The Bay Breeze
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MY UNION

What kind of Union would my Union be
If all the members were all like Me?
You can thoughtfully ask yourself that question.
If not, perhaps it's a swell suggestion.
You can sit by, find fault with the officers,
censure and gripe.
Or you can be one who is always on call
Both ready and willing to carry the ball.
To your fellow members you soon will be known
As a true loyal worker, or else as a drone.
You can pass on new members, or you can refuse
To take any part beyond paying your dues.
You can stand on the sidelines, or jump in and play
Attend every meeting, or just stay away.
You can visit their homes when members are ill,
Or leave all the calling to Joe or to Jill.
Whatever your talents, some job you can do,
So say to yourself as the past review.
What kind of Union would my Union be
If all of the members were all like Me?
-Author Unknown

Northeastern Wisconsin Area Local #2247
American Postal Workers Union

Volume 63/Issue 3
May/June 2020

THE BAY BREEZE

American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

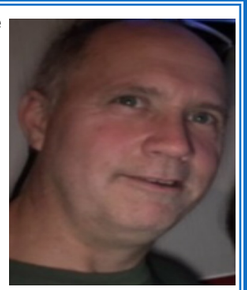
NATIONAL ★ AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION AFL-CIO ★ UNION
PPA
POSTAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

There is no "Me" in Union . . . Just "U" and "I" and only "U" and "I" can make a difference.

Next Meeting:
May 31
Green Bay Labor Temple
1570 Elizabeth St
10 person limit-please let Kelly know if you plan to attend

Articles for the next Bay Breeze due by:
July 5, 2020

Letter from the President



Where to begin?

COVID-19 it is real and it is affecting many postal workers. I have been on 80% of the telecoms for the Lakeland district concerning the spread and what we are doing to prevent the spread from affecting postal workers at a more rapid pace. I have tried my best to make sure all offices have sneeze guards by the window areas and gloves, masks, and some sort of hand sanitizers. If you are reading this and your office has none of the above let me know immediately. I also bought masks for union members so if you want one, let me know.

All offices should be wiping down all hot spots such as bubblers, time clocks, restrooms, break rooms, and door handles at least once per day in smaller offices and once per shift at the plant. Please let me know if this is not happening.

We have had one positive test so far at the plant. Please remember that HIPPA laws protect the privacy of the individual and not knowing who has tested positive could cause problems with correct tracing as the HIPPA law is still in place. I think management in Green Bay, namely Casey and Tim Lewis, has done a good job navigating these rough waters.

I along with Bill Curtis and Vicki Bickel have now done extra bleach freak-cleaning on the dock at the plant.
Masks are not mandatory at this time and although they are uncomfortable and it's hard to breathe in them, employees should wear them in confined areas with other employees.

Many employees have asked about fans. As of now different opinions go both ways so the best advice by CDC is to get as much fresh air into the building as possible, which is sometimes hard to do at the post office.

I would like to personally thank all postal workers who are scared, but who show up every day to help process the mail for delivery and who help with the window areas. I know many employees feel they should receive hazard pay, but this is the job we accept. Every day we accept packages from the customer and trust that there is no threat to postal workers in those packages and this pandemic is no different. The union has fought long and hard for decent wages and the union has also fought for workers protection during this crisis.

A contractual raise has been put on your last check. I don't know when retro pay will be handed out, and the future of the post office is a major concern for me. We at the plant have lost a great percentage of third-class mail which pays 85%of our wages. The census mailing and stimulus checks have helped us in the short term, but these are one-time mailings as well as political mailings and absentee balloting, and just look at the mess we were blamed for with the spring elections. Imagine the uproar certain politicians would have on either side of the Presidential election if it was done solely by absentee ballots. Although I

(Continued on page 7)

President	Kelly Heaney
Vice President	Dave Kroll
Secretary/Treasurer	Art Ciesielczyk
Recording Secretary	Jenny Starry
Editor	Kelsey Helf
Clerk Craft Director	Steve Paradise
Motor Vehicle Craft Director	Jeremy Linberg
Maintenance Craft Director	Pete Knutson

The Bay Breeze is the official voice of the American Postal Workers Union, Northeastern Wisconsin Area Local, published six times a year. The due date for publication is the first day of the odd month unless otherwise publicized.

The Bay Breeze attempts to keep the membership abreast of all important issues. We are proud members of the National Postal Press Association and International Labor Communications Association. We are also members of the APWU of WI, Wisconsin State AFL-CIO , Greater Green Bay labor Council and were the first local in WI to join the APWU Accident Benefit Association as a 100% local.

Letters, correspondences, and articles by members and officers are encouraged. Send them to the return address on this newsletter. Articles must be signed by the author and names may be withheld upon request. Opinions are those of the contributors and not necessarily the Union, the Officers, or the Editor.

The Editor reserves the right to delete, edit, or rewrite to fit the format or this newsletter, to disallow any attacks of individuals, and to refuse to print any article deemed improper or unfit for publication. Articles that are not credited are those of the Editor.

STEWARDS

Packerland Drive Office (GMF)

Tour 1

Clerk Chief Steward	Dave Kroll
Clerk Alternate Steward	Chris Opolka and Kelly Heaney
Maintenance Chief Steward	Dave Villwock
Maintenance Alt Steward	Frank Sleik

Tour 2

Clerk Chief Steward	Steve Paradise
Clerk Alternate Steward	Ekaterina Bouyear, Kelly Heaney and Chris Opolka
Maintenance Chief Steward	Ekaterina Bouyear
MVS Chief Steward	Jeremy Linberg

Tour 3

Clerk Chief Steward	Chris Opolka
Clerk Alternate Steward	Kelly Heaney
Maintenance Chief Steward	Kelly Heaney
Alternate Maintenance Steward	Vacant

VMF

Chief Steward	Jeremy Linberg
Alternate Steward	Vacant

AO Stations

Clerk Chief Steward	Steve Paradise
Clerk Alternate Steward	Lacy Buck

DePere Post Office

Clerk Chief Steward	Sheri Beauleau
Clerk Alternate Steward	Alex Mahn

All other AO's

Clerk Chief Steward	Kelly Heaney

"How in the hell does Carnival, a cruise ship company that pays virtually no federal income taxes, receive a bailout, but the Postal Service, the most popular government agency in America, does not?"

—Senator Bernie Sanders

(Continued from page 1)

would love the business, both sides would blame the postal service if they lost the election.

Net loss for the postal service for fiscal 2nd quarter was 4.5 billion per the USPS website, now does that amount factor in the prerequisite to pay future retirees, I don't know. Please take a moment and go on APWU.org and fill out the information to let congress and the senate know that we too are essential workers and that we too need help if we are to survive. President Trump has suggested we raise the price of packages by 4 times the current amount. How much package business would we lose to UPS, Fed Ex, and Amazon delivery itself if we raised our prices way above our competition? The new Postmaster General is Louis Dejoy and he has said that he has a great appreciation for the USPS institution and the dedicated workers who faithfully execute its mission. Let's hope he remembers this statement when he tries to privatize us. A lot of people out there only see the mail carriers and believe that this is the only face of the postal service.

We haven't reserved a place for our summer picnic yet as the deposit is non-refundable and quite expensive so we will play it close to the vest. We may have to forgo the event and plan something for late fall or December.

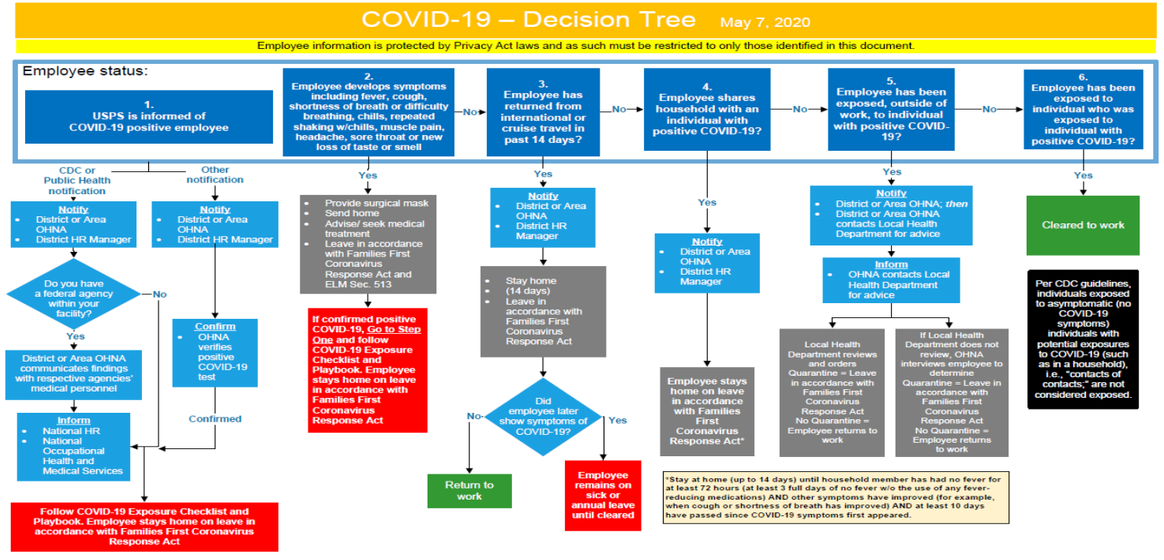
I would like to thank Robert Olson for his tireless efforts in making sure the treasury part of the union is on a sound footing. Over the last few years, he dealt with 11 IRS letters dating back to 2015, and with the help of accountants got it all straightened out. Hopefully, Art Ciesielczyk will carry the torch forward with the same zest and love for the union as Robert Olson had.

To all my new retired USPS employee - Congrats and enjoy life and we will see you at a union picnic

We are going to have the next union meeting on the 31st of May at the Labor Temple in Green Bay at 1:00 PM (12:30 for the executive board) if we are not supposed to have more than 10 people per Governor Evers executive order, the union will ask that only a few union members attend and we will just do the union business and without ordering food and be done as safely and quickly as possible. I hope all unions members can understand this and accept this way of doing business for the short term.

May all employees try and stay safe and let's honor a moment of silence for all those postal workers who have lost their lives during this COVID-19 pandemic.

In solidarity,
Kelly Heaney NEWAL President



Congrats Retirees!

John Destiche **Elaine Fitzpatrick**

Roxanne Cagle **Gloria Shermo** **Dave Lumaye**

"The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by an Act of Congress, and supported by the people." 39 U.S.C. §101(a).

Hailey Moesch and Nehemiah Bex had a baby girl!!

Employees of the USPS must be included on the list of workers who deserve our praise, appreciation and support.

APWU HEALTH PLAN

Comprehensive, affordable health benefits for postal workers, federal employees and retirees.

The Health Plan will:

- Cover telehealth (medical and mental health) visits at **no cost** to the member when visits are performed through the Health Plan's telehealth providers:
  - * High Option: Visits through Amwell are available at www.amwell.com at **no cost** to the member
  - * Consumer Driven Option: Virtual visits through Amwell, Teladoc, and Doc on Demand are available at www.myuhc.com at **no cost** to the member
- Cover telehealth visits to network providers at **no cost** to the member when related to COVID-19
- Cover COVID-19 testing at no cost to the member when testing is prescribed by a clinical professional including antibody testing once it becomes widely available
- Cover health care provider office visits, urgent care center visits and emergency room visits that result in an order for or administration of a diagnostic test for COVID-19 at **no cost** to the member
- Cover in-network inpatient and outpatient care for COVID-19 treatment at **no cost** to the member
- Waive inpatient prior authorization requirements related to COVID-19
- Reminder: Members are encouraged to use mail order for maintenance medications which provides a 90-day refill and the delivery is free

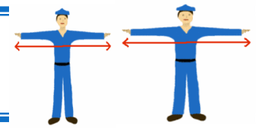
Your Health Plan Representative is Jenny Starry 920-373-3225 jennystarry@yahoo.com

DID YOU KNOW?

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

The Postal Service is not losing money because of Amazon. It's losing money because in 2006, the Republican-led Congress passed a law forcing it to prepay its pensions for 75 years, which no other corporation does. This was meant to bankrupt it so it's business could be privatized for profit. Without this law, the Postal Service would be turning a profit.

Solidarity; Six Feet Apart



Lech Walesa, a Polish union activist, from the period of 1980 to 1990 helped organized and led Poland's first independent trade union known as Solidarność, which is Polish for Solidarity.

Lech Walesa was born on September 29, 1943 in Popwo, Poland. Walesa was the son of carpenter but was trained as an electrician and mechanic. In 1967, he began working as an electrician at the Soviet shipyards in Gdansk. Walesa was subjected to the brutal conditions which workers had to endure working in the shipyards and then in 1970 he witnessed food riots in Gdansk in which police killed many demonstrators. In 1976, new protests became active against the communist government in Poland. Walesa emerged as an antigovernment union activist and lost his job in the shipyards as a result.

According to a biography of Lech Walesa in Achievers.com, on August 14, 1980, during a protest at the Lenin Shipyard caused by increased food prices, Walesa climbed over the shipyard fence and joined the workers in protest. The workers elected Walesa head of the strike committee to negotiate with management of the shipyard. In just three days, the strikers' demands were conceded to. Workers from around the area of Gdansk heard of the concessions by management of the shipyard, they asked Walesa to continue his strike out of solidarity, he immediately agreed.

Walesa took charge of an Interfactory Strike Committee that united workers throughout Gdansk and the surrounding area. The committee issued a set of bold political demands including a right to strike and form free-trade unions. Fearing a national revolt, the communist authorities yielded to the workers' demands. The communist government of Poland led by Mieczyslaw Jagielski, deputy premier, signed an agreement conceding to the workers' right to organize freely and independently.

The Interfactory Strike Committee was transformed into a national federation of unions under the name Solidarnośc (Solidarity), with Lech Walesa as its chairman and chief spokesman.

Solidarity's influence led to the intensification and spread of anti-communist ideals and movements throughout the countries of the Eastern Bloc, weakening their communist governments. In 1983 Lech Walesa was recognized by the outside world for his courage and non-violent peaceful means used against communism in Poland and was awarded the Nobel Peace prize. On August 24, 1989**,** Poland's Parliament ended more than 40 years of one-party rule by making Mazowiecki the country's first non-Communist Prime Minister since World War II. Solidarity gave rise to a broad, non-violent, anti-communist social movement that, at its height, claimed to have more than 9.4 million members. It is considered to have contributed greatly to the fall of the evils of communism, and a free Poland.

I can still remember watching the evening news showing the Solidarnośc parades in Gdansk, Warsaw, and many other cities in Poland in 1989. There were many rows of workers locked arm in arm with each other and with Lech Walesa in the middle of the first row walking down the main streets of Poland with banners displaying Solidarnośc and the flags of Poland.

I attended a class on "Organizing Within the Local" last August at the John Akey training seminars in Minneapolis. Since then I find myself searching for commonality within our Local. My articles for the Bay Breeze, since August, have been about my search for solidarity within the union. I'm looking for commonness other than we all work for the Postal Service either sorting mail, maintenance or truck driving at the Green Bay plant, stations and/or one of the A.O.'s. As union sisters and brothers, we need to be something more. What goal or position do we have that we have in common that we can walk locked arm in arm like the Solidarnośc movement back in the 1980's in Poland?

Unfortunately, my search for the time being will have to be placed on hold because of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic in our state and nation. Brown County is now the second highest in the number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 and second only to Milwaukee County. As a result, no longer will we be able to walk locked arm in arm with our fellow union members. Our Local has already cancelled March and April's membership meetings and if Governor Evers extends the "safer at home" beyond May 26 we will lose the chance to have a meeting in May as well. In other words, done is my search for Solidarnośc.

Wait a minute, isn't there a cliché that says; "when life gives you lemons, you make lemonade?" Certainly, Covid-19 can be easily seen as the lemons. However, who wants to make

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lemonade out of that disease? That is the point. It is not the lemonade that is the goal. Trying to make lemonade is the goal.

Before you dismiss me as a nut, let me explain. The Solidarnośc movement back in Poland is about bringing people together because of some rather difficult circumstances. Like Covid-19, Lech Walesa faced similar problems because of the Soviet backed Polish militia. The militia shot and killed many Walesa comrades in the labor movement after the communist government declared martial law. There was a certain fear of dying because of the strikes against the Polish government.

We, as employees of the Postal Service, face a similar dilemma. We have been determined to be essential workers. In other words, we must show up for work. We are not able to go out on strike. We must rely on each other for our own safety. For we all fear the virus and it's potential to lead to our death as well. Thus, we are in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the labor movement back 40 years ago in Poland. Also, like them we can count on the Union to see us through.

Not until the time of this pandemic, did I see so many emails form the APWU State of Wisconsin President, Paul McKenna; our National Business Agents (NBA's) Willie Mellon and Marty Mater concerning the union's and Postal management responses and information about Covid-19. The union is making sure that Postal management is providing us with all the information we need to know about the pandemic as well as preventative measures like social distancing, wearing gloves and masks (PPE) of which should be provided by the Postal service along with hand sanitizers and informing us to stay at home if you are sick; by sending this information to the Local's officers and stewards. As we keep in solidarity not only with our sisters and brothers in the APWU but also in solidarity with NALC, NRLCA, and the NPMHU we will be able to beat this disease and as did our Polish union brothers and sisters of Solidarnośc when they beat back the disease of Communism 40 years ago.

I look forward to marching down the main streets of America, locked arm in arm with my fellow union members, after we beat back this terrible pandemic. Until then, it must be Solidarity, six feet apart.

Ala Solidarnośc (For Solidarity)
Steve Paradise, NEWAL Clerk Craft Director

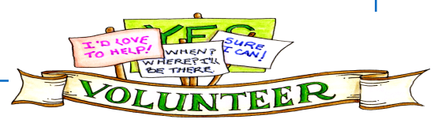
A Letter from our Secretary/Treasurer

Hello everyone. I took over the position on Secretary Treasure on 4/1/2020 and I just wanted to take a moment to say, "thank you". Thank you for voting for me, thank you for even voting, as it shows that you take interest in your union. I want to thank Tim Alberts and Bryce Thomas, whose work went on behind the scenes to get the everything that goes into a "secret ballot" election to run a successful election without any issues or surprises.

I was sent to St. Louis in early March 2020 BC (Before Covid-19) to take Beginner's Quick Books training. This was about a week before the new Local Contract broke and a few days before they cancelled the NCAA Basketball tournament. The Washington DC Union Representatives were in attendance and they said that the union was taking every conceivable precaution when it came to working with management to keep all the Postal Employees safe. I believe that everyone is trying their absolute best to fight this virus the best ways they can come up with. Together we must get through this. It just takes everyone's time and patience. I had a day of training on fiduciary responsibility and then two days of hands on quick book training. I learned a lot, but there is still so much to learn.

The last two union meetings have been cancelled due to the Corona Virus. Everyone's life is forever changed, some much more dramatically than others. I have yet to have any friends or family test positive for the virus, but I know people who have told me stories of losing family members. This is serious stuff. Please protect yourself while at work or in public.

If there is anything that I can do for you in my job as a custodian, please feel free to let me know and I can see what I can do. If you have any questions that I can try to answer from the union's perspective as a treasurer, please ask, and I will try to explain things the best that I can. I cannot answer any question about employee grievances, as I am not a union steward and those are separate matters. If anyone out there has any time or interest in helping the union in any way, please let me know and I will try to direct you to the right people.

Again, thanks for giving me the chance to be your union Secretary Treasurer. I am honored and humbled at the same time. I promise to do my best for you and the union.

Sincerely,
Arthur G. Ciesielczyk