Hello brothers and sisters. The DDAL have been successful in getting grievance and arbitration award payments to the members, this has been a long and taxing process. It is amazing how fast the USPS moves while violating the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and how slow they move when compensating violated employees. Our meetings with the USPS to get them to pay grievance settlements and Arbitration Awards has been a very draining process, especially for the employees who were improperly excessed & the other employees who were denied retreat rights, we can now HAPPILY say all these employees have received their settlement payouts.

The DDAL is HAPPY to announce that we have been tremendously successful at winning arbitrations and getting positive results from the grievances we are filing for the violations that are taking place in our DDAL represented offices. The entire process begins with employees giving the Union accurate grievance statements and the stewards requesting the information that proves the violations are occurring. Your elected officials should be thanked and appreciated. Many will say what they have done in the past but the DDAL MEMBERSHIP will be hard pressed to find a time in a history where the DDAL has prevailed on so many CONTRACTUAL VIOLATIONS at the rate and efficiency that we are now. These grievance successes have netted our DDAL employees (approximately) over $4 million dollars since 1 have become President (2010) and over $3.5 million dollars this year (2014) alone, and we still have more than 6 months to go in this year, and plenty of big cases still to be heard. While money is not our focus, but STOPPING ALL VIOLATIONS TO EMPLOYEES RIGHTS IS. The monetary awards being awarded from the grievance process is a strong indication that officials in office who knows how to fashion and shape grievances, so that the words of the CBA mean something on the workroom floor, successfully negotiate resolutions to any situation, maintain the level of success without any reductions of service or representation that we give to our members. Another key factor is the leaders you selected; your DDAL leaders are not only knowledgeable but they are trendsetters and trailblazers in the grievance process, we are tremendous at listening to your issue and taking the appropriate actions to get resolve for violations. We are also very adept at letting you know if your issue is a violation of the CBA, USPS Handbook & Manuals, of Law or not, we also inform you what forum your issue(s) need to be in. Your DDAL leadership is complete and we only plan on getting better at representing you and keeping you protected and educated to your workplace rules & regulations.

**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

$300 Retirement

It has been a while since we last paid out the $300 retirement the union gives to retiring union members who put in for it within 6 months of retiring. We had been unable to pay these debts due to our financial situation. I am happy to announce that beginning in September of 2014 the DDAL will resume paying the $300 retirement bounce to retired DDAL Postal Workers. This is a debt we owe and it is a debt we very well intend to pay.

**The Bidding Process**

It has been brought to our attention that Clerk Craft employees are confused on the bidding process. Employees must notify USPS management when they want to remain the live bidder on other bids that they have submitted prior to being declared the senior successful bidder. Article 37.3.F.8 A, B, & C (pages 185 of the contract) informs you what must take place for you to remain in consideration for other bids once you have been declared the senior successful bidder, if you don’t follow the CBA you will lose out on all former bids due to you not following the CBA. If you need a copy of this particular portion of the contract please contact the union office and ask for a copy.

**Job Vacancies**

The DDAL meet June 13, 2014 with the Detroit City Station management and was informed that we have a high number of bid vacancies in the city station & branches. The DDAL is now taking action to get many of these vacancies filled by every available means possible. We hope to get PSE’s converted to Career Status if the right scenario comes into play for a PSE to be converted to Career Status.

**PSE Conversions**

I have spoken with all the DDAL officers about the local’s goal of getting PSE employees working in DDAL represented facilities converted to Career Status. I see many opportunities for the DDAL to get our PSE’s employees converted to Career Status, and the time is now, for us to take advantage of these opportunities and get it done. This goal will be a top priority for the DDAL and we plan on being successful at this goal as well. A note to all PSE who do not desire to become a Career employee; no PSE employee can be forced into taking a career conversion, therefore, what I am saying is, PSE employees have the right to refuse a Career Appointment and remain in temporary part-time status.

**Filing A Grievance**

I have been informed that employees are concerned about grievances being filed or which may not be getting filed. I have previously sent a bulletin to all crafts (Clerk, Maintenance, and MVS) instructing employees how to file continued on page 2
Detroit District Area Local Union Officials

Christopher Ulmer President Page 1
Patricia Chornoby Executive Vice-President Page 3
Jane Duggan Secretary/Treasurer Page 3
James Stevenson Clerk Craft Director Page 4
Jason Rushing Maintenance Craft Director Page 5
Keith Combs Director of Human Relations Page 6
De Vol Le Jeune MVS Craft Director Page 6
Debbie Winkler DNDC Facility Director Page 7
Regina "Gina" Favors Director of Legislation Page 8
Marceline D. Smith Director of Organization Page 5
Anthony "Tony" V. Latimer Assist. Maint. Craft Director Page 5
Raymond Allen Morgan Maintenance Craft Director Page 5
Stacey Carr Recording Secretary Page 7
Al Fouche Retires' President Page 5
Danny Sawicki Associate Editor Page 2
Associates

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Danny Sawicki

Detroit Postal Worker
Detroit District Area Local

Associate Editor
Danny Sawicki

by Danny Sawicki

One of the main goals, if not THE number one main goal of The Detroit District Area Local is keeping our members safe.

The "SNATCH THAT STRAP" is a program designed by your union and will help educate ourselves, the members, and management alike on how to keep our workplace safe.

We will do the research on how work can be safer and relay the information to the members and management.

We will study and try to follow safety techniques from award winning safety plants and establishments.

We will study the facets of "ergonomics", which is a system that teaches you how to use your body at work in an efficient way, so there is less wear and tear on the body. There are proven techniques by doctors and scientists that when you push, pull, bend, reach, etc., there are ways to make it less taxing on your body.

In this safety program, we are going to confront and address all your safety issues.

We will consult with safety experts and inspectors.

"Safety is one area management and the union can work together on, ensuring the safety of employees and management alike, so ALL employees of the United States Postal Service can go home SAFE at the end of the workday to their family and friends."

Since I've been back six months by Danny Sawicki

That is why we must pick up those "land alligators" as one of my mechanic buddies calls them, because they are so dangerous.

So if you see one of those "land alligators", don't pass it up - "SNATCH That Strap"!!!

All Purpose Cart Issues (APC's)

We all know these are dangerous.

Let's face it, the GWY is old, the APC's have been serving their purpose for many years and we have to be very careful.

The APC causes many injuries at the Post Office. They are extremely dangerous because many of them are defective and continue to be recycled without repair in the Post Office system.

I had a very close call. I was pushing a APC to the west, hit a bump and "blam" the front rack came crashing down. Luckily I was in back and the rack came down in front of me. Close call.

We are going to make a diligent effort in getting these defective All Purpose Carts (APC's) off the work floor and we need your help. If you see a defective APC, tag it! Your supervisor has the PST07 repair tags and we are going to have them readily available at your union office.

We are also going to work with management on a APC defective cart program.

continued from page 1

grievances and how to document that you actually filed grievances. 1). Any aggrieved employee should request to be excused from their assignment. 2). Go to the union office. 3). Once you have arrived at the union office move to the correct operation which signifies union time for your facility. 4). Fill out the Union notification form and provide the steward with your grievance statement. 5). Request a copy of your union notification form & witness statement, for this is your receipt and proof that you filed a grievance with the union. If you don’t fill out a union notification form and witness statement it is your word against the steward’s word that you filed a grievance. Don’t let it come to that get your receipt and if problems exist this way I can correct them.

Craft Success

The grievances that the clerk craft has been successful at winning are the same we have planned for all the other DDAL represented crafts. The big difference with the Clerk Craft grievances and the other crafts grievance is the other craft have National Business Agents (NBA) handling their grievances after step 2 and this sometimes slows the process down if the grievance isn’t resolved at the lowest step (step 1 or step 2). The NBA handle the issue after step 2 at the Step 3 and if it is not resolved it goes into the Hopper and once in the HOPPER it is first in first out (FIFO) which means the older grievances go first unless we request to move a case up and you only get 1 or 2 of these request fulfilled a year. I will be working more closely with all the Craft Directors and craft stewards to move up grievances that address pressing issues in that craft. We plan on bringing the success that we have been experiencing in the Clerk Craft to all the other Crafts and facilities we represent.
Management in the Post Office, as well as in PAE (our MTECH Support Services Division) have, in recent weeks, been ‘toying’ with the leave program for its workers. Employees who once were able to leave work early as a scheduled absence are now being told if they leave early their absence will count against them, or be unscheduled. Even Family and Medical Leave requests for leave are being dis-approved by the employer stating that the absence does not meet the company guidelines for approved leave. Under normal circumstances, this would not be a problem. It is different today, with the work force climate being as it is, with management trying to get the work of two employees out of one person. It is a catch 22 situation for all of us. The more management places on us, the more time we need to take off work to keep our sanity, and the more management starts to harass us about our attendance because we are not at work! What are we supposed to do?

Let’s take a look at the leave guidelines. A scheduled absence is any absence that is requested and approved in advance. This does not mean that you can tell your supervisor that you want tomorrow off as you are walking out the door today and expect to get a scheduled absence. Remember, for all employees you must request time off in advance, get it signed by management in advance of the days you want off. If not, your absence will not be scheduled and you may be subject to discipline.

Restricted sick leave and deems desirable list (postal employees only) are other tactics management uses to harass employees when we request our leave. If your supervisor tells you that you cannot be on the ‘Deems Desirable List’, start looking for a Union Steward immediately. This is because there is no such “List.” There is no such thing as a Deems Desirable List.

Under normal circumstances, employees should be able to call in for sick leave up to three days without having to provide documentation to management to support their absence. Some supervisors don’t like this rule. They will violate the handbooks and require documentation for all sick leave call-ins. If they do, and you have not been given a letter placing you on the Restricted Sick Leave List, you should not be required to doc-ument you absence. So, if you are told to document, you need to keep a record of who told you to doc-ument, record how many miles you drove to your doctors, get a bill for the medical visit (even co-pays), and the amount of time you spent at the doctor’s office. Upon your re-turn to work, file a grievance and ask for reimbursement for all your costs. This will make management think twice about requiring docu-mentation next time.

If you call in for emergency annual leave, that is another story. Emergency call-ins may require documentation, whether it is an auto repair bill or a letter from your child’s school. Depending on your supervisor, you may get away with a verbal explanation of your emergency. In most cases this should be sufficient, but don’t plan on it. Be prepared to docu-

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tent an emergency call-in at any time you call-in.

For our PAE employees, the Family Medical Leave Act is not the same as it is for Postal/Federal Em-ployees. You are covered under the private sector and not the Federal Government. For rules and regula-tions for ALL Union Members, you can go to the Department of Labor Hour and Wage Division website at www.dol.gov/whd to ask ques-tions regarding FMLA or search for information. For Postal Employees, management of- ten fails to inform us of rights under the Collective Bar-gaining Agreement and the Em-ployee & Labor Relations Manual. Postal employees are entitled to re-cieve other types of leave outside of the Family Medical Leave Act and their own earned sick leave and an-nual leave. Veterans are entitled to receive up to 120 hours per year to serve in the National Guard or the Reserve. Career employees are ad-vised to contact their supervisors to receive Leave, such as Bereavement Leave, where employees can take sick, annual or Leave Without Pay for the death of a family member. Sick Leave can be taken for depen-dent care, up to two weeks of sick leave per year to take care of your dependents. Your Steward or Officer will as-sist you in determining leave types you may be entitled to.

Notes From Secretary-Treasurer

I’m writing on Memorial Day weekend as we begin summer. During July and August, we don’t have membership meetings or re-tire chapter meetings. However, I am always in the office Monday-Friday if you need information.

In recognition of our financial situation, our Executive Board voted to send some cost saving measures in relation to the state and national conventions being held this year. For the state, we eliminated the payment of any mileage or trans-portation costs. We voted to send one full time officer and only those part time officers who were also Michigan Postal Workes Union (MPWU) officers or running for office. This reduced our delegation to five.

James Stevenson did not run again for Area 2 Director and Ja-son Rushing did not run again for State Maintenance Craft Director.

Marcus Smith was elected Area 2 Director was Sterling Bouler was elected the new Maintenance Craft Director. As a result, we have two seats on the MPWU Executive Board for the next two years.

Our Executive Board has voted on similar measures for the national convention which is being held in Chicago in July. We are keeping our spending in line with the fact that reduced membership results in reduced income.

MPWU Convention Highlights

Eleven national officers addressed our convention in person. Brother Mark Dimondstein and Brother Steve Raymer addressed the body via teleconference. It seems clear that our national will use this tech-nology more both to defray travel costs and to enable national officers to be available to more members more often.

I was very impressed with the new tone set by President Dimondstein and reiterated by Executive V.P. Debby Szeredy and National Di-rector of Industrial Relations Tony D McKinnon Jr. All the officers made it clear that we will no longer continue to rely on politicians as our pri-mary strategy. Rather, APWU will employ a variety of direct actions.
Arbitrations

The Detroit District Area Local has been fairly good in arbitration cases. Contract cases are extremely difficult to prevail in and despite a feeling that we may have a solid case you just never know how an arbitrator will see the issue. I often hear employees say “Oh, that should be an easy case.” There is no such thing as an “easy” case when someone else is making the final decision. I would also like to apologize for not receiving or responding to all the calls I received. My voice mail was being filled up with literally 100’s of calls from in and out of the state about the monetary awards.

Over the last 90 days many members have enjoyed the benefits of hard union work as arbitration awards have been paid out over 1000 of our members including retirees in varying amounts from $70,000.00 to $565,000.00. It is always the intention and goals of the DDAL to make whole any aggrieved member. Sometimes what the union request and what is awarded are not always the same but we are thankful for any victories we may obtain as we do not take any case for granted.

The two exception cases netted over $3,400,000.00, the Redford-39 case put $6,000,000.00 each clerks pockets, and a host of other victories and some losses. We tell the Postal Service over and over again, “It is not your money that we want, we want you to follow the contract so that all this could be avoided.” It makes financial sense for the Service to resolve a case early and it creates a more conducive work environment for back to the expediter section to be granted monetary compensation. The union is also currently awaiting the decision on our “Relief and Pool” class-action. I would like to thank all the union officials and stewards who gave important testimony during the hearing on the first case.

City Stations

The union is fully aware of the deplorable situations which are occurring at the city stations. Despite the fact that we have won a huge arbitration victory recently which included $1000s of dollars and a cease and desist, the employees still have to watch supervisors and carriers perform our work every day. The union is taking strong action in filing a NLRA charge under the violation that the Postal Service is “Repudiating” the contractual provisions of Article 1.6 (Supervisors performing Bargaining Work) and 7.2 (Crossing Crafts). I would ask the employees not to engage management or get upset over the violations, simply continue to document the violations and let the union handle the violations in the proper format. Remember, everyone in management is not in agreement with what is occurring but they are following instructions also.

The biggest problem in the city stations is that there is absolutely no way to get around the fact that we are short staffed. All the gurus sit around the crystal ball downtown and try to come up with a magical plan to run a city station with two clerks when you know for a PSE to be converted. Yes, we know that many of you are working a lot of hours and we have requested that management begin to convert you to career status to help alleviate the extreme shortage in clerk craft employees in the Detroit Installation.

The Postal Service unilaterally on their own began to convert PSEs to career status at the Metro-Plex in Pontiac MI, which is outstanding news, but by the same token the Postal Service has the same ability to take that action in Detroit. The word spread like wildfire as the anticipation and anxiety grew for all the PSEs everywhere. It is a great feeling to know that you have a permanent job rather then the uncertainty. Our residents and business community deserve much more than what they are receiving.

State Convention

I had the pleasure of attending the State Convention May 22, 2014–May 25, 2014. The convention was informative and we also conducted the elections of new officers: Marcus Smith [Organizational Director] was elected to State Area II Director and Sterling Bouier [Assistant Maintenance Craft Director] was elected as State Maintenance Craft Director.

On behalf of the Detroit District Area Local I submitted two resolutions which passed with unanimous votes. The first resolution was an amendment to Article 15 to add attorney costs and other fees if management refuses to comply with an arbitration award.

The second was an upgrade in pay levels for AMS clerks and Complaints and Inquiry Clerks. This was my first trip to Mackinaw Island and the place was absolutely beautiful as it appeared to be lost in time. I would encourage those who have never gone to make a trip there if possible.

Solidarity,

IN COMING!

HA, HA, HA!

Much Accomplished – Much To Achieve

Much To Achieve

Much Accomplished

“IT IS A GREAT FEELING TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A PERMANENT JOB SO THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO PLAN WITH YOUR FAMILY WITH A DEGREE OF CERTAINTY. DO THE RIGHT THING POSTAL SERVICE, CONVERT OUR PSES TO CAREER STATUS WHICH WOULD BOOST THEIR MORAL 100%.”

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Solidarity,
The Post Office, if you have not heard yet, wants to make changes to the MS 47 and the methods of cleaning. If you remember about 8-10 years ago, they tried to put out an idea called “Team Cleaning”. It involved 3-5 employees cleaning an area or room. At that time it did not go over and was postponed as long as they could but they will have to pay the piper this time. This is the case where we won the work back that the IT department has been doing for years to avoid paying us, or increasing our numbers in staffing of primarily ET positions.

We have staffing concerns in every occupational group we are continuing to work on. We have issues with other crafts and occupational groups doing our work, such as with the MOS Clerks and Custodians at Stations country wide. We have our work being contracted out like in the Building side groups and levels BEM, AMO, FMO, MM Painters, Electrician etc. Contractors also abound on the MPE side of the house with machine moves, cable installs, repair and more. The custodial ranks are being involved in new cleaning method issues as stated above. We need to be diligent in protecting our work everyday!

Thank you, for allowing me to serve you!

**New Cleaning Methods Issued**

**The Purpose Of Vocational Rehabilitation**

Greeting Brothers and Sisters, I would like to Thank-you for allowing me to serve as Director of Organization for this illustrious local. I had the privilege to serve as a delegate at our 24th Biennial Michigan Postal Work- ers Union Constitutional Convention held in Mackinaw Island, Michigan. I was elected Area 2 Director for the State. I was also appointed to the election committee while attending the convention. At the convention we had several resolutions that we voted on. I wrote a resolution that would promote vocational rehabilitation and pass a resolution on eligibility for benefits. I was happy to assist you. We are making efforts to our Union to be in support of the Staples rally and to contact your State and Government Officials who serve our community’s. We must seek out the best candidate in this coming election, who has the Labor Unions best interest.

Let’s get involved in our Labor Day Parade we need all of your support, let’s bring our family out a march in this year’s parade. We are only as strong as our successors, we must continue to motivate our newest members.

Words are the most creative force in the universe, be ever mindful to speak words that will bring positive energy to our Union.

If you have a question or concern please contact an Officer or Steward we will be more than happy to assist you. We are making changes in our Local, we strive about 92% organized let us reach out to those potential members and go from Good to Great.

**100% Organization Is Our Goal**

Postal Union Alliance. This Alliance is dedicated to stand united to protect America’s Postal Service. One of these commitments is to unite with other labor unions in defense of the rights of postal workers and all workers. We strongly encourage you to be in support of the Staples rally and to contact your State and Government Officials who serve our community’s. We must seek out the best candidate in this coming election, who has the Labor Unions best interest.

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Top of the day to you American Postal Workers Union Detroit District Area Local. Brothers and Sisters, your representatives just want to take a moment of your time to bring you up to speed on recent events since our last issue. We have been working diligently on your behalf with our Local and we are here to bring you as much information as we are able to, as the United States Postal Service to get Supervision and Management to comply with the 2010-2015 National Bargaining Agreement Contract. It relates to several issues as listed: FMA/Sick Leave, the issues on High Way Contracts [HCR’s]. In addition, we have also been working on getting updates on the Audit Report and their recommendations on findings in the Detroit Motor Vehicle Service Craft.

We have participated in the Rally that took place at STAPLES in Dearborn Michigan which was a collective effort to show unity and solidarity. It addressed the Postal Service contract negotiations. We have also been working on getting updates on the audit report and their recommendations on findings in the Detroit Motor Vehicle Service Craft.

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The Welcome Mat

LYNN ANTONIAK
CHRIS BRITTEN
MARCUS CAPFEY
PHILLIP CLEAVES
ARRON COATES
ASHHAILA Crippins
JULITA DANIELS
TONY DAVIS
ERICA DUNCAN
SANDRA EDWARDS
AARON FLORENCE
ASIA HARRIS
JOEL JOHNSON
FELICIA JOHNSON
ROBERT JONES
LASHONTA LATHAN
DIONE CLAIRE
COREY PLACIDO
VERNON PROVOST
LISA PORTER
LORENZO SIMPSON

If your address has changed, please notify the union and the Post Office of your address change. If you do not, the Post Office will continue to send your paper to the old address.

The United States Postal Service has changed the rules governing post office hours in the last several months. The Detroit MVS Craft is under the microscope with regards to this Audits Major Focus being wasteful use of time, fuel costs, dual runs, mail volume, overtime, penalty time, sick leave usage, VOA-time as well as looking at any and all unnecessary/ unaccounted for time on schedules.

We are pushing the United States Postal Service to keep The American Postal Workers Union involved in every facet of this process with the focus of the restructuring of the MVS Craft. We are also making sure that all efforts that the Postal Service are making that they remain in accordance with all Handbooks and Manuals, 2010-2015 National Collective Bargaining Agreement, ELM, LACTES and others.

As your Representatives we will continue to BEACH this DRUM to Push Supervision and Management to follow the 2010-2015 National Collective Bargaining Agreement, Hand Books and Manuals on this issue that established postal contractors in Staples stores - staffed by low-wage, high-turnover Staples employees Rather than USPS workers. The APWU/DDAL protest took place at Staples store in Dearborn, Michigan to send a message to the United States Postal Service saying that we are fighting on every hand against contractors doing Bargaining unit work and we are Uniting with the rest of the country with losing our work do to doing business with Staples - that established uniform work on every hand we will not sit idle minded and let the United States Postal Service pull the rug out from under us!”

The attendance was overwhelming at the Protest; it was a great success with APWU Members, Labor and Community Activists, uniting together for the cause of fighting for our jobs and our future at the United States Postal Service. It was refreshing to see the outpouring of our Brothers and Sisters in APWU/DDAL family serving notice to the United States Postal Service and the Post Office; that we are committed to our jobs and the public that we will not
Here we are in the middle of our biggest excessing crisis for the American Postal Workers Union at the NDC and you guessed it "Maintenance". No surprise here due to all of the blatant contract violations, cuts in the staffing package, contracting work out, etc. In spite of all of our efforts the writing has been on the wall prior to the current administration even being elected. The fore mentioned tactics have been going on for a significant amount of time by several of the maintenance management staff. It seems like the biggest goal is to move up the management food chain by cutting the maintenance staff, cutting the maintenance staff and by further cutting the maintenance staff. It actually reminds me of that old game show "Name That Tune"... One maintenance management official says "I can run the department with 9 level 7 mechanics"... while another maintenance management official says "I can run the department with 6 level 7 mechanics" and then the last maintenance management official says "I don't need any level 7 mechanics and while you at it get rid of the welder". That management official gets promoted and our guys get screwed.

So here we are with all of our level 7 mechanics and our welder impacted with an effective date of June 14, 2014 during the highest mail volume that the NDC has seen in a very long time due to the incoming priority mail... Not to mention Fed Ex and UPS have recently raised their rates which will ultimately steer more customers towards the USPS. Due to this loss of mechanics apparently maintenance management grand plan is to just work the crap out of our current maintenance staff. If in fact any of this were necessary for survival we all might think of pitching in and picking up the extra slack... But the truth is when we all start doing this and management sees that the work continues to get done in spite of the reduction in staffing... Here we go with another game of "Name That Tune" and more lost jobs. The point is please work safe as we have all witnessed first hand that no matter what happens this building just keeps on moving forward and very few lessons are learned from maintenance management mistakes. Not to mention a fair days work for a fair days pay!!

FYI “Do not drink the maintenance management kool aid about how sorry they are for this impact"... They have created the major- ity of it and therefore are clearly the cause of it. Under the current impact we have several custodial vacancies at the NDC but unfortu- nately some of the level 7’s now have to be excessed outside of the facility into either custodial or to other facilities at their current level 7 positions. Recently we had several supervisory positions available at the NDC and rather than promote some of the current 204 B’s that have been in acting supervisory positions for a signifi- cant amount of time management turns down their request for up- ward mobility... management continues to keep the current 204 B’s in the offices in an acting capacity although they have de- termined they are unqualified... makes sense right??! If in fact these 204 B’s were promoted this would have created more positions to the impacted employees at the NDC and fewer mechanics would have had to be excessed outside of the building. Soooo maintenance management if you really cared about your people either craft on future management you would have fought for what is right.

Many thanks to the APWU Main- tenance Craft Stewards for their hard work in the constant fight re- garding the cuts in the maintenance staffing package. Year after year... After year. My senti- ment is get rid of all the bean coun- ters and there are the cost saving measures that the USPS is looking for!!! As always much thanks to the maintenance staff for keeping our building safe and running!!!

Excessing And Maintenance Cuts At The DNDC

June 2, 2014 - APWU President Mark Di- mondstein issued a statement June 2 con- demning a proposal by House Republican leaders to raid the Postal Service treasury to shore up the Highway Trust Fund. The state- ment appears below:

"The proposal by House Republican leaders to use Postal Service funds to help replenish the Highway Trust Fund is outrageous. It is another irresponsible attempt by House Republi- cans to loot the USPS and undermine postal service by eliminating Saturday mail delivery.

“The U.S. Postal Service isn’t funded by taxpayers. Its revenue comes from the sale of postage and services, so there is absolutely no justification for Congress to grab USPS funds for any federal effort - one as important as the Highway Trust Fund.

"Furthermore, the proposal is based on a fic- tion: It assumes there will be ‘real savings’ for the Treasury from a hypothetical future event - a postal bailout - that no one is calling for or has proposed. Projected savings from the elimination of Saturday mail delivery are also highly questionable.

“THE BEST”

"The money grab and the elimination of Saturday mail delivery would be major steps toward dismantling the public Postal Service, which is based in the Constitution and pro- microservices universal, bulk mail service to every city and town in the nation.

"House leaders can’t have it both ways: If the Postal Service is strong enough financially to keep its promises, it can’t also be in dire financial straits that jus- tify eliminating Saturday delivery, lowering service standards, shutting mail processing fa- cilities, and closing post offices."

Bringing You Up To Speed

continued from page 6

In conclusion, as we your repre- sentatives are sending a call to ac- tion out to all concerned, we must unite on every front to strengthen the front lines leading to a stronger and powerful APWU; where ulti- mately we will be able to survive and weather this storm we are currently enduring. If our founda- tion is Solid, our Structure will not collapse and fall!!

Please stay tuned for future updates on our current events in the next is- sue of the Detroit Postal Worker.

Until next time, reporting to you; I am De Vol Le Jeune your Detroit MVS Craft Director, wishing you all ‘A First Class Day!!!’
Typically most folks choose to sit out these elections but as you can see here in Michigan, it has not even been a contest (H.R. 2748) bill but has not yet garnered the support needed. Please register from the Metro Detroit to register and then please VOTE! In order to vote in the primary election you MUST be registered by July 5th. The primary takes place on August 5th, I hope you all have been paying attention and have done due diligence in learning all you could about the candidates you are voting for (especially if you are not accepting of the endorsed candidate(s)? Some of our races are hotly contested and a wholesale field is out to support us. But for those who could not (or did not) come, we ask that you keep in mind this struggle is not over. We must keep the pressure on. A strange thing happened at the rally. The Channel 7 News truck was there and interviewed Mr. John Merritt. I don’t know who the reporter was but for some strange reason the event aired on Fox 2. We are boycotting Fox 2 in support of our NABET-CWA aired on Fox 2. We are boycotting the event don’t know who the reporter was but for some strange reason the event. If you don’t know all about the person you want to send to Lansing or to Washington (or no accountability or oversight in our City. They have syphoned off and entity that generated money for the Hall, and practically every other Belle Isle, The Science Center, Cobo Hall, and practically every other City of Detroit has “lost control” of the City of Detroit. I still don’t know why there are not thousands of us in front of the courthouse when we are called. The retirees and pensioners DID NOT cause this bankruptcy. The city of Detroit workers did NOT cause this bankruptcy. It was planned and systematically done to create exactly what has taken place. WAKE UP FOLKS!! NOW IS THE TIME for us to come together and rise from this destruction and ruin taking place right before our very eyes. The assault on women’s rights (Public Act 182 of 2013), the doubling of campaign contributions (Public Act 252 of 2013), HB-4003 & SB-116 Right to Work Laws (of 2012), the ending of the EITC and the cuts to Unemployment Insurance are only a smidgen of the reasons that we MUST VOTE! The time is now!!! We need to show Solidarity not only with our Postal Unions brothers and sisters but with ALL the other unions and those working without the benefit of union support so that we can once again have a vibrant, lucrative MIDDLE CLASS. I firmly believe that this is the first time in the history of our country that our children will not be able to give their children a better lifestyle than they had. We must STAND UP NOW or we will surely all sink lower than ever. STAND UP FOR DEMOCRACY! STAND UP FOR EQUALITY! VOTE!!!
The Get Engaged Program

by Christopher Ulmer and Danny Sawicki

STOP STAPLES-THE U.S. MAIL IS NOT FOR SALE!

In this phase of President Ulmer’s “Get Engaged Program”, we are going to focus on the Staples crisis that can and will affect our jobs if this path on privatization proceeds on.

In June of 2012, the DETROIT POSTAL WORKER was one if not, the first paper in the nation to report on “bootleg post offices” popping up all over the country (see article on left). These so called “village” post offices were staffed by non-postal employees at drugstores, gas stations etc. Our post offices were and still are being closed and consolidated and they are moving our products and services to these mass retailers and franchises. Really? Well, they tested the waters back then, got away with it for now, and now they are going for the home run.

This is where we must step in. Folks, this is a serious battle and has “privatization” written all over it. Once again, Staples employees are selling the goods and services at the retailer’s locations. Only postal employees are allowed to provide postal services in postal uniforms and are fully accountable to the postal public, and sworn to uphold the sanctity of the U.S. Mail.

Postal items, stamps and services should be sold at the institutions that have provided this government operation over the centuries! If you are going to embarrass yourself with putting stamps and services in Staples, Subways, Shell’s, drugstores, gas stations etc. Our post offices were and still are being closed and consolidated and they are moving our products and services to these mass retailers and franchises. Really? Well, they tested the waters back then, got away with it for now, and now they are going for the home run.

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The Get Engaged Program

Meet Mark Schauer

by Regina ‘Gina’ Favors, Legislation Director

I thought about it a few times on the way the man reporting said that many folks do not know who Mark Schauer is. So to all of OUR members and even those who are not members, I would like to share with you a little bit about Mark. He was born in Howell, Michigan and graduated from Howell High School. His father was a high school science teacher and his mother was a nurse. Mark attended Albion College where he received his B.A. in 1984. He also earned his M.A. from Michigan State in 1996.

Mark began his political career serving on the Battle Creek City Commission as County Planner in 1994. In 1996, Mark was elected to the Michigan’s House of Representatives, the term began in 1987 and he was re-elected serving until 2003. He was elected and served as Michigan State Senator from 2003 until 2008 when he was elected to Congress serving Michigan’s 7th District. Mark ran for re-election in 2010 when so many of our Democrats just did not vote in the mid-term elections.

Mark Schauer understands labor and labor issues. He understands that we must have a strong middle class and he will fight to expand it. Mark also understands the value and need for public education and the mess that Snyder has made of it with the cuts to per pupil funding. Being the son of a high school science teacher, he understands that a good job comes from a good education. He will work to make education our top economic priority.

Mark Schauer supported and helped save the auto industry and personally pushed the automakers to produce in Michigan rather than Mexico or China. Mark will fight to repeal Snyder’s anti-worker policies which are designed to destroy Michigan’s unions and drive down wages and job security. Mark will also repeal the job-killing retirement tax which is hurting so many pensioners and retirees right now.

For more information on Mark Schauer you can go on the Michigan Democratic Party website, and you can also attend some of the many town halls or meet & greet events being held to introduce him. You can also go to your congressional district offices, the MDP office or you can contact me and I will get info to you. However you choose to get information, I urge you to please not just sit this mid-term election out, it is far too important. And I would also ask that you tell anyone who says to you that “they won’t vote for Mark cause they don’t know who he is” that they SHOULD TRY AND GET TO KNOW HIM, that is unless they are stuck on Snyder!

Also if further confirmation is needed as to why vote for Mark Schauer, I would just say that if Snyder & Company’s cutting over $1 billion from education, raising taxes on seniors’s retirement and on the middle class, giving a $1.8 billion tax break to corporations that outsourcing Michigan jobs, repealing the requirement for Licensed Electricians, expanding the EAA, prohibiting paid sick days, Gerrymandering the Courts, doubling the Campaign Finance for the 1%, slashing unemployment benefits and passing RTW work laws even though the people clearly voted against it, just to name a “FEW” of the things that has happened since he took office is not reason enough then I don’t know what this! This governor and this legislature has passed more unjust, anti-worker, anti-middle class laws than any other in the history of Michigan. US! (I’m just saying) . . . Solidarity Forever.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

by Christopher Ulmer

In the attempt to get information to our membership faster and more accurately, the APWU-Detroit District Area Local has made it where every Member who wishes to stay updated and get information instantaneously regarding events, pickets, parties and/or changes in working conditions, we ask that you follow us on the following social medias:

• twitter@apwuddl
• apwuddl on facebook
• www.apwudetroit.org

We invite you to follow us on twitter and to “like” us on facebook. Please share these links with other members and friends.

Our Democratic Candidate for Governor:

by Regina ‘Gina’ Favors, Legislation Director

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The USPS Is Not A Piggy Bank!

On June 6, 2014 - In a “Dear Colleagues” letter dated June 3, Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) urged his fellow members of the House of Representatives to oppose a proposal to use Postal Service funds to help replenish the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) by ending Saturday mail delivery.

The letter, sent to all 435 members of the House, says the USPS cannot cut its services to survive, but must find, “creative ways to further leverage its national delivery network to support American Business and continue binding our Nation together.”

Now the matter of the VOE (Voice of Employees) Survey’s, VOE Survey’s are mailed to you via 1st class stamp, therefore it is your mail and you can take it home with you like you should and address it with all your other mail. The reason the USPS mail them to you 1st class is to circumvent the Union. The Union is the exclusive representative for all employees of that Union. The Union has informed the USPS of the union’s desire not to have our represented employees to participate in VOE surveys. The USPS has to honor that. The Union can not regulate who can send a survey address to you, however the union can request that you do not return it to be VOE surveys and for you to take your mail home with you, and if you chose to participate in the VOE survey then mail it in yourself. DO NOT ALLOW THE USPS MANAGEMENT TO DICATE TO YOU HOW YOU RESPOND TO YOUR 1ST CLASS MAIL AND WHEN YOU RESPOND TO YOUR 1ST CLASS MAIL.

The union ask you not to participate in the VOE surveys because the USPS uses your responses to keep you from getting better wages and against you at negotiation time, while using the VOE Survey participation the USPS counts participation in the VOE surveys as any survey turned in, don’t matter if it is torn up, shredded etc as long as you return it to them (they get their bonuses) as means for bounces for themselves. The Union asks you not to participate because the VOE Surveys are misleading in the question it asks and the way they ask them in general.

Q. At press time, since the excessed members have been retreated back, the post office has taken away our Nifty bids, four days, 10 hours a day at the GWY facility in Detroit and we are currently in the second phase of the bidding process. To me, it seems like there are not going to be enough bids for all that were retreated back. If that is the case, what may happen to those that do not get a bid and become unassigned regulars?

A. USPS Management made the claim that the NFTP bids which consisted of 4 work days, 10 hours a day on the days which they worked was no longer conducive for the GYW and the gave some fraudulent reason why they were not. The Union grieved this issue and is presently being perused in the grievance procedure.

All employees displaced by the improper actions of the USPS will get a job bid or be placed into a residual job bid vacancy that they are entitled to within the 2 to 3 bidding cycles. The USPS has enough unfilled job bids openings for employees on bid who so employees won’t be unassigned but refuse to post them. We have filed grievance on this issue too and plan to be successful on getting winning decisions on these violations.

The real question is, when will Detroit Districts Upper Management allow the DETROIT FACILITIES to be properly and fully staffed in all crafts? The USPS Detroit District management staff from the top down has shown a concerted reluctance to staff ALL DETROIT FACILITIES properly, and it shows the disparaging way DETROIT FACILITIES are staffed, the USPS in Detroit is staffing the DETROIT FACILITIES in the same manner they did when they improperly excessed all the employees from Detroit and then denied those same employees their Retrieve Rights back to Detroit.

Q. Why were the bids open to everyone and not just the retreated members?

A. The bid was open to everyone because the bids employees bidded on were jobs that were part of the monthly bid cycle, which are open to all employees. USPS management did not create any bids to replace the bids that employees were moved from. The union believes this too is a violation and has filed the necessary grievances for these employees.

Q. You, the officers and the Detroit Area Local negotiated a historic monetary settlement to those of us who were excessed out of state or forced to other crafts by the Post Office. Some received a settlement, some did not and it was confusing to say the least. Can you explain the process of why some received money and some did not?

A. The Arbitrator made the decision to only pay a certain number of the employees that were retreating back. The Union asked for all the employees retreating back to be compensated. The Union still have about 50 or so grievances dealing with excessing and we are presently negotiating with the USPS to compensate the 30 to 35 returning employees and we will withdraw the remaining grievances because once everyone has been compensated they cant be compensated twice therefore the grievances will then be moot. The union believes everyone will receive some type of monetary compensation.
In a sign that the push to expand Social Security is continuing to build support, on Wednesday Senators Mark Begich (D-AK) and Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced the Retirement and Income Security Enhancements [RAISE] Act. The RAISE Act would enhance Social Security benefits for widows, widowers, and divorced spouses while extending benefit eligibility for children of retired, disabled, and deceased workers.

The RAISE Act is not the only proposal to expand Social Security. Last year, Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) introduced the Strengthening Social Security Act (S. 567) in the Senate, with Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA) introducing a companion bill in the House (H.R. 3118). The Strengthening Social Security Act proposes adjusting the benefit formula to provide an increase in benefits for most beneficiaries and improving the program’s finances by lifting the earnings cap on Social Security contributions.

"With multiple expansion bills under consideration, it’s clear that an increasing number of leaders in Washington realize the importance of strengthening and expanding our Social Security system," said Barbara J. Easterling, President for the Alliance. If you have not already signed the petition calling on senators to stand up in support of the RAISE Act, go to http://bit.ly/JnjXYqy.

Wild Week in Virginia Shifts Political Landscape

During a tumultuous week in Virginia politics, two politicians are now out of their posts in moves with major implications at both the state and national levels. At the national level, a shocking result in the Virginia GOP primary saw U.S. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R) lose to Tea Party candidate Dave Brat. Following the loss, Rep. Cantor announced his resignation from the Majority Leader position, effective July 31st. Cantor’s loss will have ripple effects throughout the House Republican leadership.

The result is also expected to revitalize the Tea Party after a primary season in which Tea Party candidates nationwide have otherwise had little success challenging establishment Republicans. Cantor has a 2% lifetime voting record with the corporate-backed organization. The impasse was brought on by a proposed Medicare expansion under the terms of the Affordable Care Act. Expanding health coverage to 400,000 low income Virginians has been a top priority for Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D). Mr. McAuliffe had traveled to hospitals that serve the poor in rural districts of conservative lawmakers, seeking to pressure them to endorse his plan to join the 26 states that embraced Medicaid expansion under the president’s health care law. He is now widely believed to be studying how to enact a Medicaid expansion without the legislature.

"Any time the health care of 400,000 people is put at risk, it is extremely unfortunate," said Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance. Puckett’s resignation was clouded in controversy as news quickly leaked that he was set to receive a job as deputy director of the state’s Tobacco Commission and that his daughter was expected to be named Secretary-Treasurer for the Alliance. More at http://bit.ly/1hN3wK5.

Activity Plan Events in Response to ALEC’s Annual Meeting in Dallas

The shadowy American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) will be heading to Dallas from July 30th to August 1st for its annual meeting. The Dallas-Fort Worth area chapters of the Texas Alliance for Retired Americans are working with North Texas Jobs with Justice and an anti-ALEC coalition to organize a number of upcoming events in order to draw attention to ALEC’s anti-retiree and anti-worker agenda, putting pressure on ALEC-linked politicians to cut ties with the corporate-backed organization. The events kicked off this Thursday with a teach-in and concert featuring folk musician and political activist Anne Feeney. Numerous grassroots actions, including workshops and protests, will be held in the Dallas area through late July. The main protest and rally will take place on July 30th. For more on the upcoming events, see the flyer at http://bit.ly/JnjENj.

Leaders In Washington Pushing To Strengthen And Expand Social Security

P. Puckett. Republicans now control the Virginia Senate by a 20-to-19 margin. Following the resignation, Republicans immediately ended a budget standoff that had threatened to shut down the state’s government in the coming weeks. The Alliance for Retired Americans is calling for the new leadership to "immediately move to strengthen and expand Social Security contributions.

"Any time the health care of 400,000 people is put at risk, it is extremely unfortunate," said Ruben Burks, Secretary-Treasurer for the Alliance. More at http://bit.ly/1hN3wK5.

Millennials May Be Headed For Retirement Hardship

A recent Merrill Lynch survey looking at generational attitudes towards retirement security suggests that millennials expect Social Security and employer-provided pensions to make up a meager part of their retirement income than previous generations. Millennials, a term researchers and commentators often use to refer to those with birth years ranging from the early 1980s to the early 2000s, expect to rely more heavily on employment income and personal savings. With record levels of student debt, high unemployment rates curbing future earnings, and low rates of retirement savings, millennials may be counting on savings that don’t ever materialize. According to New Republic, millennials’ expectations about relying on personal savings prove accurate, these younger workers may face economic hardship in retirement or be left working for years longer than previous generations.

“This survey underscores the importance of strengthening Social Security and protecting pension programs so that our children and grandchildren are able to enjoy a dignified, secure retirement,” said Ruben Burks, Secretary-Treasurer for the Alliance. More at http://bit.ly/1hN3wK5.

North Carolina Alliance Holds Golf Tournament, Sees Great Results

On Monday, the North Carolina Alliance for Retired Americans held their 3rd Annual Golf Tournament at Holly Ridge Golf Links in Archdale, NC. Twenty-one golfers, 10 sponsors and 30 donors took part! Congratulations go out to SEIU member Lewis Sasse, who won the affiliate’s first ever raffle. The prize was a 42-inch flat screen HDTV. “This year’s golf tournament was our most successful to date,” said North Carolina Alliance President Jim Moore. “Thank you to all of our volunteers & sponsors.”
Danny’s Mailbag

by Danny Sawicki

• Circulation revenue for newspapers was up five percent in 2013, the first time that’s happened since 2007.

• Detroit – Digital media has not killed off print media yet . . . far from it, in fact print media is making a comeback, so why can’t first class mail do the same? Hey post office, why don’t we advertise first class mail to give the internet a run for it’s money. Vinyl record sales are also increasing. You have plenty of money to advertise packages. The latest package commercial featuring Stan Lee and Spider-man, I’m sure Lee and Spider-man, I’m sure will have some great ideas for advertising packages. The latest package commercial featuring Stan Lee and Spider-man, I’m sure will have some great ideas for advertising packages.

• Seattle purchased money orders from her till to pay her bills. She had receipts to prove she paid for the money orders. Well, her job is on the line because she is being accused by the OIG of misuse of postal funds. She was on video.

• Danny – DO NOT make any personal transactions from your cash drawer and follow all financial procedures, if not you may lose your job. Remember all employees, zero tolerance for violence and stealing, you are on video.

• New York Operation Santa – This is a volunteer organization that matches children’s letters to Santa, with donors in the community who are able to fill the children’s wishes. They receive over 500,000 letters a year. Sadly, due to being overburdened and understaffed, over half of the letters go unanswered.

• Danny – These volunteers are truly angels serving their community. It breaks your heart reading some of the letters. There are many letters of children asking for better health for a family member or food for a holiday dinner. So sad, but this organization and the donors make many happy results.

• In 2013, a window clerk from Seattle purchased money orders from her till to pay her bills. She also cashed money orders that she previously purchased from herself. She didn’t think she was doing anything wrong, and she had receipts to prove she paid for the money orders. Well, her job is on the line because she is being accused by the OIG of misuse of postal funds. She was on video.

• Danny – We must do this for national security, if your passport gets in the wrong hands bad things can happen, so please keep this in mind if something happens to your passport it is our national duty.

• Saying his e-mails likely are monitored by intelligence agencies, former president Jimmy Carter uses the U.S. Mail as his method of communication with world leaders. In March 2014, Carter told NBC’s “Meet The Press” that, “I have felt that my own communications are probably monitored, and when I want to communicate with a foreign leader privately, I type or write a letter myself and mail it!”

• Danny – Who knows who is monitoring our communications on the internet. In a survey in 2013, it was reported that over forty percent of internet users were victims of some form of identity theft over the internet. If you want safe communication use the U.S. MAIL! I will ask this over and over again.

• If your passport is lost or stolen immediately call the U.S. Department of State toll free at 1-877-487-2778

• Danny – We would like to express our condolences to the following employees on their loss of a loved one:

- One of our own-Henry Eugene Banks
- Sergeant Robert L. Smith-Father of Samarachere “Sam” Erkard-BEMU Technician
- One of our own-Joseph Bruckner-Tour 1 automation clerk

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

• In May 2014, the annual Post Office Letter Carrier’s Food Drive was held at stations throughout the country. Clerks and carriers picked up, loaded trucks, and distributed over millions of pounds of food that was distributed to various food banks for the needy.

• Danny – Our strong and loving membership, our brothers and sisters of other crafts, once again come thru for their community. Thanks to all that participated and gave.

• In 2013, the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) turned forty. The EAP is a program which provides free, confidential, professional care to employees and their immediate family members who are adversely affected by a variety of personal problems including substance abuse, family problems, emotional problems, legal concerns and financial difficulties. The EAP also provides professional consultation to management, union, and human resources regarding the effects of personal problems in the workplace.

• Danny – If you need it, use it! There is no shame involved at all in this program. In fact, it takes a strong person to admit that they may need help with a problem. Confidential and professional. This is a valuable benefit provided to us by the post office.

2014 Membership Meetings

The meetings are held at your union hall:

20530 Southfield Road, Detroit, MI 48235.

September 14

All meetings are at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. If you have any concerns, come out and let your voice be heard! Support your union! For more information call your Union office at 313-532-9305.

With Deepest Sympathy

We would like to express our condolences to the following employees on their loss of a loved one:

- One of our own-Henry Eugene Banks
- Sergeant Robert L. Smith-Father of Samarachere “Sam” Erkard-BEMU Technician

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