Hello Brothers and Sisters, it is hard to believe that over a year has passed, and we are here again discussing how to move our local forward. Well, a great deal has been accomplished, so let’s get started.

FINANCES
Over a year ago, I spoke about retooling the way we conduct business financially in order to benefit our membership. I pictured us moving away from addressing our bills in the same way that past administrations had. I believe this was important because I wanted to see a difference, so I knew I must look at the way I approached our finances in a different manner.

A year ago, I set several goals, and one of the goals was to reduce our deficit. In January 2016, we inherited over $120,000 in debt, today we have chopped the debt in half, all in one year. I also wanted to pay off the balance owed to our Attorneys. To date, the Attorneys have received over $30,000 from us. We are staying on task to completely paying off the balance by April of 2017.

We have stopped the robbing Peter to pay Paul routine of the past. Now we are looking at ways to address the retiree’s getting paid their retirement benefits $300 per the constitution when they retire. This will at least eliminate one half of the now $60,000 deficit. This reducing the deficit was a promise from the TEAM COMBS members, and now we believe that the APWU-DDAL will be great again.

GOALS TO THE NEW CHANGES
The Constitution Committee has met several times to accomplish the mission of reconstructing a Constitution that will make it clearer to read and this will address the unmentioned items in the Constitution that could allow an individual to conduct himself/herself in an unacceptable manner.

We will begin the well overdue payments to be made to the RETIREES upon retirement. We must show them how much we appreciate them.

DEFICIT OF THE UNION
Our union has worked extremely hard to reduce our deficit that is currently only $60,000. For about 8 or 9 years, our local has passed from one administration to another a deficit of $100,000 or more. My goal is to make sure that the TEAM COMBS administration doesn’t continue this when we pass on the baton. We have done well, however, the mission is not complete. In the past, our leaders have tried to dump trash into our minds by withholding from us how much debt we were in. However, I intend to be very clear with you, we must pay off our debt, thereby removing their trash.

I was recently told that someone said we have not done much regarding the deficit. Clearly, this statement is incorrect. I will simply say this about that statement. Plato was quoted this way, “wise men talk because they have something to say, fools talk because they have to say something.”

BUILDING UPGRADES AND REPAIRS
Our building is no longer being neglected, to date we have a new furnace and air conditioner. The roof has been temporarily repaired, but we must look into a new roof. We have painted some of the building, and the City of Detroit ordered us to remove all water fountains due to the possibility of lead, this too was completed.

I think we should ask the prior administrations to show us the MONEY! In the next two years, we will look at a new front door, install new windows, repair the roof, redo the exceeding that many of our retreat employees received.

In 2016, we set several GOALS, all of which we achieved! The Attorneys were estimated to be paid off in early 2017 and that goal is in sight. We wanted to reduce the deficit. The mission is accomplished, with the deficit being half of what it was in January 2016. The MVS Director Rico Cameron and I wanted to make sure that the last 6 MVS drivers that were excessed be retrofitted in August 2016.

I wanted to reduce the cost of our local newspaper, The Detroit Postal Worker. We have spent about $2000 less on each edition than the last administration, with not reducing the quality and content of our award winning newspaper.

I set out to have more training, we accomplished that as well, having more training and seminars including an OWCP training class put on by the state that I requested. Our local has not had this much training in years. My friends, I think we are on the correct path, so stay tuned for this year’s achievements.

Until next time brothers and sisters, remember that the world would be a better place if we would learn to talk more about what is right, than what about what is wrong.
People ask me all the time, “why should I be in the union?” They say, “I’ve never been in trouble, I’ve never been in the union office, why should I pay dues for nothing?”

In my 20-year career, before I became an officer/alternate steward, I never once stepped in the union office. Like most of us, I follow the rules and if a situation arises, I handle it myself. However, even if you are that person that follows all the rules, comes to work every day, there may be situations not under your control where you will need the union.

What are those situations you may ask? Well, what if you are falsely accused of something you did not do and you need representation? The Postal Inspectors and the OIG don’t play. Even if you are innocent, if there is an ounce of suspicion, it is their job to bring you in to investigate. If you go into an interrogation without representation, get nervous, say things you shouldn’t say, you could be in trouble for something you didn’t do. It’s sorry to say, but we all know the saying “innocent until proven guilty” is not always true. In certain situations with the law, it’s guilty until proven innocent. That’s why you need the union in these situations. Proper representation can save you many heartaches. In these cases, you use your Personal Union Insurance.

What if, for no reason, you are provoked, harassed, bullied by fellow employees or your supervisor. Remember, zero tolerance for stealing and violence. So do you just sit there and take the harassment or do you retaliate? If you retaliate, there is a good chance you will be put out and placed on emergency placement. Most of the time, in this situation, you are not getting paid until the situation is resolved. That can take a very long time. If you do nothing, the provocation and or harassment will continue or get worse. That is when you use your Personal Union Insurance. You get a steward to intervene, possibly file a grievance if the situation cannot be resolved. The union gets involved so you can be left alone and do your job.

Yes, you never use the union. But, what if you get hurt on the job? We all know we work dangerous jobs. It only takes one defective APC, or one dangerous strap on the floor, and in a split second we are seriously hurt. Now you need the union for OWCP advice, proper forms to fill out and many other factors to consider. On the job injuries is a complicated process and the union helps you thru the process. You think you can do that on your own if you are injured and possibly in the hospital? Again, you can rely on your Personal Union Insurance to help you thru this trying time.

Have you ever been improperly bypassed for a holiday and/or overtime? Do you just say “oh well, I hope they don’t do it next time.” NO! You get a steward, they investigate, and if it is in fact a violation they file a grievance. The grievance procedure takes time, but if there is a violation you will get a make-up opportunity or get compensated. Again, you being in the union gives you your own Personal Union Insurance.

Let’s compare your union to your house or car insurance policy. Cari and I have lived in our house for over 25 years. We have faithfully paid our policies over the years. We all know how expensive insurance is. Over the years, we have paid tens of thousands of dollars with no claims. Well, in September, due to a silly mistake by me, we had a serious kitchen fire. Thankfully, we had both insurance policies and the fire was quickly put out. That’s why you need the union in these situations. Proper representation can save you many heartaches. In these cases, you use your Personal Union Insurance.

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, any member can sign a new member and it’s $20 in your pocket!

MOURAD AHMED
NIA ALEXANDER
JEREMY ALLEN
INDIA AMOS
ASHLEY BALDWIN
CYNTHIA BANKS
ROBERTO BECKUM
BRIANNA BENNETT
CARLA CARR
BRYON CHAMBLISS
LaJAH CHATMAN
SABRINA COLVIN
REGINALD CRENSHAW
AREONDA DAVIS
AARON DAVIS
BARBARA DAVIS
JAMES DORTON
CARRIAH DURDEN
TAYLOR EDWARDS
DIONYLL FOY
JADE GAINES
RANESHA GASSEWAY
MARLENE GASTON
DIANE GLENN
RITA HALES-HURT
RHONDA HARRIS
BRIAN HARRIS
TIA JACKSON
TARYNE JACKSON
KENNESHA KELLAR
DAVID KING, SR.
JESSICA KNOWLES
NATHANIEL LEE
MIKHALE LUCAS
MEGAN MCCOLLA
ANNA McMICHAEL
COREY MOSTALLENGER
COREY MURRAY

The Welcome Mat

Welcome

Director of Organization
Darrell Clark

Your Personal Union Insurance Brought To You By The DDAL

The Welcome Mat

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The Welcome Mat

Welcome
Greetings Union Brothers and Sisters,

I want to wish everyone a very Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year. I hope 2017 brings us all an overabundance of good fortune and a stress FREE workplace, even though it is in the Postal Service. There are a few topics I would like to touch on in my Article. I may not touch on in my Article. I may be repeating myself, however this information is always worth discussing and I hope you share it with your co-workers.

P.A.E Our MTESC Center

In October of 2016, our P.A.E MTESC employees began to receive permanent lay-off notices from their employer. Our MTESC center housed in Wayne, MI employed several dozen American Postal Workers Union members. The building was a closed shop, one of our only closed shops across the country. The reason for the loss of union jobs there was because the company lost their contract with the Post Office. The MTESC employees were contracted by the Postal Service to repair, clean, empty, count, stack and ship postal equipment. This included BMC’s, wires, tubs, trays, bags, sleeves, APC’s and the like. These were all full time jobs and the loss of the postal contract left a lot of our members without a job, just before the holidays.

The company which took the USPS bid from P.A.E is called Hollingsworth. Hollingsworth is a local company headquartered in Dearborn, MI. They operate a plant in Temperance, MI, which is where the MTESC operations are currently taking place. What is unfortunate is that Hollingsworth has refused to hire any of the previous employees who had worked for P.A.E. Hollingsworth hired employees from the street to work in their plant and even went out of their way to refuse APWU members employment. Back when President Obama was elected, he signed into law an executive order that mandated all government contractors who work on government contracts to hire the current workforce. This would save the government millions of dollars in training and hiring costs. It would also guarantee employment for the current workers. Hollingsworth refused to follow this order and has challenged it. The American Postal Workers Union has filed National Labor Relations Charges against Hollingsworth, and are currently waiting a decision. We know it is very difficult for our members to be out of work for several months and they should know that we are doing everything possible to seek relief in the court with the NLRB charges. We will keep you updated on our progress.

ABA – ACCIDENT BENEFIT ASSOCIATION

I am sure you have all heard this before, but like I said above, this needs repeating. The Accident Benefit Association is an insurance company that is paid for by the Detroit District Area Local APWU for all active union members. Yes, you must be a union member to be a member of the ABA. Each and every member receives at no additional cost – twenty-four hour a day, seven days a week insurance coverage. The ABA covers FREE to union members a $6,000.00 accident death benefit to your family in case of your accidental death. In addition, and most importantly to each member, is that the ABA covers you for any covered accidents you are involved in and will pay YOU $12.00 per calendar day covered accidents when you are disabled from any kind of work or if you are retired, anything that would prevent you from normal life functions. Union members are covered for 365 days per year and also have a dismemberment benefit. If you are in an auto accident and you are out of work from three weeks, the ABA will send you a check directly to you for $252.00. If you break your arm and you miss six months of work, the ABA will send you a check for $192.00. These benefits are provided without any medical exam or questions. Never a phone call to your home, and no home visits from anyone.

It pays to belong to the UNION. The coverage is Free to members, however, you have the option to increase your coverage, which is guaranteed, to a high option, which pays $24.00 per day for an accident, and $10,000.00 accidental death benefit. You can also upgrade to whole life insurance up to $150,000.00 or term life up to $150,000.00 with no medical examinations or questions. The ABA offers critical care coverage, basic life for your children and grand-children and extended accident benefits, with cash payments for medical care. See your Steward for more ABA benefit options.

Local Memorandums Of Understanding

The Detroit District Area Local has completed local negotiations with our represented offices of the GWY, the DNDC, the Garage, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Lambertville, Taylor, St. Clair Shores, Eastpointe, Fraser, Centerline, Southfield, Livonia, Livonia Greenwood and Temperance. One item in two of our individual Local Contracts have been sent up to impasse arbitration. Unfortunately, the Postal Service and the Union were unable to come to an agreement on vacation disputes in our Southfield Post Office and at our main Detroit GWY Facility. When a decision is reached on these two items in the Local Contracts, the decision will be posted for all employees. For a copy of your Office’s Local Memorandum of Understanding, contact your Steward or call the Union Office.
OVERTIME: American labor unions fought since the beginning of the 20th Century for the 8-hour day and 40-hour work week. Eight hours a day and 40 hours a week is considered full-time employment in this country. But overtime work hours in the Postal Service are run- way out of control. Letter carriers are out delivering mail long after dark, including long after dark on Sundays. This is not merely a matter of working late; it is quite literally dangerous. Nobody expects a letter carrier to be up on their porch after dark with the threat of delivering Amazon packages. Letter carriers have repeatedly reported to me their fear of delivering mail after dark. Also, carriers cannot very well read addresses on mail as they walk along in the dark. But it isn’t just letter carriers working too many hours. At Ypsilanti, for example, it is reported that at least one clerk worked 100 hours in a week. That is two and half times a work week! In mail processing operations at the Processing and Distribution Center, employees have rou- tinely worked 12 hours a day and 80 hours in a week. The Postal Uniform shops or at online authorized websites and catalogs may be used at authorized funds may be used at authorized retail Employees. You will be custodial employees. You will be issued a uniform allowance credit annually on your anniversary date. There is no reason for man- agement to hire more clerks, or post more jobs, at your office, if you toler- ate our work being taken away. Most of our offices do not have a steward on site, so it is up to the rank-and-file to send witness statements to the office or to their steward so that a grievance can be filed. Let me as- sure everyone: we WIN these types of grievances! Our problem is that our members will not file them! We have to load up and hit the street. You are the only one at closing time and you can’t do the window finals while also clearing the returning carriers. I know that. But manage- ment created that situation. If you tolerate the CCA’s coming in at 4:00 a.m. to scan the parcels that a clerk should be scanning, if you tolerate the supervisor clearing the carriers of accountables at the end of the day, if you tolerate the supervisor retrieving parcels for window customers, if you tolerate either carriers or super- visors acting as “lobby directors” you are letting clerk craft work get away. There is no reason for man- agement to hire more clerks, or post more jobs, at your office, if you toler- ate our work being taken away. Most of our offices do not have a steward on site, so it is up to the rank-and-file to send witness statements to the office or to their steward so that a grievance can be filed. Let me as- sure everyone: we WIN these types of grievances! Our problem is that our members will not file them! We have to load up and hit the street. 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As you are aware there have been several PSE conversions that have taken place on January, 21, 2017. There of the conversion process that took place on January 21, 2017. There were 18 residual positions listed on this preference sheet but only 15 PSE’s from the seniority roster were requested to preference into these positions . . . which would have left 3 positions remaining. The union has several grievances filed for the remaining 3 positions for the employees involved that were next on the seniority list to be converted but that were not requested to preference a position. We currently also have a request for information in order to determine why 3 positions remain unfilled in spite of management knowing that they were residual positions and should have been offered to the next PSE’s in seniority order.

While also looking at the preference sheet that employees were requested to bid from in that same conversion process it has also been discovered that the residual positions that had been discussed in the grievance procedure are not the same as what the newly converted employees were given to preference from. In reviewing the documents discussed in step 2 meetings the union has determined that there are potentially an additional 14 positions that are unaccounted for and at this time we are trying to determine the status of those residual positions. Grievances are in place for these 14 positions which hopefully will lead to more conversions.

The union is aware that many PSE’s are frustrated and please understand that we share your concerns as the Postal Service has made this process more difficult than it should be. Over the past several months, we have had delayed conversions based on a wrong seniority roster and now there are discrepancies in the amount of residual positions. The union most recently has filed labor charges with the NLRB related to requests for information pertaining to these residual positions so that we can better have the appropriate grievances in place to maximize conversion for PSE’s.

There are so many rumors circulating throughout the facility and at this time I ask that if you have any questions or concerns to please see myself or any other steward and we will be more than happy to show you all information related to PSE conversions. Although it should not be. It is actually more complicated than you think.

Strategy Going Forward In The Clerk Craft

continued from page 4 provision that much work formerly done by 204Bs would be taken over by the newly-created Lead Clerk positions. The important changes in the 2010-2015 Agreement, however, were ignored by management, both nationally and locally in the Detroit District. Because management clearly intended to disregard the changes in the contract, it became necessary for your Detroit District Area Local to actively pursue grievances to enforce the changed provisions.

In two landmark arbitration awards in June and December, this local union has prevailed in grievances filed concerning use of 204Bs in violation of the contract at the Detroit Network Distribution Center and the Detroit Processing and Distribution Center. Management has been ordered in each case to “Cease and Desist” utilizing acting-supervisors 204Bs in violation of the National Agreement and compel management into line with the much more restrictive provisions for use of 204B acting supervisors, as well as the more restrictive provisions for use of 204Bs.

As your Clerk Craft Director, I am committed to the strategies described above.

Campaign for Postal Banking

The Campaign for Postal Banking is a coalition of consumer, worker, financial reform, economic justice, community, civic, and faith-based organizations calling for low-cost, consumer-driven financial services via the Postal Service. Products and services could range from check-cashing to bill payment to savings accounts to small loans. Postal banking would benefit consumers who do not have access to traditional banks. The expansion of services will also strengthen our public Postal Service. To learn more, visit www.campaignforpostalbanking.org.

Your Personal Union Insurance Brought To You By The DDAL

continued from page 1 Thankfully, nobody was hurt and we got everyone and the pets out safely. However, extensive smoke damage was prevalent throughout the house. We were put in another residence for three months. Every stitch of clothes, every tool, knife, fork . . . I mean EVERYTHING was taken out of the house to have the smoke taken out. The whole inside of the house needed remodeling due to the smoke damage. Can you imagine if we didn’t have insurance? We would have lost everything. The same goes with you being in the union. If it’s your Personal Union Insurance. Yes, it may be true you never use the union, but you never know, one day you may need the union to save your job, so you don’t lose everything.

Now let’s talk about other ways you can use the union. Your dues pay for the Accident Benefit Plan (ABA), which gives MEMBERS only free accident and injury insurance. These benefits, along with our cost of living increases, our guaranteed salary, our no lay-off clause (6 years seniority), our night differential, our holiday pay, overtime, etc., are all negotiated by the union. These benefits are not guaranteed and the union must fight for them every contract.

Even though most funds for the Halloween party, the Christmas party and picnic is raised by fundraisers, the union puts on these fine functions to thank the membership.

We give you retirement information and advice. We give you FMLA information advice and forms. Your union represents you whenever you need it. The benefits listed in this article are just a few of things the union does.

In the end, instead of asking yourself or others, “why should I be in the union,” maybe you should ask yourself “why shouldn’t I be in the union?” The Detroit District Area Local, your Personal Union Insurance.
I received many calls on recent payouts that employees have been receiving. I would first like to state that whenever the Union files a grievance it is our intent to obtain as much relief as possible for as many aggrieved employees that we can. The DDAL has been very successful in obtaining relief for a great number of employees.

In 2013 over 900 clerk craft employees received approximately $500 each which included clerks from the City Stations, GWY, and the former Priority Mail facility. Also in 2013 approximately 70 employees received right around 2.4 million dollars for the improper excessing and denial of retroactive payments. In 2014 over 200 City Station clerks received $450 for carriers and supervisors performing clerk work. This is just to name a few.

In December of 2016 two additional significant settlements were reached in which approximately 100 clerks received $1,000 and another 30 clerks received $5,000. The $1,000 checks were for crossing craft violations in which 9 stations which had the most violations were compensated. Many employees wanted to know why every station did not receive the $1,000.

The short answer is that we did not have statements or proof from each facility. A lot of times employees witness violations but they do not want to say anything or provide a statement which is their right but the downside of that is that when it is time to prove the case that evidence is often detrimental in obtaining relief. Most of the testimony at the hearing I actually provided my personal eyewitness testimony by surprise visits at the stations at 5:00 a.m. and at closing time. We had another very brave clerk (I shall not name because she caught Hell back then) who testified and was very instrumental in us winning the arbitration. The APWU and the USPS entered a remedy settlement for employees at the 9 stations.

We even have had success at the Northville Post Office outside of Detroit in which each clerk received $2,000 during a separate arbitration proceeding (December 2015) for crossing craft violations. The USPS can easily avoid these type of paycuts by simply ordering the supervisors and letter carriers to “KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF OUR CLERK WORK!”

Imagine the uproar if clerks started going out and delivering mail to earn extra overtime.

I would like to say to my brothers and sisters in Detroit that the most significant part of the arbitration award was the “cease and desist” order issued by the arbitrator. That means that even if supervisors or carriers are still performing clerk work today it is a violation of the arbitration award and the union can still file a grievance “Today.” It is not so much a question of whether it is a violation but the real question is how willing are we as employees to get involved and inform the union as to what is going on. I believe that the preservation of clerk jobs and adherence to the contract is most important.

If supervisors or carriers are passing out mail, throwing or scanning parcels, dropping tubs, staging DPS, retrieving vacation holds, certified, or parcels over the window, throwing box mail, performing dispatch, passing out accountables in the morning or clearing the carriers in the evening, or any number of clerk craft duties — you do not have to personally challenge management but at a minimum write a statement and inform the union.

The $5,000 checks was a result of a settlement regarding the 30 remaining employees who did not receive any compensation from the prior excessing case. The excessing in Detroit created an enormous amount of hardship on many employees and their families. Although no amount of money can take away the pain and inconvenience that some of our brothers and sisters endured we were pleased to make their day a little bit better. It will not pay off the house but it makes for a very good week.

What is cooking in the hopper right now? We were successful this past December 2016 in a monumental grievance filed back in 2013 which involved the improper use of 204Bs at the City Stations and the GWY facility. The arbitrator awarded that clerk craft employees be compensated at the overtime rate for all hours worked by the 204Bs from June of 2013 all the way to December of 2016. What is amazing is that I actually gave management a deal for all of 2012 if they would just stop violating but they kept right on violating despite a signed settlement. Brother John Merritt is currently negotiating the remedy payout on the arbitration award and will keep the membership apprised of any developments.

In closing I would like to state that I enjoyed all of my years fighting for the DDAL and I will always do whatever I can to protect the rights of our hardworking Brothers and Sisters. Although I am now a National Officer I will never lose my commitment to the employees of Detroit and the DDAL. In Solidarity.

**DDAL Christmas Bazaar**

The DDAL’s first annual Holiday Bazaar was held at your union hall on December 3rd. There were tables of unique arts and crafts for sale, vendors specialty items and even Santa came in to visit the children. The event was a huge success and it is going to be an annual event at the DDAL.
Hello brothers and sisters and Happy New Year! I hope that every one truly enjoyed their holiday festivities! I would like to begin this article with a positive note. For Thanksgiving, the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO prepared and distributed 100 food baskets and for Christmas we prepared and delivered over 1100 baskets to families in need. These were union members who volunteered their time or are underemployed [shortened hours] and families in the community and they were so thankful and appreciative as we drove through the line getting their baskets.

Okay that was the good news. So, during the lame duck session in Lansing there were a couple of bills (SB 279 & 280) that we did stav off (at least for a minute). I am not sure what the status is right now but I do know that our new Legislature came out swinging. Okay, now to the business at hand, it would be an understatement to say that I was [maybe still am] hurt and dismayed by the outcome of the election. All during and even after the election, there were many accusations and blame being tossed around. There were those who blamed the all the innuendos, rumors and lies about Hillary Clinton. Then there were those who blamed the failed Democratic Party itself and certainly there is probably some truth to all of that. Whoever you choose to lay the blame on, the fact remains that there are still very difficult questions on the circumstances of our election. I also wonder now if you are still happy with the decision you made. I would really like to know why some were so adamant in their belief that the “badass” e-mails somehow made Hillary guilty of something. And now that there is more evidence of “hacking” those same folks that condemned Hillary now want to totally dismiss any and everything remotely related to “any hacking!” I would like to know why the other train continuously hinted about the “popular” vote they were so sure he would get while believing that Hillary would get the electoral votes and how they would not accept it IF IN FACT that would happen.

So now, fast forward to election night and now suddenly, there is no more talk about “a rigged system”! I believe we all know what their side would be saying and doing if the outcome had not gone their way. I mean, they all said so repeatedly. Now I just wish that folks would stop yelling “sour grapes”, or “you lost so get over it” everytime someone has a question or comment about the election. We have a right to express our opinions, dismay, and doubt the same way you do.

Also along those same lines, I have not turned away any FRIENDS who had a different opinion than I. I cannot honestly say that I have UNDERSTOOD or accepted their opinion any more than they accepted mine but we are all entitled and that’s what makes us the most diverse and widely accepted country that we are. This whole process (failure) is about so much more than that. It’s about our Democracy and the sanctity of our voting rights. It’s about the protection of our constitu- ents. It’s all about the people for [and not hurt] our country I can say was wrong (no harm/no foul) and I apologize. If it turns out that he destroys us more than helps, what will [or can] you say? If in fact mil- lions of folks lose their health care and then cannot get other coverage, what can you say? If the hospital or doctor makes an error and you can no longer sue, or just say they stop working? NOBODY cares? NOBODY looks back at just some of the things he said, for instance . . . he says he wants to “make America great again” and I ask in relative to what? Is he speaking of a specific time in history? He says one thing one minute and something else the next and then says “I didn’t say that!” He has been allowed to say vicious, venom- ous things to and about folks and then we are just supposed to ap- cuse and forgive what he said. But on the other hand, when something is said and/or done to him, prejud- iced against him, the hate and the “murder” is screamed. To be clear, this is not a beat up on him article but is just pointing out the facts that I have noticed. Now we will just have to wait and see. I must say the start does not LOOK to promising, given the folks he has chosen as his cabinet. In each case, it appears that he has nominated the FOX to take charge of the henhouse (again, my opinion). Everyone that he has nominated is and has been either pro privatization, pro war, pro big business/corporations, against public education, against Medicaid/ Medicare and so forth. So now we get to the question that I hear most from everyone: if he’s so bad then why was he elected? I can only re- spond with the responses that folks gave as I was canvassing and phone banking which were: “too much hatred, bigotry, and just plain old apathy.” Most of those I spoke with said “I don’t want him, but I can’t stand her!” Others said “she is the same and Pres. Obama and I didn’t vote for him!” We all can’t really do anything about a person’s feel- ings of hate or racism, short of lov- ing them in spite of; but when it comes to apathy that is something different. When folks say to me “it doesn’t matter”, “my vote was just a count anyway” it tears me up inside. Then I ask if they vote in every elec- tion. Most do not. I ask if they call or write their legislators; most say no. To that I ask WHY?? So you just let people run for office, don’t try to find out anything about them, don’t know if they care about you, your situation, your community, your safety or basically your life and then you expect . . . what? I hear so many folks say that the Democrats “take us/our vote for granted” I have never heard that from a Republican. When you get one of these ‘I hear “they only come around when they want our vote”! And I dare say that really the people that do hear, see or hear their name. I must ask; have you ever talked to him/her and asked anything specific of them. Have you ever called or wrote to thank them for anything they have done? Do you call them on issues whether economic, employment, service or safety related? Do you ask or try to find out how they vot- ed on an issue? Do you vote in the many elections that happen? It begins. It starts with those you elect to city councils, county commissioner- ers, mayors, school boards and state representatives/legislators.

Brothers and sisters, if we are go- ing to ever regain real democracy, this is where we must start. We have let this go far too long. There are a few things I am asking you to please pay attention to. The time is now to begin thinking to change our state legislature. Talk to your current Senators and Representatives. Go to their coffee hours or ask for a town meeting. Find out what they have done and what they will be do- ing this year.

In 2017 we will be voting for a new Governor, please do not wait until next year to begin seeking in- formation. I wish we could have gotten rid of tricky Ricky in his first term but again too many folks voted “against” a good candidate because they “didn’t KNOW” him and for a business man. I said it then and I say it now, WE ARE PEOPLE, NOT “A BUSINESS”! And look where we are right now. Folks the way laws are being passed right now that are anti worker, anti-public education, anti-union, anti-regulation, and just plain anti-every day citizen. Under- this legislation, we have had the largest city in the state go bankrupt, we’ve had a city poisoned causing long term damage to seniors and children. They have usurped your rights and violated the constitution on so many levels. They have decla- rated public education and are still going after the teachers. We voted for Rights to Work. We then simply re-wrote it, attached appropria- tions to it and passed it anyway (going back later and removing the appropriations). As of right now they are planning to repeal the prevailing wage law. They are passing laws to fine folks for picketing. Now add all of this to what is happening nation- ally and I can honestly say that we must get involved and get active!

The Michigan Democratic Party Convention was held on February 11, 2017 at Cobo Hall. Brandon Dil- lon retained his seat as the party chairperson and Jonathan Kinlock and Rick Blocker retained their seats on the 13th and 14th Congressional Districts. There we will vote for who will be the Party Chairperson. We will also be voting on your chair- persons for your Congressional Dis- trict. For those who are unhappy with what has been happening, you should be there to vote your opin- ion. You will also get to know who these folks are and it’s a great oppor- tunity to get information.

I know I must end this article for now but please watch out and pay attention cause our future depends on it! In Solidarity.
Let Me Introduce Myself

Hello, my name is Kathy Carter and I am honored to serve you as your Human Relations Director. I began my career at the USPS in 1978 at the age of 18. In 1983, I went on military leave to serve four years in the United States Air Force. I returned to the GWY facility in 1987 to continue my career. I have been an APWU steward for about six years and a member for 30 plus years.

I'm no different than you, life challenges have followed me throughout the years as it does to all of us. I have 38 years in the Postal Service and I can say I know a lot about the struggles of being a postal employee with everything that is going on. I will do my best to assist and serve you in every way possible.

I want to shout out to the Entertainment Committee that has done such a great job with the social events the last year. Let's continue to work together and build positive relations with each other.

Who and what is the Human Relations Director?

• The Human Relation’s Director shall prepare and direct programs in the area of equal opportunity, civic, community service, and all related programs.

• Educates and assists in the social and interpersonal relations between human beings.

• Assists members in OWCP and EEO cases on an "as needed" basis.

• The officer identifies problems in the workplace, such as members off on long term absences, in financial difficulties, substance abuse problems and other issues of community interests.

Once again, I want to thank the membership for allowing me to serve you as the Human Relations Director.

Your Revamped And Improved Website

Your union website is considered one of the best designers in the country. Dale is a maintenance mechanic at the GWY on tour 2. If you have any comments or suggestions, go to the comment section of the website and leave a message. There is much more information on the website than we could fit in this paper. Check it out, we think you will like it. Go to www.apwudetroit.org

Major Victory For The Union – USPS To Halt Postal Products And Services Being Sold At Staples

After a three year battle and the efforts of our members and fellow allies, Postal Management informed the APWU that the "Approved Shipper" program in Staples stores was being discontinued at the end of 2017. This program was a program where the USPS staffed Staples stores with non-postal employees selling postal products and services.

For the full article and more information go to www.apwudetroit.org or the national website www.apwu.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION

Please help us to maintain our membership mailing list. The form printed below should be completed and sent the Local office whenever you make a change of address. This will allow us to continue our mailings to you without interruption.

Name ________________________ EID # _________________________
New Address ___________________________________________________
City __________________________ Zip ____________________________
Post Office _____________________________________________________
Home Phone ____________________________________________________

Address Correction Form

2017 Membership Meeting
The meetings are held at your union hall: 20530 Southfield Road, Detroit, MI 48235.
Sunday, April 9th
Meetings are held between 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.