The President’s Report . . .

Pat Johnson, The DDAL Will Remember You

Hello brothers & sisters. It is great to be able to share the latest Postal Service’s News and Information with you again. Since the last time I addressed you the DDAL lost a true giant in the labor movement for both women and men. We lost, Patricia Johnson, the former Executive Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Central Region P.O.W.E.R Coordinator. The members will miss our beloved sister who was a strong fighter of employee’s rights. I ask you to take a moment and reflect on the work that our Union Sister did for us, and use that to help us help others.

In an effort to ensure APWU-DDAL members have a healthier future the DDAL will be kicking off a “Healthier Union” campaign. The plans are not yet complete but we will have a formal kick off information coming soon.

NOW IS THE TIME, WE CAN’T WAIT ANY LONGER

The USPS in February announced its plan to stop six day delivery starting in August of 2013 because they believe they don’t need the approval of the U.S. Congress. The USPS has some serious hurdles to over come if 5 day delivery is to take place by August of 2013. One hurdle is that the change must be approved by the U.S. Congress; which will not happen by before October of 2013. The second hurdle is, that funding for six day delivery has already been approved by Congress through September 2013, to stop six day delivery once its been approved will violate the law. The Government Accounting Office (GOA) has said the USPS can not stop 5 day delivery without the U.S. Congress passing measures that would allow the USPS to go to 5 day delivery.

The FIGHT for postal jobs started years ago when President Bush and the 109th congress passed the PAEA (Postal Accountability Enhancement Act) and greedy Postal Executives wanted the hidden benefit of uncapping their salaries. Due to this Executive greed USPS employee must regroup and become ENGAGED to fight against the flawed ideas of the PAEA which are causing the insolvent of the USPS today. The GET ENGAGED program is a challenge the DDAL has initiated to encourage our members to write, call, email and visit their elected U.S. Congressional delegation, seeking support of bills HR630 and S316. Bills HR630 and S316 are bills introduced in the House and Senate that provides relief to the USPS financially and to Postal communities by keeping facilities open. These bills would restrict and prevent the closing & consolidating of many P&DC plants as well as Post Offices. These bills allow financial relief to the USPS without spending any tax dollars, by refunding Congressmen and Congresswomen had started signing onto the bills as co-sponsors. The NPC provided me with a greater understanding of the demands that our elected U.S. Officials are under, it also gave me a greater understanding of the power that they have. Call your elected Official and show them that they must contact them but more importantly that you care enough to vote for those that support you.

On April 9, 2013 the USPS announced their plan of going to 5 day mail delivery by August of 2013 is being withdrawn. The USPS is not giving up on the plan of 5 day mail delivery instead of 6 day they are just going to wait until Congress and the White House do it.

USPS ANNOUNCES THE ACCELERATION OF PLANT CLOSINGS AND CONSOLIDATIONS

The USPS made the announcement that they will accelerate the closing and consolidation of Mail Processing facilities across the United States moving the proposed 2014 closing up to 2013. The USPS made this announcement the week following the NALC’s successful rally on March 24, 2013. The USPS knows their position of being able to change mail delivery from 6 days to 5 days is in seriously jeopardy. Therefore they have once again begun to exact havoc and fear on the APWU represented employees. The APWU has been seeking the members and their families support to contact their elected officials to encourage their support and help to make the closing and consolidating of Mail Processing Facilities and Post offices more difficult and to require government approval or PRC approval . . . It is for these reasons you, your friends and family must contact your elected U.S. Officials and tell them to support Postal employees and STOP the USPS from closing mail processing plants, closing small and large Post Offices, and reducing service standards.

WHAT YOUR DDAL IS DOING TO STOP USPS VIOLATIONS

The DDAL has filed numerous grievances and NLRB Charges about the Detroit District illegally modifying and falsifying official postal records and documents to prevent excessed employees from being placed into the bids that their retreat rights has afforded them. The parties have begun continued on page 7
Detroit District Area Local
Union Officials

Christopher Ulmer
President

Patricia Choremba
Executive Vice-President

Jane Duggan
Secretary/Treasurer

James Stevenson
Clerk Craft Director

Jason Rushing
Maintenance Craft Director

Keith Comb
Director of Human Relations

De Voel Le Jeune
MVS Craft Director

Debbie Wingler
DNDC Facility Director

Regina “Gina” Favors
Director of Legislation

Marcus D. Smith
Director of Organization

Tony Corbin
Assistant Clerk Craft Director

Anthony “Tony” V. Latimer
Assistant, Maint. Craft Director

Raymond Allen Morgan
Assistant MVS Craft Director

Stacey Cain
Recording Secretary

Al Fouche
Retirees’ President

Danny Sawicki
Associate Editor

Among Patty’s many accomplishments are:

- Union Steward 1997–2006
- APWU-DDAL P.O.W.E.R. Coordinator [9 Years]
- Recording Secretary APWU-DDAL [9 Years]
- Executive V.P. APWU-DDAL [3 Years]
- Scholarships and Outreach
- Executive Committee member of Coalition of Labor Union Women’s (CCLUW) prestigious Olga Madar Award 2001
- Co-Founder of the APWU-DDAL P.O.W.E.R. Scholarship Program

Detroit Postal Worker
February 3, 1950 – February 8, 2013

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Well, here we go again.

The Post Office is at it again.

They announced all over the media that they are cutting Saturday delivery in August 2013. Well guess what Post Office, you just can’t cut Saturday delivery unless congress approves. From what we are hearing there is lots of opposition from the public and congress. The Post Office thinks they can do whatever they want whenever they want. Well, this is a government agency and you just can’t do things that you want until proper procedures are enacted.

I really don’t think the Post Office thought that there would be such a negative response to their announcement cutting Saturday delivery.

They said according to a survey, 80% of the public approves the slashing of Saturday delivery. We would like to know who did they survey... their employees in their corporate offices in Washington? I walk the streets every day, and the conversations I have with the public is that most are against the slashing of SERVICE. That’s the main operative word, SERVICE.

If they cut Saturday service, that is just the start on the road to privatization. The Post Office says that they will save about two billion a year ending Saturday delivery.

Why haven’t they thought about the 5.5 billion dollars the Post Office has to shell out every year to prefund a retirement fund 75 years down the road? Instead of cutting Saturday delivery, why don’t they put efforts pressuring congress to lower that amount by a couple billion that would offset the need to slash Saturday delivery?

We know retirement accounts must be pre-funded for us that are retiring down the road. But 75 years in the future and 5.5 billion a year could be an awfully ridiculous thing, and no other government agency has to meet that kind of obligation every year.

That’s the true thorn in the butt that is killing the Post Office. We hear of no lobbying, nothing by executives of the Post Office trying to get that amount lowered to a reasonable amount so the Post Office can move forward in a successful manner.

We saw a video at our station where Post Master General Patrick Donahoe stating how we are doing a great job, service is at the highest standard in history, but we are still losing millions of dollars a day, blah, blah, blah. Then he went on stating on how reducing the retirement fund is “my job” and not to worry about that just give good service. Well what happened Mr. Donahoe? We’re doing our job, are you and the executives doing your job??

Instead of trying to lower the prefunded retirement amount, you announce bye-bye Saturday delivery. We think your efforts are misdirected and your final goal is privatization.

Well guess what? We, along with the public and our allies in congress will fight every step of the way to keep Saturday delivery and not slash service to the public.

MILLSIONS WASTED ON OVERTIME

At our station for the last three months all carriers have been forced to work their off days. It doesn’t matter if you are on the Overtime Desired List or not. If you don’t come in, you are subject to discipline. Rumor has it that all off days on the “east side” were cancelled for the last three months. We are not talking one week, two weeks, one month, we have been forced in for the last three months! At times, clerks were also forced in.

My question is why?

Why were two of our Transitional Employees in our station excised to other stations?

If you are so broke, why are you paying so much money in overtime when other options are open?

You have TE’s and CCA’s willing and able to work and you don’t utilize them in an effective manner.

Why?

You are paying us, forcing us to work at time and a half when you can pay employees at such lower straight wage and save millions.

The employees that want and need to work overtime should have that option. They deserve it. I needed to be on the list for nine months and it really helped us out in a rough time. However, the ones that are not on the Overtime Desired List should not have to be subjected to being forced in when other viable options are available to the post office.

News flash post office, some of us have lives outside of the post office.

I can see “need of service” deems it necessary to work forced overtime due to the flu epidemic we had this year and other issues. However, there were other prudent options that are available and I think they should have been enacted by the post office.

Truthfully, I think it is a mis-managed issue.

GET ENGAGED!

I think the sadness is exemplified by what news anchor Diane Sawyer said in her broadcast when news broke of ending Saturday delivery.

While she was looking down and shaking her head at the end of the newscast she says... “the tradition of opening up Saturday mail with a cup of coffee may soon be over.”

Now does that sound like something one that doesn’t care about Saturday delivery? She cares deeply along with millions of Americans.

That’s why we must continue fighting. The battle is far from over.

GET ENGAGED, call, write, e-mail... at this point I think all of us know what is at stake.

As always, call me anytime 586-943-3950.

In Memory Of...

Patricia “Patty” Johnson
February 3, 1950 – February 8, 2013

We recently lost our dear Sister, Patricia “Patty” Johnson. Patty was beloved by many and appreciated by many more for her unending efforts on behalf of the membership. Patty will always be remembered for her long history of commitment to the APWU-Detroit District Area Local. Among Patty’s many accomplishments are:

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Danny Sawicki
Associate Editor

Associate Editor’s Report

This newspaper is the official publication of the Detroit District Area Local, APWU, published quarterly, and affiliated with the Postal Press Association and the AFL-CIO. Please send all correspondence in care of Detroit District Area Local, 25530 Southfield Road, Detroit, MI 48235.

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.
Many, many years ago, when I was a representative over the Letter Sorting Machines at the GWY (the now obsolete Letter Sorting Machines), I was often summoned to represent a brisk, lively member, a very energetic woman when it came to talking and socializing, someone who had called her botherous, in the most flattering way of course. Her name . . . Patricia Johnson, aka, Pat, Patty, or Pepperment Patty, some called her Butterfly, or Trisha, and most of management referred to her as Ms. Johnson. For me, it was Patty, until I was trying to prove a point, and then it was . . . Ms. Johnson, out of respect. And trust me, she knew the difference.

Patty, over the years, grew from being a grievant herself, into becoming a very strong representative for her co-workers as an advocate for the American Postal Workers Union. One thing I learned early on from Patty, was that she could never rest if she knew that someone was being wronged by management, especially if it was a woman.

Patty, being a single mom herself, to a beautiful daughter Tiffany (now married with a young son), always knew the struggles of women in the workplace. That’s why she devoted so much of her union career to the APWU P.O.W.E.R (Post Office Women for Equal Rights) organization. Patty was elected a Regional P.O.W.E.R Coordinator, as well as a Local P.O.W.E.R Officer. She had a knack of bring people together for a cause. It was amazing how she could recruit women from the Local to organize driving clothes to help women and their young children in local shelters. I remember walking into the Union Office seeing hundreds of coats, all shapes, colors and sizes filling the halls, and back in one of the offices Patty was organizing the breakdown of the Local’s coats. One day I asked her where our local P.O.W.E.R. sisters were behind sewing machines and hand repairing coats with buttons, treadle and zippers, while others were sorting by male or female, and others by sizes. When they were done, she got a van to transport the coats to the cleaners to be cleaned before she could donate them.

Patty never viewed herself as being anyone special, but had a passion for equality and fairness for women.

In her short career with the APWU, she tried to break the many barriers working women face every day. The women around her recognized her drive. In 2001 she was

honored by the Metro-Detroit Chapter of CLUW — the Coalition of Labor Union Women, with the Olib M. Madar award, celebrating women of courage and vision. A prestigious award she treasured.

Patty was a long time Steward for our Union. She also served as Recording Secretary for our local and was elected as Executive Vice President. Of all her accomplishments, I think the one closest to her heart was the creation of the APWU P.O.W.E.R. scholarships. Patty always saw the need for education in our children, and after a lot of researching, and working with our National and Local Officers, through P.O.W.E.R., she organized and created four annual Local Scholarships, behind known as the APWU POWER Scholarships. These scholarships are for our members and their children and grandchildren who further their education in academic and vocational colleges and learning centers.

Patty was the Executive Vice President during my local Presidency. We will all miss her dearly. Labor has lost a friend, I have truly lost a friend as well. Until we meet again Ms. Johnson, farewell my friend.

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS . . .

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY!

I have always been a believer in the grievance procedure. Sure it can take a long time to get results, however, it is more or less a pretty efficient system. Lately however, I have found that when I file an EEOC complaint along with my grievance, I find that sometimes EEO comes through in a lot less time than it takes in the grievance procedure. How can this be? We use the same management team.

I’m not encouraging anyone to stop filing grievances when there are contract violations. Oh no. Continue to file grievances. What I am saying is to consider filing an EEO complaint in addition to your grievances to obtain the best results.

I, for one, believe money is the driving factor here. When filing an EEO complaint it costs the service lot’s of money. A lot more than filing a grievance alone. As a result, they might give your complaint more credibility than a grievance alone. The result, a settlement.

If your Supervisor or Postmaster has a problem with your performance or work, consider filing a grievance AND a discrimination EEO complaint.

Like many other officers, stewards and members, I have been mourning the loss of Sister Patty Johnson. At the same time, it is impossible to say Patty’s name without smiles and laughter coming to the forefront. Pat was very welcoming to me when I joined the local in 1988 and encouraged me to participate in P.O.W.E.R.

This year P.O.W.E.R.’s women’s history month celebration was designated a day to remember Patty in a special way. Those present heard Irene Miller, a hose survivor, tell her story and had the opportunity to have her sign a copy of her new book INTO NO MAN’S LAND. After lunch, we raised over $1000 in our auction.

Our executive board in our March meeting, voted to fund an additional APWU P.O.W.E.R. scholarship to be named the Patricia “Patty” Johnson Scholarship. Patty was the driving force behind our scholarship program which has benefitted the children of members every year since its inception.

We are about halfway home toward funding this year’s five scholarships.

I have put forward a challenge to all of our officers and stewards to contribute to the scholarship fund in Patty’s memory. I have pledged to match the first $250 of contributions.

If you would like to donate to our scholarship fund, please send a check or money order made out to APWU-DDAL to the local with scholarship in the memo line. Patty will surely smile on you.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

This is the season when other scholarship opportunities are announced. Our members’ children can apply for the APWU-ABA Scholarship ($1000) now through May 15th and for the APWU-DDAL P.O.W.E.R. Scholarships ($500/each) later this spring through our local. There will be a bulletin and a website post regarding dates for applications. If you have questions about scholarships, you can contact me or Secretary Regina Merritt at the union office.

The local’s finances are in order. The trustees met in February and March to review the accounts, etc. Our accountant has been in to “close the books” for 2012 and has prepared the two required reports (LM2 and 990) for timely filing.

VOLUNTARY EARLY RETIREMENT

Now that March is here, we are beginning to feel the financial impact of the VER. Our DCO income is down $4000/per pay. Over a year that will be $104,000 loss of revenue to the local. We are hopeful that many of the VER vacancies will be filled by our excess members returning to the local. That would be great for the members and would lessen the financial impact of the early out on us.

In addition, when PSEs fill vacancies, we have been diligent in our efforts to recruit them to the local. Brother Marcus Smith, Director of Organization, is supposed to be given an opportunity to meet with every new employee so that we can try to recruit them to the union when they begin their employment. Those who don’t join right away, we continue to pursue. Many of our stewards have done a great job recruiting these new members.

I look forward, as always to seeing you at a membership meeting or activity.

weguis40
We have attended numerous meetings, filed grievances, and initially sought relief in Federal Court. But Resources could have fixed everything that management was doing and to work out? How does it feel other is saying that this is not go-
ing poor because your are trying to maintain two households? How does it feel to be the only person of your race or ethnicity in the whole town? How does it feel to get that dreadful news that your significant other is saying that this is not go-
ing to work out? How does it feel to know that the Postal Service in-
cluding but not limited to Human Resources could have fixed every-
thing above but did not? The union has been fighting vigilantly to have our brothers and sisters who we feel were excessed improperly in the first place returned back home. We have attended numerous meet-
ings, filed grievances, and initially sought relief in Federal Court. But there was one single bad that management was doing and that was they were going into the bidding system and removing all the excess people names from the bid awards before they came out. Excessed clerks have been award-
eds jobs back to Detroit for the past 2 years and Human Resources has been secretly going into the system and deleting their names before the bids come out to make it ap-
pear as if no one had ever bidded on the job. The union is fully aware of the economic climate, the decline in mail volume, and the decrease in revenues. The Postal Service must com-
pete but they must also bargain with integrity.

At no time did management ever disclose that they were removing the names of our excessed brothers and sisters to keep them from coming home. It was uncovered by the hard work and vigilance of your union representatives. There is no telling how long manage-
ment has been doing this and they would have probably continued. It is amazing that the differ ent actions officials take against Detroit employees while they them-

selves eat cake, pick up their business suits from the cleaners, shop at Twelve Oaks Mall, and sit by the fireplace with their loved ones at the end of the day. The clerks are not asking for management to give them a handout or go out of their way to bypass what we have elected to do we need to vote them in once again and ask only that which the contract grants them the right to retreat to a vacant position. The Detroit District has a new

The Detroit District has a new

End mandate to pre-fund healthcare benefits for future retirees. 2. Recover over payments made to federal pension plans.

NDSC

With the disturbing times sur-
rounding us regarding our elected officials and current conditions of government its time to start paying attention to what is going on and the negative impact that their poor decisions have on us. For example take the ballot initiative on 11-12-12 where it was asked whether to keep Public Act 4 (The Emergency Manager Law) and in an overwhelm-
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ple of the city to try and turn things around they are now bringing someone in with no vested interest other than a fat pay check. Republi-
can lawmakers used similar tactics to block a citizens veto of the “right to work” law. Legislators tagged an appropriation on to fireball the bill against another appeal. The point is the government that we elect to serve us . . . No longer serves us . . . But now themselves. We have to get involved and start caring, attention seek only that which the contract grants them the right to retreat to a vacant position.

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No More Exceeding?

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this, we are having a Flat sorter Machine installed in Detroit at the P&DC. Does this mean no more excessing? Who really knows for sure. We recently received 7 DBCS machines, great! Rumors or other equipment coming in, great! Thing is, you still need to be prepared for the future in any way you can. We just went through a giant Maintenance job posting, I hope all who put in for something were successful. We had quite a few that took the early out and that created this massive posting. For all of us left behind, who did not get a bid, promotion on this last posting, it means we have to have our paperwork in order for the next time. This could mean, making sure that you are on the Promotion Eligibility Registers that you would like to be on. To accomplish that, you may have to request an update. If you would like a higher level job in maintenance and have taken the test and were ineligible, you should update. The update option is available every 120 days for all maintenance jobs in your facility or bid cluster that you have taken and did not get a score for. You cannot update something you have never tested for. The only time you can test for something new is in open season, every 3 years or when you are new to craft, within 30 days.

This brings us to another VERY IMPORTANT proactive move on your part as the employee. PAR selections. With the potential of even more movement by employees, it is extremely important to have your PAR’s correct. Preferred Assignment Register selections are telling management where you would really like to be for 5S days, Tour and possibly your work location. These are in the selection system by seniority and never expire. So, if you put one in for Tour 1 with Tue/Wed 5 years ago, it is still the only thing that will knock out a PAR selection is being successful on receiving a higher PAR choice. Meaning, if your number 5 choice is awarded to you, you will never get your number 8 choice. On the converse, if you get your number 8 choice and your number 7 choice becomes vacant and you are the senior bidder, you will get it. So please make sure you have only the choices you really want. Most PAR fills are done in the background, residual fill, so you will never see a posting, you will only see the award notice.

The last item I would like to touch on, again, is attendance. As most probably know, the Postal Service has been very vigorous attacking employees with attendance requirements. For most absences, it is possible to negotiate making it scheduled. If you’re tardy, you could see if your supervisor would allow you to make it up at lunch. They could allow you to make it up by staying late past your tour. If it was an accident on the freeway or inclement weather, your managers can make exceptions, but you can’t get any help from them if you don’t ask. When you call into the system, it is an unscheduled absence. Almost no way around that. They could make it scheduled, but it is up to them. FMLA is a federal law that is beneficial to employees. Employees cannot be disciplined for an FMLA covered, approved absence. Problem is, you have to be proactive on your FMLA also. They will not submit it for you and they will not have your doctor fill it out for you. If your doctor does not like filling out forms, find a new doctor or tell him or her what you need. You are paying his or her salary, they work for you. You need to explain to them who you work for and why you need the coverage of FMLA. FMLA is your benefit by law, use it when you need it.

I wish everyone happy holiday seasons with family and friends. I thank you, the membership for allowing me to serve you! In Unionism.

Safety And Health

Hello Brothers and Sisters, just a note so that we are all aware of Safety and Health responsibilities. It is management’s responsibility to provide a safe working condition; it is the union’s responsibility to cooperate with and assist management in its efforts to fulfill this responsibility. Management has an accident policy and local accident policies, guidelines or procedures may not be inconsistent or in conflict with the National Agreement. An employee may be required to report the accident on the day it occurs, but completion of the appropriate forms will be in accordance with applicable rules and regulations and should be completed the same day as the accident.

Management may document unsafe practices. However, as there is currently no national requirement for employees to acknowledge that the unsafe practice was documented, employees should not be required to sign a local form for that purpose, and it is improper for management to issue letters to employees advising them that their work habits will be closely watched in order to prevent future accidents. Supervisors and managers also should understand that policy promotes discipline actions that may discourage accident reports or the filing of a claim for compensable injury with the Office of Workers’ Compensation Program (OWCP). When safety rule violations occur, managers and supervisors have several alternative corrective measures at their disposal. Although discipline is one such measure; they should use it only when corrective measures do not appropriately fit the circumstances. Until next time my Brothers and Sisters remember that whet lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

Fighting For You

Good day APWU Motor Vehicle Services Craft Brothers and Sisters, my staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you in your support of selecting me as your Detroit District Area MVS Craft Director it is an honor to serve as your Representative. Your support and cooperation is greatly needed and appreciated during this most difficult time of our careers with the United States Postal Service. We would like to give you an update on how hard and diligently we have been working on behalf of our membership/non-members to ensure a better work place for all.

My staff and I have been meeting with upper level management on an on-going basis to resolve many of the challenges that we as a whole are facing; to date, upper level management has been very receptive and receiving to our concerns and diligent in this on-going fight towards resolving the Non Traditional Full Time employees’ fight in being fully restored as returned employees in the MVS Craft as 40 hr. Full Time Traditional Regulars. In addition, the NTFT’s that were already in the craft, we are fighting for their rights to be 40 hrs. NTFT employees per the 2010-2015 Collective Bargaining Agreement. We are fighting for those EXCESSED Drivers that are still out of the MVS CRAFT to return as 40 hr. Full Time Regulars.

My staff and I are continuing to hold the United States Postal Service to the agreement that our contract is binding and both parties must adhere to. Advocating for the membership/ non-membership has been a definite challenge, but with your participation in uniting as one will allow your Union Representatives the Strength and support it needs to relay a strong message to Supervision and Management that the members and non-members along with Union representatives do in fact represent Unity, Solidarity and Sound Morals in the fight to ensure the best out for us all.

Last but not least, my staff and I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newly inducted PSE’s to the APWU/ DDAL FAMILY and hope that all will do the same in rapping our arms around these new members and making them feel at home.

Again, Thank each and every one of you for your patience and understanding while WE ARE FIGHTING AND ADVOCATING each and every day on the behalf of all our brothers and sisters, Please remember, “United WE STAND — DIVIDED WE WILL FALL”!!! In solidarity.
In this phase of the get engaged program we have a personal letter from our esteemed legislative director Miss Regina Favors. Miss Regina is a relentless lobbyist fighting for our rights. Take her message seriously.

Hello again brothers and sisters. Where is the outrage? When are we going to begin to really fight once again for what is right? Are we going to just continue to be complacent and take whatever befalls us? I begin this article with these questions because that seems to be exactly what is happening. How many of you are really listening to the way we are paying attention to what is really going on with the democratic process right now? In case you haven’t noticed it is being systematically taken away from you. Let’s look seriously at what is going on. The powers that be in Washington, namely the PMC, Patrick Donahue, Darryl Isa, and the rest of those right wingers continue to their drive to privatize the Postal Service. There are two new bills in Congress aimed at protecting and preserving the Postal Service. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt) and Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR) introduced these bills in both the Senate and the House respectively. These bills if passed could fix the Postal Services immediate crises, allow overpayment recovery, re-establish overnight delivery standards, protect six day delivery, protect rural post offices and let the Postal Service develop new products and services that would generate new sources of revenue. Folks, have you written your letter yet asking your Senators and Representatives to support S. 316 and H.R. 6307? If not, I ask why haven’t you? There is also another bill H.R. 961, that was introduced by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) that would fulfill the Postal Service’s role in the United States. This bill would allow for any overpayment to FERS determined by the recalculation now and in the future to be paid back to the Postal Service. I am again asking you sisters and brothers to please get your letters in right away as your jobs and the future of the Service depend on it! We must continue to also ask our family, friends, church members and community leaders to write letters as well. We must also have those of you who have Republican connections to contact your legislators urging them to co-sponsor and support passage of these bills. Hit them with the REAL facts and let them know that the Postal Service, without the misguided lame duck session of Congress in 2006, would not be this so-called “financial crisis”.

In other news, last month we (residents, community & labor) working together halted a proposal for a Walmart at the corner of 12 mile/ Southfield Rds. We held a candle-light vigil on a very cold January day as well as sending letters, making calls and meeting with city council members. The outcome was a 5-1 no vote against re-zoning, hence NO WALMART! In an update to that legislation, the Mayor and City Council withdrawing any and all offers stating they no longer have an interest in opening a store anywhere in SOUTHBELT. Along those lines Walmart sought to open a store in Lincoln Park right on the Allen Park border. The proposed site required access via the Sears lot. Sears would not allow the path access Walmart needed. There was a court battle that Sears initially lost but the appeal is pending. The appeals court agreed with Sears (who owns the access pathway) and so Walmart cannot open a store at that site. Walmart said it will not fight the appeal (saying it’s “not worth it”). So what did they do? They took some of those same results if we would, call and write to the bit that legislative right wing BS go on in your state? Right now First we MUST stop just accepting everything they hand down! We have voices, we must use them. We must regain and keep that which has already been sought, fought and won!!!

On February 23rd I attended the MDP Convention. There was a looming expectation that it would be rather contentious but after all of the caucuses and group meetings, and the convention actually began, Mark Brewer graciously and proudly rescinded his bid to seek re-election as chair of the Michigan Democratic Party. Every delegate applauded his decision and thereby welcomed Lon Johnson as the “new” chair. It was a good convention with all pledging to be a united and committed party. It was also stressed by all committees, groups, nominees, elected officials and caucus leaders that the time to work toward 2014 is NOW! We cannot afford to wait until next year to seek out and support folks who will strive to restore DEMOCRACY to our state, our cities and most importantly to our legislature.

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The Welcome Mat

The APWU-DDAL would like to give a big round of applause to the following new members. As we all know, there is strength in numbers. We appreciate and acknowledge all who make the endeavor to become unionists. We invite you to come in and play an active role in helping this union flourish!

We would also like to acknowledge those that signed the new brothers and sisters. Remember, anyone can sign a new member and it’s $20 in your pocket!

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TAKESHA FORD
ROXANNE LIEDEL
THOMAS MORGAN
ROBERT OTTE
SARAH ROBERTS
DAVID SCHOMBERGER
EUGENE WEST
ANNE WOLFE
TIFFANY YORK

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Christopher "Chris" Ulmer, President

In this session of "Ask the President" we have to talk about the proposed slashing of Saturday delivery and retreat right issues concerning our excessed brothers and sisters.

Q – Chris, the post office is at it again, claiming that they are going to cut Saturday delivery in 2013. At press time, there has been so much negative publicity by the public and congress people that their proposal has been squashed indefinitely. Explain to the members what has to happen before they can cut Saturday delivery?

A – Danny, the USPS and its legal advisors think there is a loop hole in the laws that governs the USPS that would allow USPS Management to reduce Saturday delivery service without the approval of Congress.

This notion has been denied and proven not to be so by both houses of the U.S. Congress, this belief was also proven and explained why it is not possible for the USPS to stop Saturday service without act by Congress that would allow 5 day delivery instead of 6 day delivery and this was explained by the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

In fact the only legislation passed in both houses of Congress for the reduction of six day mail delivery to happen. The main reason the plan was moved forward from 2012 to 2013 is because the U.S. Congress has already funded 6 day delivery in the budget up to September 2013.

Q – Mr. President, the post office says they will save around 2 billion a year cutting Saturday service. However, you hear no discussion by the post office trying to lower the 5.5 billion retiree pre-funding obligation they must meet every year.

Chris, thru ammortizing or other prudent fiscal strategies don’t you think that by lowering that astronomical amount by 2 or 3 billion it would be the sensible alternative that would offset the need to slash Saturday delivery? Second part of the question... do you think the post office is not being more aggressive in lobbying congress to lower that ridiculous pre-funding retirement amount?

A – Danny the USPS and all the Postals are lobbying both sides of the U.S Congress to come up with suitable legislation that would give the USPS relief from the Pre-Funding requirements, and have been trying to do so for years based on which Local P.M.S Management has confirmed the USPS has not only overpaid into the CRCS retirement system (by 75 – 125 Billion dollars) but also over paid into the FERS retirement system as well.

The problem is the U.S. Government does not have the 75 – 125 billion dollars to give back to the USPS. The U.S. Government relies on the Pre-Funding because the USPS is the only government agency that is making a profit.


by Carol Anderson, P.O.W.E.R. Coordinator

P.O.W.E.R. was founded in St. Louis, Missouri on April 28, 1979. The APWU National Constitution was amended to include POWER at the American Postal Worker's Union national convention in Detroit, Michigan in August, 1980.

APWU P.O.W.E.R. (Post Office Women for Equal Rights) is the women's committee within the American Postal Workers Union. It unites women with their special concerns, yet works within the framework of the National APWU organization.

P.O.W.E.R. held its annual Women’s History Celebration on Saturday, March 23, 2013. Irene Miller was our guest speaker. She told her story of being a postal worker. We remembered our own Patricia "Patty" Johnson with open mic.

The celebration ended with an auction to raise money for a fifth P.O.W.E.R. scholarship in honor of Patty. It was a very successful event and we raised over $1,000.00 in our auction. Thank you for your support.

I would like to introduce your APWU-Detroit District Area Local P.O.W.E.R. Coordinator: Carol Anderson, Coordinator – Iva Williams, Assistant P.O.W.E.R. Coordinator - Lopinia L.R. Roe, Treasurer - Shuronda Ulmer, Organizer and Jane Duggan, Acting Secretary.

Our goal is to exchange ideas, issues, problems and solutions to initiate and support educational programs. We invite all to join us in future educational forums concerning the Women’s History Celebration. We look forward to hearing about what you have to share.

— reprinted from APWUPOWER.org

Pat Johnson, The DDAL Will Remember You

continued from page 1

to met in an effort to figure out the correct number of employees who should had been given the opportunity to exercise their retreat rights by now. The DDAL counted 250 employees but we know that number may be closer to 220 if you count the employees who are no longer employed with the USPS for various reasons. We are on top of the situation and therefore I request everyone to be patient and to keep the DDAL informed of any new developments they may experience.

The DDAL Leadership is committed to getting every excessed member their retreat rights before too long. Once the excessed employees get their retreat rights it is then their sole responsibility to make the decision to accept them or not. The DDAL will get all excessed employees and APWU-DDAL members that opportunity.

I want to thank our National Industrial Relations Office, Mike Morris and Tom Maior for clearing the way for the DDAL's MOD 15 grievance procedure to get grievance cases heard quicker. The APWU & USPS Headquarters agreed not to place the MOD 15 grievance process in the Joint Arbitration Scheduling System (JASS) because it was not necessary. The National parties correctly determined the MOD 15 grievance process would be better served if the Local parties handled the scheduling and selecting of cases, dates & arbitrator ourselves. The DDAL membership sends and deep heartfelt thank you to all those who made this happen.

THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR, AGAIN?

Once again you will be voting for nationally elected officers to represent the APWU. This is the time to began looking, watching, listening, & researching the candidates that will be negotiating the next APWU contract which is due to expire in May of 2015. I will be truthful with you I am not happy with the lack of fight I see for the members on the work room floor in the Central Region. The job of holding local office is frustrating enough without having to fight against our elected APWU officers for siding with their USPS friends more than they are fighting for the members, and also not having to worry about who will get nasty with these corrupt USPS Executives and fight for the least amongst us and stop making decisions based on who Local elected officials they like and don’t like. I will be sending out much more information in the coming months.
continued from page 7 regular payments to their employ-
ees’s retirement accounts.

Q – If congress approves the cutting of Saturday delivery does the president have the pow-
er to veto the cut?
A – Danny, the President can veto any pieces of legislation that come across his desk if he disagrees with that legislation. The White Houses agrees with the USPS going to 5 day delivery. The White House an-
nounced it’s plan on what they in-
tend to do to help the USPS in late December and it approved the plan to go from 6 day delivery to 5 day delivery.

Q – Chris, in your opinion do you think Saturday delivery will be cut and what must we do to keep Saturday delivery?
A – It is hard to say what will happen and when. The reason it is so hard really depend on the con-
stituents of the elected officials on the committees governing and con-
trolling USPS affairs. If the people write their congressional repre-
sentatives like the APWU has been asking them to then that would bring this issue to the forefront to be addressed in the way we are re-
questing. if we the people don’t get engaged by lobbying, making phone calls and a letter writing campaign then the elected repre-
sentative may feel the USPS do not have broad support and vote the way the competition of the USPS wants them to. It is essen-
tial that all members and USPS employees get engaged and send letters, emails, and make phone calls to their elected representa-
tive to tell them how to vote on USPS issues and what they want from that elected representative.

Q – Let’s move on to retreat rights for our brothers and sis-
ters. I understand some truck drivers exercised their retreat rights, were brought back to their craft and then the post off put them in Non-Tradition-
al Full Time positions and were only giving them 32 hours. Is that true and what is the up-
date on that?
A – The USPS did bring some excessed MVS craft employees back to the MVS craft in late Octo-
ber early November 2012. There was some misunderstanding as to how and what was supposed to happen and it was done partially incorrect. The APWU MVS new Craft Director and I were able to meet with the USPS man-
agement and we were able to come to an agreement that has already began the process of correcting everything that may have been incorrect.

Q – As for the rest of the excessed members, I under-
stand the cases are still tied up in arbitration, is that cor-
rect and elaborate on any up-
dates?
A – The APWU-DDAL does have existing grievance pend-
ing Arbitration dealing with Ex-
cessing. The APWU-DDAL has excessing grievances schedule for arbitration and have been hearing these cases since Feb-
ruary 5, 2013. The problem is that the USPS does everything in the world not to have these cases heard on the merits which they were writing up for. We have at least three big excessing grievances that we expect to be heard by the end of June 2013. We have also had meeting to discussing the Retreats right employees who should have already been re-
turned but the Detroit District has not done so. The DDAL just became aware of the Detroit District taking employees name off bids and not awarding them to employees to prevent them from retreating. We have filed an NLRB (Labor) Charge for this and plan to involve the OIG if the USPS doesn’t plan on cor-
recting this serious violation.

Q – At my station, I’ve been asked this question many times. Since we were excessed and lost our craft seniority we were put on the bottom of the carrier senior-
ity list. Let’s say Saturday deliver does get cut and we are still not retreat, are we subject to other excessing and or layoffs since we don’t have 6 years in our new craft?
A – YES!!! That is correct, if you are excessed into the Letter Carrier Craft and has not been working in that craft for the 6 years required to be eligible for Lay-Off protection then you may be subject to being laid off despite the fact you may have served 15 to 20 years of USPS senior-
ity.

It is for this reason the DDAL has begun such an aggressive attempt to get all of the former APWU-DDAL clerks exercising their Letter Carrier Craft their retreat rights. The Clerk Craft have the vacancies still. The Detroit District got caught cheating the retreat right em-
ployees of their contractual rights. The Detroit District Manager if she is smart will correct this intentional deception, lie and employees rights violation. The DDAL plans on getting ev-
every employee that has retreat right their opportunity to exer-
cise their retreat rights, now!!!

Q – Thank you, Mr. Presi-
dent. I would like to get some infor-
mation in these historic times at the post office. Reiterate to the members how impor-
tant it is to keep pressure on the politicians and the public to keep Saturday delivery?
A – I can not express how important it is for all the couch potatoes to get off the couch. It is so important for all employ-
ees of the USPS no matter what craft they represent or work in to stand up for the USPS. Ev-
ery USPS employee needs to get ENGAGED by contacting all of their elected representative, to make sure they know that the USPS needs their help and ask those representatives to give the USPS financial situation the attention it needs and deserves. Contact them and request that they prevent the USPS from cutting delivery service but more importantly to stop the Closing and Consolidation of the Mail Processing Facili-
ties, and Post Offices in big and small communities.

President Ulmer has and al-
ways will have an open door and open phone policy for the membership. If you have a ques-
tion for the President you can reach him at the union office at 313-532-9305, by Cell Phone at 313-477-9662, or via E-mail cul-
mer@apwudetroit.org.