their rights.

DETROIT DISTRICT LABOR RELATIONS A FAILURE?

The DDAL has attempted to meet with DDLR on a number of issues and to no avail has labor relations resolved know violations. I believe that the managers of Labor Relations should be investigated by the OIG for allowing the managers and supervisors of the Detroit District to lie, Cheat, Steal from the U S Citizens of the Detroit District with out doing anything to stop their waste and abuse of the financial resources of the USPS.

If you have any issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your President, Executive Vice President, Craft Director or any other Officer or Union Rep to help you with your issue(s).

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

The elected and appointed officers of the DDAL have been trying to do all we can to work our way out of the financial hole that we inherited. I must say the people that you elected into office has done a tremendous job in getting the Union out of the financial hole, especially considering the limited resources the Union has. I must inform you that the DDAL is not completely out of its financial crisis yet, nor are we near the point that we need to be near for this Union to remain financially solvent for years to come. The leadership watch over. I vow to the Officers, Stewards and the Entire Membership of the DDAL that I will never lose sight of them and that I will always fight for every right, privilege, opportunity, and benefit that the members are entitled too, even the ones nobody knows about yet. I thank you so much and I know I am truly blessed to be the President of such relentless people (fighters) who are well informed and who have dedicated leaders (fighters) fighting for them and their rights.

DETROIT DISTRICT LABOR RELATIONS A FAILURE?

The DDAL has attempted to meet with DDLR on a number of issues and to no avail has labor relations resolved know violations. I believe that the managers of Labor Relations should be investigated by the OIG for allowing the managers and supervisors of the Detroit District to lie, Cheat, Steal from the U S Citizens of the Detroit District with out doing anything to stop their waste and abuse of the financial resources of the USPS.

If you have any issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your President, Executive Vice President, Craft Director or any other Officer or Union Rep to help you with your issue(s).

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

The elected and appointed officers of the DDAL have been trying to do all we can to work our way out of the financial hole that we inherited. I must say the people that you elected into office has done a tremendous job in getting the Union out of the financial hole, especially considering the limited resources the Union has. I must inform you that the DDAL is not completely out of its financial crisis yet, nor are we near the point that we need to be near for this Union to remain financially solvent for years to come. The leadership watch over. I vow to the Officers, Stewards and the Entire Membership of the DDAL that I will never lose sight of them and that I will always fight for every right, privilege, opportunity, and benefit that the members are entitled too, even the ones nobody knows about yet. I thank you so much and I know I am truly blessed to be the President of such relentless people (fighters) who are well informed and who have dedicated leaders (fighters) fighting for them and their rights.

DETROIT DISTRICT LABOR RELATIONS A FAILURE?

The DDAL has attempted to meet with DDLR on a number of issues and to no avail has labor relations resolved know violations. I believe that the managers of Labor Relations should be investigated by the OIG for allowing the managers and supervisors of the Detroit District to lie, Cheat, Steal from the U S Citizens of the Detroit District with out doing anything to stop their waste and abuse of the financial resources of the USPS.

If you have any issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your President, Executive Vice President, Craft Director or any other Officer or Union Rep to help you with your issue(s).

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

The elected and appointed officers of the DDAL have been trying to do all we can to work our way out of the financial hole that we inherited. I must say the people that you elected into office has done a tremendous job in getting the Union out of the financial hole, especially considering the limited resources the Union has. I must inform you that the DDAL is not completely out of its financial crisis yet, nor are we near the point that we need to be near for this Union to remain financially solvent for years to come. The leadership watch over. I vow to the Officers, Stewards and the Entire Membership of the DDAL that I will never lose sight of them and that I will always fight for every right, privilege, opportunity, and benefit that the members are entitled too, even the ones nobody knows about yet. I thank you so much and I know I am truly blessed to be the President of such relentless people (fighters) who are well informed and who have dedicated leaders (fighters) fighting for them and their rights.

DETROIT DISTRICT LABOR RELATIONS A FAILURE?

The DDAL has attempted to meet with DDLR on a number of issues and to no avail has labor relations resolved know violations. I believe that the managers of Labor Relations should be investigated by the OIG for allowing the managers and supervisors of the Detroit District to lie, Cheat, Steal from the U S Citizens of the Detroit District with out doing anything to stop their waste and abuse of the financial resources of the USPS.

If you have any issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your President, Executive Vice President, Craft Director or any other Officer or Union Rep to help you with your issue(s).

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

The elected and appointed officers of the DDAL have been trying to do all we can to work our way out of the financial hole that we inherited. I must say the people that you elected into office has done a tremendous job in getting the Union out of the financial hole, especially considering the limited resources the Union has. I must inform you that the DDAL is not completely out of its financial crisis yet, nor are we near the point that we need to be near for this Union to remain financially solvent for years to come. The leadership watch over. I vow to the Officers, Stewards and the Entire Membership of the DDAL that I will never lose sight of them and that I will always fight for every right, privilege, opportunity, and benefit that the members are entitled too, even the ones nobody knows about yet. I thank you so much and I know I am truly blessed to be the President of such relentless people (fighters) who are well informed and who have dedicated leaders (fighters) fighting for them and their rights.

DETROIT DISTRICT LABOR RELATIONS A FAILURE?

The DDAL has attempted to meet with DDLR on a number of issues and to no avail has labor relations resolved know violations. I believe that the managers of Labor Relations should be investigated by the OIG for allowing the managers and supervisors of the Detroit District to lie, Cheat, Steal from the U S Citizens of the Detroit District with out doing anything to stop their waste and abuse of the financial resources of the USPS.

If you have any issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your President, Executive Vice President, Craft Director or any other Officer or Union Rep to help you with your issue(s).

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING

The elected and appointed officers of the DDAL have been trying to do all we can to work our way out of the financial hole that we inherited. I must say the people that you elected into office has done a tremendous job in getting the Union out of the financial hole, especially considering the limited resources the Union has. I must inform you that the DDAL is not completely out of its financial crisis yet, nor are we near the point that we need to be near for this Union to remain financially solvent for years to come. The leadership watch over. I vow to the Officers, Stewards and the Entire Membership of the DDAL that I will never lose sight of them and that I will always fight for every right, privilege, opportunity, and benefit that the members are entitled too, even the ones nobody knows about yet. I thank you so much and I know I am truly blessed to be the President of such relentless people (fighters) who are well informed and who have dedicated leaders (fighters) fighting for them and their rights.

DETROIT DISTRICT LABOR RELATIONS A FAILURE?

The DDAL has attempted to meet with DDLR on a number of issues and to no avail has labor relations resolved know violations. I believe that the managers of Labor Relations should be investigated by the OIG for allowing the managers and supervisors of the Detroit District to lie, Cheat, Steal from the U S Citizens of the Detroit District with out doing anything to stop their waste and abuse of the financial resources of the USPS.

If you have any issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your President, Executive Vice President, Craft Director or any other Officer or Union Rep to help you with your issue(s).
Vinyl Records And First Class Mail

What’s the correlation you say? Well, according to an article in the USA Today, vinyl records are making a major comeback in the music market. 2010 was the top year for record sales since 1991 (USA Today Feb 25, 2011). So why can’t first class mail do the same?

The Post Office claims the old evil internet is the cause of the decline, which is true. Is the internet here to stay, of course. Did the internet take away a big part of first class mail, of course. But, can we get back some of that mail, of course!

Let’s talk music. Those of you that know and love records, cd’s, even cassettes (us older folks), know that when you pay to download music or listen to music thru the computer it is not the same. Thru the computer you can’t “feel” the music as you can with the other outlets. It doesn’t sound the same.

The credits and photos are different. These are reasons why old school music is coming back.

With mail we think the same is true. What would you rather receive from a loved one, an e-mail or a first class card or letter? Myself, a card or letter in the mail is special. The glitter, the stickies, the handwriting that you recognize. The anticipation of opening up that card or letter. The extra time that person takes to prepare the letter or card means something to us, besides just typing something out and hitting a send button. A letter or card is way more personalized and special than any old e-mail. Can you say “DELETE”?

Now, here is the real question. Does the Post Office really want to get the first class business back? We don’t think so. If they did, why don’t they advertise first class mail? They claim that they are losing so much money, that they don’t have the budget to advertise. That’s poppycock! They sure as heck have the funds to advertise the priority and package business. You’ve seen the ads plastered all over TV, “if it flies, it ships”. These ads are not ran in the secondary or small markets. Those ads are all over: the NFL playoffs, the NCAA basketball tournament, the NBA, prime time viewing, you name it. Those that know advertising know that this kind of advertising is not cheap. The ads cost tens, hundreds of thousands of dollars to run on those special events. To the credit of the post office, some of the ads are interesting and effective. Statistics show that the priority and package business for the post office has soared to record heights. Point being, the post office has the funds, means and talent to advertise effectively.

Now back to the earlier question. Do they really want the first class back? They really don’t and upper management has admitted that to me and the president. There is a formula that calculates how much profit the post office makes on each piece of first class mail, package, priority, stamps, etc., per employee. So in essence, they claim to know how much profit they make on US every transaction. So bottom line, in their calculations, they don’t make enough on US with first class mail. Ladies and gentleman, that is why they don’t care about first class mail.

Their profits with first class mail per employee, (so they say) is too low on that business. The APWU can prove their calculations are wrong. This is why they are focusing on excessing and firing. They say they need less employees because of the decline in mail, but they do nothing to get the business back.

It’s called the bottom line effect and we lose. That is why there is advertising everywhere. Never mind, let’s talk about first class mail. All you hear from them is “the decline in mail volume, we are losing so much money” blah, blah, blah.

There would be many effective ways to advertise first class mail. The personalized aspect, the quality and value of the correspondence, and the negative aspects of the internet. I have had identify theft over the internet while making a transaction and know of other people that have. We pay all bills thru the mail, bank of course we went local at the PO and we don’t trust the internet! Even PRINCE says the internet is “pass.”

Did you know that there is a bill pending in congress that states if our country went thru a serious crisis, that the president could “pull the plug” on the internet? That means everything, all personalized records, on-line fund accounts, etc., could be deleted? Or worse, all your on-line checking and savings accounts could wind up under someone else’s name. Can you imagine the mess! And don’t forget about that ever impending and present virus that is just a click away, waiting and ready to rip you off or jack your computer at any second. Raise your hands if you ever had a computer virus. Lots of hands out there.

The USA Today reported in 2010 that there was a sharp rise among children in summer camps sending out cards and letters to family and friends.

“Many seniors and citizens don’t have a computer.”

Or perhaps, have a sale on a first class stamp.

Our point is that there are many effective newer, better ways to advertise and get some of that business back. The truth is, they don’t want it back.

IT STARTS WITH US

At the DDAL and THE DETROIT POSTAL WORKER, we encourage correspondence thru the mail. Besides last minute corrections, your paper is processed THROUGH THE MAIL. In your paper, our mailing address is all over. Of course some communication must be done thru the internet. Ray Charles could see that. But the stewards, officers, staff use the mail as much as we can. Everyone of us should try to help our jobs. Instead of e-mailing, send a card or short note to a loved one or friend. In a poignant and touching article by Carolyn Hax (Detroit Free Press March 22, 2011) readers tell about old cards and letters they saved and found from loved ones and what that means to them. They save and cherish them. An e-mail does not have the same effect. You don’t have to send out 100 letters, just send one to a loved one once in a while. If you pay bills on-line, pay 1 or 2 thru the mail. Remember, you don’t have to send a letter or card, simply put it in your mailbox and the carrier will collect it for you. Simple, safe, cheap, no gas wasted. Even though the post office doesn’t want to happen, let’s try to get some of that first class mail back “one letter at a time”.

FINAL NOTE TO THE POST OFFICE

Hey post office, if you want to get some of the first class mail back, give the DDAL a call. But as we know, and as those old vinyl songs say, “chances are” that would be “one in a million”.

Danny Sawicki cell:586-943-3950

DDAL mailing address: 20530 Southfield Rd. Detroit, Mich 48235

Thank You DDAL Members

continued from page 1

the population and some local officials in hope that the USPS Detroit District Manager or someone else would look at Labor Relations in the Detroit District because they are not fulfilling the legal purpose of Labor Relations. I know the grievances we have filed are good grievances and I expect the DDAL to prevail in many of them.
When I look at the new managerial recruits coming up in their ranks, I can see that the post office will be no better off in ten to twenty years than they are today. Basically, because they have an unusual way of promoting from within the ranks. The managerial jobs don’t always go to the most qualified candidate. It’s more like “who can follow orders the quickest”, like “jump”, “sit”, “fetch” and “go fire that employee!”

This may be why the post office negotiate over a new contract with an abundance of language returning supervisory duties back to the bargaining unit, and paying them a higher level of pay for doing it. Does management finally realize that the bargaining unit employees are more efficient, smarter and can adapt more quickly to processing than their own supervisors?

Many years ago, management began to take away bargaining unit functions and added the duties onto supervisors jobs. Assignments like timekeeping, attendance control, personnel functions like bids, processing personnel actions, filing, making assignments, general clerk duties, etc. These jobs were craft jobs that were absorbed into supervisory duties.

Although many of the senior employees have good performances, they aren’t getting as much recognition as they deserve. Does management finally realize that the bargaining unit employees can do the jobs better and more efficiently, but again, they didn’t listen.

I believe postal management could learn a lot about the process of mail, the delivery of mail and the way people work. Our new signs look great and made us easy to spot in the huge crowd. Special thanks to everyone on the bus who helped make things go smoothly.

WHAT’S NEXT?

We promised an emphasis this year on education and we have set about making good on our word. We will be sending delegates to several conferences/seminars/conventions:
- BMC CONFERENCE – MAY 15-16, 2011, GREENSBORO, NC.
- MPWU EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR – JUNE 9-11, 2011 IN BAY CITY, MI
- POWER CONVENTION – JULY 13-17, 2011, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO
- ALL CRAFT CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 10-13, 2011 LAS VEGAS, NV

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY . . .

Let us be charged with being “the work”, we already have plans underway for the ANNUAL PIC-NIC – JULY 16, 2011 at METRO BEACH. Details will be coming out soon. Your Entertainment Committee has been hard at work on the details for this annual family fun day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Vice President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Chernoby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

Many changes are occurring within our Union and in the postal service as pressures build on the bargaining unit to process more work with fewer employees and all in shorter periods of time. Back in days when the postal service was actually a government entity, they had more relaxed freedoms. Leave was easier to schedule, summer time vacations were readily available, and management concepts of a fair day works for a fair day pays was the base contract language used to determine work standards.

Now, as postal managers have orders to work with less employees, the bargaining unit has been over loaded with additional work, picking up the work of employees who have been excessed, or for employees who have retired or bidded to other work locations.

As usual with postal management, the bargaining unit employees have been blamed for all the problems within the system, even though management never listens to our suggestions in running the company, they quickly blame us for all of their downfalls. Taking a day off now seems nearly impossible, again blaming bargaining unit employees for their shortage of help.

Regardless of our current circumstances, there is one to blame for the status of the postal service today. The people who have been running this corporation itself — MANAGEMENT.

When the postal service had huge surpluses in revenue, what did they do? They created all sorts of jobs in management, they wasted millions of dollars in purchasing homes for their top executives, they purchased millions of dollars in outdated processing equipment and signed life long leases on many of the post office buildings so that they could utilize across the country. The leasing part is such a waste of money as the post office is paying ten times the purchase price of the buildings they are leasing (probably to friends or relatives).

In other words, when the times were good, the postal service should have been investing their revenue surpluses, or banking the money for a rainy day. The rainy day has come and the USPS is acting like it is our fault that they have no money to fall back on! Again, it goes to mismanagement in the finance department at the headquarters level, the regional level and at the local levels of the post office.

FIRST QUARTER OVER

As we are going to press, we’ve just closed the first quarter for the local’s fiscal year. We seem to be doing well. We started the year with about $40,000 of debt and we have eliminated about 75% of that. Twice a year the union has three pay days in one month. March is one of those months so we took advantage of that edge to reduce the large bills that we carried over from 2010.

I know that $40,000 sounds like a lot and it is a lot. However, you have to remember that last year we inherited over $100,000 in debt from the prior administration. We continue to practice fiscal restraint and have been fortunate that many members have volunteered time and energy to save the local money in a variety of ways all of which add up to help us move forward.

I will now be reviewing the quarter overall with our budget controller to see where we are line item by line item in relation to our budget.

THANK YOU

I would especially like to thank former president, Roger Holbrook, for recently working on our gate. The gate is very old and has been quite problematic this winter. Replacement cost is over $2300. A working gate is one part of guaranteeing the safety of all who work meet here and also protecting our building. Previously, Roger had come in to install two thermostats for us. These generous donations of time and talent are greatly appreciated.

Another person who deserves a big “thank you” is certified interpreter, Jeff Oliaus. Jeff has agreed to interpret once a month for our deaf members on a volunteer basis. This allows our deaf members to participate fully in the monthly retiree chapter meetings held at Kerby’s Koney Island the third Saturday of every month. Jeff’s “gift” is worth over $800 a year to the retiree chapter.

ACTIVITY CORNER: “The buzz”
- P.O.W.E.R.’S WOMEN’S HIS-TORY MONTH CELEBRATION
  March 26th was POWER’s annual Women’s History Month Celebration. In a break with tradition, this year featured CHILI AND A MOVIE. Over forty people attended a showing of IRON JAWED AN-GELS about the women’s suffrage movement. You could have heard a pin drop. Guests presented the local with declarations from the City of Detroit and the City of Southfield. Sandra Carey, POWER Coordinator, was also honored with a proclamation.
- SOAR BREAKFAST
  The local had a sizeable contingent at S.O.A.R.’s 28th Annual Congressional Breakfast on April 10th. Save Our Annuity Retirement (S.O.A.R.) Coalition meets monthly in our basement hall to plan activities including the annual breakfast.
- NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST
  April 13th was declared a national day of protest. Fifty people representing our local went to Lansing for a rally at the state capital. Some media sources say that 10,000 workers attended. The volume that day would seem to indicate this is not an overestimate.

We had a bus depart from our office and at least 18 more went by car and van. Our new signs looked great and made us easy to spot in the huge crowd. Special thanks to everyone on the bus who helped make things go smoothly.

Be Up To The Challenge?

THANK YOU
The New Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) is what we needed and it is good news for the members. The new CBA puts a stop to excesses over 40 miles and the disparaging impact to the employees of the Detroit Bid Cluster and the DNDC (Detroit Network Distribution Center). It is an issue the DDAL is still actively pursuing on behalf of all the members of the DDAL who have been excessive and impacted in the negative and discriminating way that the employees of the Detroit Bid Cluster and the DNDC were by then District Manager (N R). In May of 2011, the DDAL lawyers were in court pursuing the investigation as demonstrated by the MDO from Tour I and his own words at the beginning of the investigation. The Tour II MDO got so mad at me that he called Postal Police to escort me out of the building because I had a Bluetooth with a dead battery in my ear. I am sure the Tour II Lead MDO did this in an effort to get the employee alone to finish the job but it did not happen.

The investigation ended when the Postal Police came and we all agreed the investigation was over. I did not hear the exact words that the Tour II lead MDO said, but with the quick response time, and the number of Postal Police [3] that responded, I can only imagine what he must have said to them “CODE RED!!! USPS TOURE II LEAD MDO AND I NEED BACK UP. UNION OFFICIAL WITH BLUE TOOTH, POSTAL POLICE GIVE ME EVERYTHING YOU GOT.” It would be nice if the Postal Police gave the same rapid response to abused employees as they do to “dead batteries.” Our employees are really in trouble and cannot get USPS Management off their backs or if you are in danger put a Bluetooth in your ear then USPS Management will call Postal Police on you and the Postal Police will come running. I took this as another attempt by Detroit District Labor Relations and USPS Management to try and intimidate the union because it is no secret that USPS Management has resorted to attacks on Union Officials and Stewards due to the aggressive and dedicated representation we have given the membership. USPS Management and Labor Relations has gone after the Unions Presidents wife because they cannot get to him; they have targeted the Executive Vice President Stewards from Tours I, II, III and myself because we are doing our job and we are not selling out our membership for the USPS convenience. They have attacked and worked and we have fought back all their futile attempts to intimidate the APWU-DDAL in all ways possible. These futile attempts by USPS Management have only made us stronger and more determined to represent this membership more aggressively and unlike ever before. These are trying times brothers and sisters but as your representative the APWU-DDAL will not be deterred, disrespected or intimidated. The APWU-DDAL will continue to fight for your rights in the face of all adversities. Do not hesitate to call us. We fight for you so you do not have to.

The DDAL Will Not Be Intimidated, And We Will Not Sell The Membership Short

Pictured to the right Aloha [retiree] came out to support and she walked with Pat Chornoby (Executive Vice President).

Andrea as always supporting and fighting for the membership.

In Informational Picket Held On March 24 At Main Post Office

In Detroit (GWY) protesting the abusive management style of the USPS and the hostile work environment of USPS Management.

James Stevenson holding picket signs doing double duty as usual.

Patty, John and Tony marching in solidarity for the employees to be respected.

Tina the steward from Saline came to Detroit to support the rally along with the Mail-handers.

The DDAL Lawyers were in court pursuing the investigation as demonstrated by the MDO from Tour I and his own words at the beginning of the investigation. The Tour II MDO got so mad at me that he called Postal Police to escort me out of the building because I had a Bluetooth with a dead battery in my ear. I am sure the Tour II Lead MDO did this in an effort to get the employee alone to finish the job but it did not happen. The investigation ended when the Postal Police came and we all agreed the investigation was over. I did not hear the exact words that the Tour II lead MDO said, but with the quick response time, and the number of Postal Police [3] that responded, I can only imagine what he must have said to them “CODE RED!!! USPS TOURE II LEAD MDO AND I NEED BACK UP. UNION OFFICIAL WITH BLUE TOOTH, POSTAL POLICE GIVE ME EVERYTHING YOU GOT.” It would be nice if the Postal Police gave the same rapid response to abused employees as they do to “dead batteries.” Our employees are really in trouble and cannot get USPS Management off their backs or if you are in danger put a Bluetooth in your ear then USPS Management will call Postal Police on you and the Postal Police will come running. I took this as another attempt by Detroit District Labor Relations and USPS Management to try and intimidate the union because it is no secret that USPS Management has resorted to attacks on Union Officials and Stewards due to the aggressive and dedicated representation we have given the membership. USPS Management and Labor Relations has gone after the Unions Presidents wife because they cannot get to him; they have targeted the Executive Vice President Stewards from Tours I, II, III and myself because we are doing our job and we are not selling out our membership for the USPS convenience. They have attacked and worked and we have fought back all their futile attempts to intimidate the APWU-DDAL in all ways possible. These futile attempts by USPS Management have only made us stronger and more determined to represent this membership more aggressively and unlike ever before. These are trying times brothers and sisters but as your representative the APWU-DDAL will not be deterred, disrespected or intimidated. The APWU-DDAL will continue to fight for your rights in the face of all adversities. Do not hesitate to call us. We fight for you so you do not have to.
Maintenance Happenings

by Danny Sawicki, Associate Editor

In this issue, we are featuring John Merritt from GWY facility in Detroit. John is not only a union steward, he is also “The Special Assistant to the President”.

1. Hi, John, we all know what stewards are responsible for. Tell me about some of the duties of the “The Special Assistant to the President”.

In truth, Danny, I’m not sure that the rank and file membership actually does know what stewards are responsible for. Serving as a steward is much more involved, and requires a degree of responsibility, that most members do not appreciate. We have had many members express a desire to “Be a Steward”, but after attending orientation or training they find that they’d rather not. Furthermore, many members who have served as stewards decide to set aside the heavy responsibility that the position entails. I respect those members who have considered volunteering for steward, but who have decided upon mature reflection that the job is not for them. Even stewards who are stewards who have decided to set aside

the heavy responsibility of the position, having “done their tour” to serve the membership.

Danny, I appreciate your indulgence; stewards don’t often get a chance to publicly recognize our stewards in a forum where the whole membership can see it.

As regards the main question, the position as written in the Local Constitution is called “Special Assistant”, not actually, “Special Assistant to the President”. Early on the position title picked up the “President” part of the stewards and officers, so that when abbreviated into an acronym it became Special Assistant to the President, or “SA”, which was a fun title to use. The position held a number of years in the early 1980’s, with its duties split between the Local secretary treasurer and the local vice-president. It was hoped that establishment of a Special Assistant would to some degree replace the last Industrial Relations Director.

The duties are similar. In addition to working on special projects for the President, the Special Assistant assists the Vice President with training of stewards and identifying areas which need improvement. In practice, President Utmer has made it known that I am everybody’s Special Assistant, a policy with which I am entirely in agreement. Also in practice, historically, the Special Assistant has been used as a trouble-shooter for targeted problems or installations which need, well, special attention. I consider myself available to assist all officers and stewards, in all crafts, with any matters of concern or grievance handling. This Local has a cadre of extremely experienced people whose knowledge must be passed on to the younger officers and stewards who are coming on, and I personally want to make sure that the knowledge and experience is not lost.

2. In your union duties do you spend more time as a steward or assisting the President? In the first place, as a steward you are always assisting the President by serving the membership. I don’t mean this as a trite sentiment; stewards are appointed by, and serve at the behest of the President of the Local, whoever the President may be, and the first and primary function of a steward is to enforce the National Agreement and protect the membership. Thus as “SA” I am first a steward, and all the “assisting” I do derives from that particular calling. But yes, the Special Assistant should be a person who can handle “special” projects beyond “routine” grievance handling. As SA I already handle grievances at all levels of the grievance procedure. I sit on several other committees as representative for the Local, and serve at the behest of the President.
Hello again my Brothers and Sisters,

The Postal Service has just released its 2007 fiscal year report regarding OWCP (Office of Workers Compensation Programs) and in the report there was 35,000 claims filed. The report said that 90% of those claims were Traumatic and 60% of Occupational disease claim were accepted, at a cost of $924 million. This is a major reason for the Postal service NRP program. Early last year the Government Accountability Office (GAO) presented a 46-page report on the Postal Service National Reassessment Process (NRP) to Congress, but failed to address many glaring problems, including many issues raised by APWU representatives. As evidenced by the report, the GAO fails to fully grasp the NRP, and apparently has been duped by the Postal Service regarding the program’s intentions and value. The GAO simply doesn’t seem to understand the unnecessary employee hardship being cause by the program. The GAO appears to be more concerned about substantiating its previously stated position that Postal Service employee’s compensation and benefits should be reduced considerably, than it is about the cost of discriminating against injured workers. Fortunately for our employee’s the APWU has filed numerous Grievances against the NRP program, and on 12/20/10 Director of Industrial Relation Mike Morris released a report stating that the local and regional level grievances regarding the National Reassessment Process (NRP) should be held in abeyance pending the outcome of step 4 disputes at the National level. In a December 16, 2010 memo to APWU regional coordinators and national business agents, Morris outlined three issues related to the NRP that are pending arbitration. Cases that address these issues should await the outcome of the national-level grievance. As I am putting information together, we at the local level are still filing grievances against NRP and the hardships it is causing our members. Lets all hope we can stop this Postal greed from hurting any more of our members. Until next time remember to Live, Laugh and Love.

Standing Together Through Hardships

Greeting, Brothers and Sisters, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve you as your Director of Organization. Our Local is very unique and special despite all the excessing we’re enduring on a constant basis. Regardless, we must continue to encourage one another to stand together through these almost unbearable hardships. I am extremely proud to inform my fellow Brothers and Sisters that our Local is approximately 92% organized. Let’s continue to work together to achieve 100% organization. If you are knowledgeable of any fellow co-worker(s) that are not currently a member of the American Postal Workers Union please encourage them to become a part of this well renown organization. In addition, any union member that recruits a non-member shall be compensated with a twenty dollar ($20.00) check for their effort. Remember, together we can achieve our goal. Thank you all once again.

Information On The National Reassessment Process Program

Claim were accepted, at a cost of $924 million. This is a major reason for the Postal service NRP program. Early last year the Government Accountability Office (GAO) presented a 46-page report on the Postal Service National Reassessment Process (NRP) to Congress, but failed to address many glaring problems, including many issues raised by APWU representatives. As evidenced by the report, the GAO fails to fully grasp the NRP, and apparently has been duped by the Postal Service regarding the program’s intentions and value. The GAO simply doesn’t seem to understand the unnecessary employee hardship being cause by the program. The GAO appears to be more concerned about substantiating its previously stated position that Postal Service employee’s compensation and benefits should be reduced considerably, than it is about the cost of discriminating against injured workers. Fortunately for our employee’s the APWU has filed numerous Grievances against the NRP program, and on 12/20/10 Director of Industrial Relation Mike Morris released a report stating that the local and regional level grievances regarding the National Reassessment Process (NRP) should be held in abeyance pending the outcome of step 4 disputes at the National level. In a December 16, 2010 memo to APWU regional coordinators and national business agents, Morris outlined three issues related to the NRP that are pending arbitration. Cases that address these issues should await the outcome of the national-level grievance. As I am putting information together, we at the local level are still filing grievances against NRP and the hardships it is causing our members. Lets all hope we can stop this Postal greed from hurting any more of our members. Until next time remember to Live, Laugh and Love.

National Day Of Protest Lansing, MI, April 13, 2011

Christopher Ulmer DDAL President came with his Wife and kids making it a family affair.

Iva, Carolin and Sandra listens to the speakers at the rally.

Ms. White supported the cause and made the trip for her APWU-DDAL.

Craig patiently looks on and listens.

The Ladies For Legislation.
Greetings brothers and sisters, I hope this communication finds you, and your family in good health, and spirits. To get straight to the point, we have been experiencing a lot of changes happening within the postal service, and a lot of our members find it very difficult to make the necessary adjustments. We have to endeavor to return to the roots that formed the unions, and invented the middle class in this country. We have become complacent, entitled, and in some cases just plain lazy when it comes to protecting our livelihoods, and the livelihoods of our fellow workers. We report to work every day and witness management performing bargaining unit work, and do nothing to correct contractual violations that occur on a daily basis. These types of contractual violations lead to the erosion of bargaining unit positions, and given the bean counters at corporate headquarters the impression that they can accomplish the daily task of moving the mail with the employees that they have on the rolls. This also leads to the attendance problems that we are experiencing at several locations throughout the service because of the excessive amount of overtime hours needed to accomplish the delivery standards expected, coupled this with the fact that the workforce is aging, and in a non-pay status. Another example of this one way street and abuse of power is an employee from the GWY who was placed on emergency placement because he made a supervisor feel uncomfortable. Management at the DNDC took 21 days to notify the inspection service and this employee was out for a total of 8 weeks. Although the United States Postal Service just paid out a $6000 settlement, imagine the hardship this employee had to endure during this time in a non-pay status. Another example of this one way street and abuse of power is an employee from the GWY who was walked out for being on his cell phone on the workroom floor. However, I am sure you can’t look at management, and manage their actions. This is a violation of our collective bargaining agreements. This is not a new policy. In February of 1992, the Postal Service ordered many employee organizations, initiated the Joint Statement of Violence and Behavior in the Workplace in the aftermath of the Royal Oak tragedy. The Postal Service acknowledged that in some places there is an unacceptable level of stress in the workplace: that there is no excuse for and will be no tolerance or any threats of violence by anyone at any level of the Postal Service; there is no excuse for, and will be no tolerance of harassment, intimidation, threats or bullying by anyone. Everyone has the basic right to come to work in a safe environment and be given the ability to excel at their job at all levels. Currently within several levels of the Detroit District, managers are in positions where they are abusing their authority by ignoring basic life skills . . . .basically things you were taught when you were about 8 years old. In elementary school you just knew that you didn’t take someone’s lunch money or bullied someone on the playground because you could. Even at 5 years...
We would like to express our condolences to the following employees on the loss of a loved one:

Varysia Bell
Samuel Beloch
Vincent Clark
Oscar Harris
Sammy Hunter
Myra Jones-Hayes
Sidney Matthews
Kenton Parker
Wilbert Smith Jr. (Smitty)
Patricia Williams
Samantha Woods
Larita Parker

Our condolences to the families of:

Johnny Brown
Amy L. Hunter

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

With Deepest Sympathy

We felt would be the agenda has come to pass, but on an even greater scale than we feared. Never before has a “new” legislature acted so swiftly and in such a destructive, divisive and demoralizing manner. We ARE UNDER ATTACK!!! Yes right now the attack is on the public sector workers but make no mistake about it, we will be next! The Republican controlled legislative branch has a vicious agenda set forth and aimed totally at union busting. Beginning with their second day in office, a number of bills were crafted, the next day discussed, the next week sent to committee and the next week voted on. They are on the fast track and in some cases are placing similar bills in both houses at the same time. This is happening not only in Michigan, but Nationwide in states where the Republicans have total or majority control. Brothers and sisters, this is about so much more than union busting. This is about preserving our rights which are being systematically wiped out. They say it is about the budget, but if you truly and honestly examine it closely you will see it is about more greed and more money for the already wealthy. Wherever the point is raised about why the Republicans want to take more away from public sector workers, the answer I always here is “well, if not us then where else will you take it from”? We all know that belts have to be tightened and cuts have to be made, but why are workers the only ones to suffer while business continues to receive big tax breaks? In the interest of keeping this article as short as possible I just want to point out what has already happened in just five months: Nearly 20,000 AFSCME members lost their collective bargaining rights; legislation is pending which would prohibit Public sector workers from organizing under Michigan’s Public Employees Relations Act; the item pricing law has been repealed (eliminating jobs) and takes effect September 1st; HB 20 prohibits any state run prohibition on ergonomics (already signed by Governor); HB 4152 prohibits increases in pay (including shift) under an extended or expired contract; any increased health care costs during and extended or expired contract must be paid by workers (even if the House and is on the Senate Floor); HB 4052 prohibits the use of public facilities or equipment for political activities (State Capitol for union office — organizing activities (pending on the House Floor); The Emergency Manager Act “Reform” has been signed into law with no salary cap or restrictions what-so-ever on whover the EFM is; HB 4050 prohibits collective bargaining agreements that provide for unpaid union leave time (it also is currently on the House Floor); HB 4312 eliminates employee protections when local governments consolidate services or merge (pending on the House floor); HB 4310 authorizes independent childcare providers from organizing consolidating and merging of cities, school districts, municipalities, fire, police and everything in between is what he wants and will use money as the tool to get it. He will pit city against city, suburb, schools and all. Whoever privatizes more and eliminates the most jobs is who will get the most money! So tell me how putting people out of work, sending them to the unemployment line with a decrease in the number of weeks they can draw compensation is best for our state? There are so many more bills in the works, such as eliminating STATUTORY revenue sharing for cities, villages and townships; lifetime limit of 48 months for low income families receiving assistance; demanding $180 million dollars in additional wage and benefit contributions from state employees; and the list goes on. Once again folks, it’s about holding on to your rights! You have the right to seek a decent job earning a decent wage, you have the right to attend a public school and you have the right to elect and vote for the candidates of your choice. Don’t, implore you, let your rights continue to be trampled on and/or eradiated! Stand up and fight back! Too many before you died so that you could exercise that right! One final note, I received an e-mail from a friend that begun . . . “WISCONSIN: ABOUT TO BOIL OVER.” It was posted March 11, 2011 and was supposedly from the GOP Trust Pac. I don’t know how true or even IF it is true but it sounds about par for the course given what is happening. In part it states . . . Thanks to you we are taking back America . . . Thank you GOP trust supporter; this morning we delivered a massive blow to Obama’s radical agenda, Governor Walker just signed a heroic piece of legislation into law that will send shock waves from Madison to Wash. D.C. It further states: if we can break the unions back in 2011, the Democrats will be on life support to begin 2012. It goes on listing different states and the legislation being passed and or attempted. For Michigan . . . The Michigan legislature has approved separate measures to give the state the POWER to break union contracts. I now ask do you feel this is right. If yes, then do nothing. But if you feel as I do that this is not the way our country should be treating us then join us, unite with workers all over the country, STAND UP FOR WORKERS. STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS, and STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS !!!! IN TRUE SOLIDARITY.
Collective Bargaining Agreement

Since being sworn in as Assistant Clerk Craft Director during the month of January ‘2010’, reports I have submitted to The Detroit Postal Worker, have more or less been informative articles for the membership; therefore, my current report pertains to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), Article #11, HOLIDAYS. The following ten (10) days are considered holidays for full-time and part-time regular scheduled employees:

New Year’s Day
Martin Luther King, Junior’s Birthday
Washington’s Birthday
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Veteran’s Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day

In order for an employee to be eligible for holiday pay, the employee must be in a pay status the LAST hour of the employee’s scheduled workday prior to the employee’s workday; or the FIRST hour of the employee’s scheduled workday after the holiday. Employees receive holiday pay at a base hourly straight time rate for the number of hours equal to their regular daily work schedule not to exceed eight (8) hours. Effective February 02, 2002, employees who work their holiday, at their option, may elect to have their annual leave balance credited with eight (8) hours of annual leave in lieu of holiday leave pay. More often then not, when an employee is denied holiday pay by Postal Management, even when the aforementioned requirements are met, Management denies employees holiday pay referring to Article #11, Section #6.C (CBA) which states in part, “An employee scheduled to work on a holiday who does not work shall not receive holiday pay, unless such absence is based on an extreme emergency situation and is excused by the employer.”

So remember, if you are ever DENIED of your negotiated holiday pay for any reason; as soon as you are knowledgeable; FILE A GRIEVANCE.

---

Steward Talk

continued from page 7

many, but this has enhanced my experience in such a manner that I believe I have to offer a sophisticated set of skills to the membership in what is becoming an increasingly difficult time for us in the Postal Service.

4. Give the members three things they can do to protect themselves against the wrath of the post office.

1. The post office is governed by an enormous and well-established body of regulations, going back, in some cases, to the 19th Century. Really. So I recommend that our members protect themselves in the first place by following the rules/ regulations. I don’t mean to sound like a management hack, but we are required to follow their rules. What does this mean? Well, for example:

   • Wear your ID badge at all times, properly displayed on your chest, during working hours, which includes entering and exiting the building. You can’t believe how much crap our people get into.

   • Don’t talk on your cellphone/ Bluetooth/smartphone/etc. when you are on the workfloor and supervise co-workers, even if it doesn’t jeopardize your safety or that of others or of postal property. In many cases, supervisors are appointed specifically for their willingness to give stupid or nonsensical orders (think about the bosses you know). Don’t play the “goomba” game of refuting to follow orders. Again, and again, ditto of above, you can’t believe how much trouble our people get into about this.

2. Keep copies of EVERYTHING. This means keeping COPIES of your medical certificates that you give to your supervisor. COPIES of your 3971’s when you get them from your supervisor (make sure they are properly filed and given back to you timely). Keep COPIES of your cheek stubs • • • YES, I mean keep the cheek stubs! 11/11 have all of my cheek stubs going back to 1976, and they don’t take up all that much space! You can’t believe how much trouble our people get into about this.

---

Retirees’ Department Notes

Al Fouche
Retirees’ President

- My article this month will consist of “Where Union’s Come From and What Unions Want”.
- Based on the Governor of Wisconsin and what Governors are trying to eliminate/crack Unions and lower many benefits. The Union is responsible for the American public; such as, retirement, overtime, vacations, etc.
- These articles come from the AFL-CIO and I think they are very informative on where the Union comes from and what we want. Part Two (What Unions Want) will be in the next issue.

- WHERE UNIONS COME FROM

The history of trade unionism in this country is frequently dated from 1792, when a local union was formed by the journeymen cordwainers (shoemakers) of Philadelphia. Within the next ten years, unions of shoemakers, carpenters and printers were founded in Baltimore, Boston, New York and several other cities.

Until after the Civil War, most of these trade unions were located in Atlantic seacoast cities and were local unions of workers in a particular trade or industry. These isolated locals sensing the need for greater strength formed city-wide federations called “trade assemblies” for mutual aid and support in strikes and emergency situations. They also functioned as boycott organizations, published newspapers, took political action and lobbied for local government legislation favorable to their members. Today these federations have evolved into city central bodies or state central bodies and their functions are much the same. But local unions also found it necessary to join with other locals within the same trade or industry. These national unions were labor’s answer to dealing with employers who were selling their goods or services as a national undertaking. Machinist locals in New York, for example, worked for iron foundry employees who were competing with other iron founders in Cleveland. In this national competition, the isolated New York local union soon found itself competing with its counterpart local union in Cleveland and in other plants of the industry located elsewhere. As the employers competed, wages, as a cost of production factor, were bid down and the lowest rates in the industry tended to prevail throughout the country.

So in 1859, the machinist and blacksmith locals united and formed a permanent national organization. The molders did the same in 1859 and the printers had formed their national union in 1850. In the decade after the Civil War, twenty-six new national unions were formed. Some of them exist today. The locomotive engineers, the locomotive firemen, carpenters, bricklayers, and painters all date from this period. The purpose of all these national unions was the same; to influence wages, working conditions and work rules more or less uniformly throughout their trade or industry.

The isolated locals thus learned that by pooling their resources and cooperating with one another, they could more effectively deal with employers and at the same time give help and support to locals in distress. They demonstrated once again that in unity there is strength. Today, national and international trade unions (they are called international because they have members in Canada and in every state and territory of the American labor movement. Just over 100 of them are affiliated with the AFL-CIO) are the Keystone of the American labor movement. Collective bargaining was the keystone of the American labor movement.

Where Unions Come From

--

**Retirees’ Department**

---
Christopher “Chris” Ulmer, President

In this segment of “Ask the President” we are going to address the burning issues and concerns that the membership has over the new contract. As it should be, this is a hot issue among our members. We are going to try and clear up some of the confusion.

Q. Mr. President at press time the contract has been ratified. You did support the contract, is that correct?
A. Yes I did and so did most of the APWU Membership.

Q. How do you feel about the new contract?
A. I am enthusiastic about the new contract. The contract is new and it is different, but at the same time it allows the Postal Service to compete while allowing the APWU to get back some of the work and membership that we have lost over the last 10 years or so. We face new and different challenges; but they are the same challenges we would have faced anyway no different than contract in the past. The challenges are there but I do believe the challenges we face are better for us in the contract, because this contract has so much to offer the APWU and ultimately the membership.

Q. Mr. President, what is the contract going to accomplish now for the membership and moving forward in the future?
A. This contract accomplishes a lot of things. One of the main things in the contract is that it limits the number of miles a craft employee can be excessed. Many people in the state and country don’t realize how detrimental and destructive long distance excessing is until they are in the situation. In the past, the postal service could excess people as far away as they need which is a complete disregard of the situation. The new contract limits the excessing range to 40 miles and in certain situations 50 miles. The new agreement allows the APWU input into the employers’ decision and the two parties must agree to anything beyond the 40 mile range. That is a good thing because in the past contract there was no agreement in place to limit excessing. In the past the Postal Service dictated how many miles our members were excessed, now the APWU will have a say in the manner.

Q. Mr. President, address some of the negative feedback that you have encountered concerning the new contract.
A. One area of concerns for the employees is the two tier wage system. I am going to try and clear this matter up and put it to rest. Presently every person working for the USPS is under a two tier wage system. Don’t be fooled by the naysayers who say that a union should only have one tier of pay. A one tier wage system is the goal of our Union. Look at the Step progression of our pay scale and you will see regardless of pay level the highest paid step that you can receive at the Post Office is RC. The APWU has 3 more contract negotiations before anyone coming in under the new tier wage system will reach top scale of pay and steps. This gives the APWU 3 more opportunities to be able to bring the pay of the new employees that are being hired into the USPS today in line with the one who may have been 30 or 40 years. So when they wanted to bring the wage tier system up as a reason to cote down this contract, it wasn’t a valid or good reason. I do not believe when a person is first hired into a job that they really care about how much another person is making, I think when we start to worry about others, other than they make, of how much they spend it only comes up later in our careers. Another misunderstood issue is the NTFT position issue. The NTFT positions are Non-Traditional Full Time positions. This contract eliminates part-time work from APWU represented crafts. Right now the APWU represented crafts have nothing but a part-time workforce. The new contract gives them a large backing, which they don’t.

Q. Mr. President, the members have come up to me and they are confused about the language in the contract that defines a part time employee. Can you clarify the language to the membership?
A. Yes I can. There were only two categories of work; Full-Time & Part-Time. The old language stated a Part-Time employee (not Part-time flex of Part-time regular) was entitled to a work schedule like a full time employee, except that they (part-time employees) may be scheduled for less than 8 hours a day and for less than 40 hours in a normal work week. That’s a part time employee in the old contract. A full time employee worked 40 hours in a 5 day period. What has happened in the new contract, they have done away with the part-time work force completely in terminology. The part-time work force that the APWU used to have is now part of the full-time work force. Basically, the people that presently hold a 40 hours position now are grandfathered into and guaranteed 40-44 hour bid positions for the rest of their career. The new NTFT assignments will range in work hours from 30 to 48 hours a normal work week. So in terms of full time, we are all full time employees; basically, this simple thing eliminates the Postal Service from taking advantage of a person that chose to be a part-time employee. Now the APWU represented craft employees who were excessed to. If an APWU represented craft employee is excessed into another APWU represented craft within the installation they can stay because they are still APWU members. Basicsly, it is protecting the APWU membership without affecting the member that may like the new APWU craft. The old contract language said if you were excessed with in your installation (regardless of craft) you had to return to your former craft. This language still applies if an APWU represented craft employee is excessed into the Carrier or Mailhandler Craft within the installation. Many times employees are forced into other crafts and they want to stay but cannot because their retreat rights are cross craft. The membership is very important. It raises the bar and the standards of living for the employees that are here already. It allows them a greater and better chance to provide for their families in the smaller and larger communities.

DANNY. That clarifies a lot of questions Chris. Chris, I want to talk about some of the negative aspects that have been brought up by the naysayers on the contract. All the naysayers wanted to do is focus on the perceived negatives. What about the positive? There are going to be two sides to every contract, negative and positive. The naysayers did not talk about the 6,000 to 8,000 jobs that the APWU is possibly going to lose in the next several years. About the thousands of jobs the crafts are getting back from EAS, work that was taken over the years. They don’t talk about the positives. Normally, when someone is being truthful about a situation, they give the negative and positives and the debate goes on from there. There are more people out there supporting the new contract than there are those who oppose it. They use the media, internet and other exploits to try and make it seem that they have a large backing, which they don’t.

Q. Need this be a question that addresses directly to me and numerous other employees whom were excessed. There is confusion on the language of the contract on retirement rights from excessing. 1. Explain the line and I quote here from the new contract, “employees will not be required to retreat to crafts they were excessed from if the craft is represented by the APWU”. 2. Are we coming back? 3. Do we have to come back? 4. Can we stay in the different Craft we were excessed from?
A. 1). It means, if you get excessed into an other APWU represented craft (Clerks, Main or Mail Handler) in the same installation you do not have to return to your former craft, if you do not wish to, as long as it is an APWU represented craft that you were excessed to. If an APWU represented craft employee is excessed into another APWU represented craft within the installation they can stay because they are still APWU members. Basicsly, it is protecting the APWU membership without affecting the member that may like the new APWU craft. The old contract language said if you were excessed with in your installation (regardless of craft) you had to return to your former craft. This language still applies if an APWU represented craft employee is excessed into the Carrier or Mailhandler Craft within the installation. Many times employees are forced into other crafts and they want to stay but cannot because their retreat rights are cross craft. The membership is very important. It raises the bar and the standards of living for the employees that are here already. It allows them a greater and better chance to provide for their families in the smaller and larger communities.

Q. How is that going to change?
A. The new contract provides that part-time employees at the least 30 work hours a week. It raises the bar and the standard of living for the people who were not and will not be able to follow their jobs. The new contract prevents the Postal Service from retaliating against our members if they make this choice. There are a lot of small towns and places that suffer tremendously their whole postal career because they can only get work 2, 4 or 6 hours a pay while trying to provide for their families. This contract eliminates that and makes them a full-time employee with the guarantees of an APWU represented craft. That is very important. It raises the bar and the standards of living for the employees that are here already. It allows them a greater and better chance to provide for their families in the smaller and larger communities.

DANNY. That clarifies a lot of questions Chris. Chris, I want to talk about some of the negative aspects that have been brought up by the naysayers on the contract. All the naysayers wanted to do is focus on the perceived negatives. What about the positive? There are going to be two sides to every contract, negative and positive. The naysayers did not talk about the 6,000 to 8,000 jobs that the APWU is possibly going to lose in the next several years. About the thousands of jobs the crafts are getting back from EAS, work that was taken over the years. They don’t talk about the positives. Normally, when someone is being truthful about a situation, they give the negative and positives and the debate goes on from there. There are more people out there supporting the new contract than there are those who oppose it. They use the media, internet and other exploits to try and make it seem that they have a large backing, which they don’t.
 postal facts

Did you know?

by Danny Sawicki

the J. w. westcott

mail freighter

Did you know that The J.W. Westcott is the only U.S. mail boat in the country providing mail service by water? The boat services other freighters coming thru the Detroit River.

The boat and office are located on the river by the Ambassador Bridge. The 45 ft. long, 15 ft. wide beam vessel is powered by a B-series Cummins diesel engine.

The freighter transfers mail, supplies, parts, pilots, people and even delivered a donkey! Mail is the first priority.

The boat is contracted by the USPS. It maintains round the clock operations. Depending on conditions, the boat runs on the river from the end of March until a week or so before Christmas.

To stay in touch with passing Great Lakes freighters, they use 2-way radios and telephones.

The boat delivers the mail while moving along the giant freighters. Engineering calculations are determined for each tie-up procedure. Wind, current, freighter size, freighter speed and other factors are considered. Tow-lines and ratchets are used to secure the tie-up. This can be a very dangerous procedure.

Yearly, the boat averages about 4000 trips. Amazing, considering the ever changing weather conditions we encounter here in Michigan.

Ships sailing the Great lakes have individual mail slots in the mail room office. Back in the day, the Edmund Fitzgerald had a slot. Sadly, the slot is now replaced by another freighter.

The operation has been running since 1874! The boat even has it’s own zip code, 48222.

48222, now you know where it’s going.

the marshall postal museum

Did you know that Marshall, Michigan has the 2nd largest postal museum in the country? It is second only to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. The museum is in the basement of the historic Marshall post office building.

The museum’s main focus is on rural delivery, and has over 4000 artifacts. The collection includes delivery vehicles (one, a 1931 Model A mail truck from Grand Rapids), clothing, postal antiques, buggies, mail sleighs and even a 1917 Model T mail snowmobile that delivered mail in the Upper Peninsula. Other historic postal items are featured. Canceling, sorting tables, stamps, photos, historical windows dot the museum. Not everything is on display at once.

A $5 donation is suggested for admission, and you must book an appointment to visit the museum. Call 269-420-7030 or 269-979-2719 for more information.

america’s stamp stop in berkely

Did you know in our area there has been a store that specializes in stamps, coins and other collectables since 1978? It is called America’s Stamp Store in Berkley.

Karl Schaefer started his first store in Birmingham, Michigan in 1978. He ran 3 stores until the early 1980’s. However, at that time, a law was passed stating that collectors could no longer hold stamps and other collectables as investment assets in retirement funds. That slowed down the stamp collecting and the collectable hobby. He has scaled down to 1 store that is extremely busy. Clients include doctors, swimming guards and everyone in between.

Karl says, “everyone is treated equal here.” His son Todd says, “We see grandparents bringing in grandkids, and lately, we are seeing a lot of girls and women that we haven’t seen before.” Stamp collecting and collectables are transcending into other genres and generations.

The stores stamp inventory includes stamps dating from the 1840s, as well as proof sets, sheets and theme stamps, as well as Cinderella stamps (stamp-like labels not valid for postage) and revenue stamps. Other collectables are carried at the store. The store buys about 3 to 5 stamp collections a week, mostly local. Other business comes from eBay with customers from all over the world.

Karl and son Todd welcome you to the “America’s Stamp Stop’s Free Hot Dog lunch” on Saturdays, a tradition Karl started for his customers to meet and discuss their hobby more that 20 years ago. Stop in and say hello and tell them that the DDAL sent you. For more information call 248-474-4400.

Dog attacks

Did you know there were 59 dog attacks on Detroit mail carriers last year compared to 10 in New York and 74 in Los Angeles? Way too many here in Detroit. Compared to the populations of those other cities, the dog attack ratio here in Detroit is astronomical.

Tell me what is the Post Office and the city of Detroit is going to do about this shocking and embarrassing situation?

APwu P.O.W.E.R. Committee

announces its

Annual Educational Scholarship Applications are ready

Applications may be picked up at the APwu office located at 20530 Southfield Road Detroit, Mi 48235

(313) 532-9305

All Applications MUST be returned to the above address —

ATTENTION P.O.W.E.R. Committee by the close of business on Friday, July 8, 2011.

Christopher E. Ullmer, President

Sandra Carey, Coordinator

Teresa Dickerson, Recording Secretary

Karen Callin, Treasurer

Vanessa Williams, Organization

American Postal Workers Union

Saturday, July 16, 2011
11 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Foods served from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Metro Beach – Metro Park
31300 Metroparkway
Mt. Clemen, Mi 48046
(Surfside Shelter)

$5 Entrance Fee into the park
Pool - $3 per person (under 3 free)
Lockers - $.50

Entertainment Committee Members

Manuela Webster, Chairperson
Carl Williams, Co-Chair
Michelle Hamons
Dahren D. J. Hill
Renee Sheppard
Samantha Young

Food/Fun/Games/Raffles
against the USPS on the grounds the installation.

DANNY. That should clear up some of the questions of that language.

CHRIS. I want to speak on the Detroit District Area Local’s affect on the new contract. You know when we first took office in 2010, we filed an injunction against the USPS on the grounds that they are not doing what was contractually required when it came to excessing employees. The DDAL believed that the USPS needed to identify the jobs when they give employees their 60 day notification. The DDAL believed that the USPS had the responsibility to identify the location, the tour, and all relevant information for the identified employee to make an informed decision to follow the job or not. The DDAL filed a court injunction on these grounds. Although we did not prevail with the injunction process, the Postal Service started to adhere to that amendment. I know both sides, the APWU administration and the Postal Service administration, looked at that case very close. Now there is strict and clear language that states when the Postal Service identifies people to be excessed, they must have a job there for the excessive employee. Not like what they have been doing. They will give you a 60 day notice, not have a job available, then when one comes up they say, “well you have to go right now because we already gave you a 60 day notice”.

Well now that is essentially eliminated. When we filed this injunction, we needed approval from the APWU National President (William Burrus). Mr. Burrus decided to file a Step 4 grievance on this particular issue. It is good to see new contract language that pertains to an issue(s) that you [Detroit] are facing and fighting for. It may have seemed like the DDAL lost its court injunction but see new contract language addressing something you have been fighting lets the leadership and membership of the DDAL know that we really won.

Q. Mr. President that is a great point. We all have had friends, family and colleagues excessed to Pittsburgh, Iowa, etc. and when they got there, their was no job there for them. What is your take on that?

A. The job, the tour has to be identified and the employee must be notified of it 60 days before the employee can be excessed into that job. It is a big plus. There are lots of little things the people do not know because they do not deal with the grievance process everyday. People sometimes look at factors such as tours, NS days, which are very important, but we really need union officials to deal with a gamit of issues big and small everyday. The important thing is that the language regarding excessing and placement is clear and unambiguous to ensure that the USPS follows the CBA as it should.

Q. Well Mr. President, you have cleared up many questions for me and for the membership regarding the new contract. Are there any other thoughts you might want to elaborate on?

A. I think this contract lays the ground work for the future. This contract allows the Postal Service, as well as the employees to choose new duty assignments, they may say, “I will work 4 days, 10 hours a day and get 3 off days, or 3 days a week 12 hours a day.” The new contract gives variety and flexibility, it will prevent employees from being excessed and to remain gainfully employed close to home and their loved ones. This new contract allows the Postal Service as well as the Union to transition smoothly from the 20th to the 21st century. An important point about unions is that we map out a positive future for the employees who are still here and that we pave the ways for those coming behind us and this contract does that. Our leaders, our contract negotiators have done a great job on being futuristic and trying to pave the way for anybody that has 10, 20 or 30 years to go, and that is what we look for our leaders to do.

DANNY. That is very important Chris. I want to thank you for clarifying these issues for us.

CHRIS. One thing I have always said is that we have smart members. No matter what anyone says, our members are smart and intelligent and are not ones to be fooled over and over again, and I think that is why the contract was ratified.

DANNY: Well said, thank you Chris.

CHRIS: Thank you Danny.

Due to limited space the interview was edited. The most important points have been printed. If you have any questions for “Ask the President” column, contact Danny Sawicki, mailing address: 20530 Southfield Road, Detroit, MI 48235; e-mail: dawicki@apwudetroit.org, cell phone: (586) 943-3950.

Ask The President

continued from page 10

Change Service Requested

Steward Talk

continued from page 9

FILE a GRIEVANCE. We always tell people this, but they, alas, don’t always do it. There are more rules and regulations than most rank-and-file members are aware of, which is why we train stewards. There is no harm in checking with the steward. There is no harm in filing a “silly” grievance, we can always take it back. The only “silliness” is failing to protect yourself by not asking for help. We are here to help, that’s what we do. That’s our calling.

Editors Note: Since 1988 John has been willing and able to work under every President and their administration in a fair and honest manner.

Thank you for your service John. And remember members, USE YOUR STEWARDS!

If you would like the opportunity to be a steward, send President Ulmer a letter with your name, facility, tour, craft, NS days and start time.

Next Membership Meetings

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2011
SUMMER BREAK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.