The Bay Breeze
PO Box 10323
Green Bay, WI 54307-0323

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APWU

Petition to President Biden, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader

We call on you to quickly fill the four vacancies of the Postal Board of Governors with diverse and community-based members who:

- *Are fully committed to vibrant, public and universal postal services*
- *Reject the Postmaster General's agenda of cutting service and slowing the mail*
- *Will champion emergency COVID-relief for USPS*
- *Will support an agenda of expanding the role of the USPS in serving our communities*

Filling the vacancies on the postal board is essential to build back better the Postal Service and to serve our communities and to help heal our economy.

One-click petition sign up - Add your name to the petition directly now>>
or go to: www.apwu.org/savepostoffice

NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL

NEWAL LOCAL 2247 GREEN BAY, WI

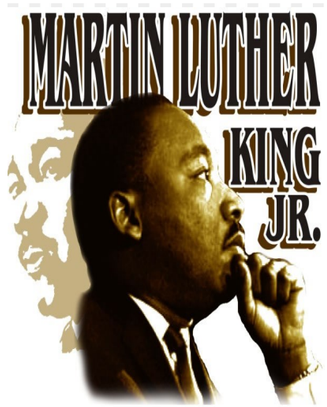
AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION
AFL-CIO

Volume 64/Issue 1
January/February 2021

THE BAY BREEZE

APWU American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

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



1929 1968

Next Meeting:

February 21 @ 7pm
Gallagher's Pizza
2655 W. Mason St

Letter from the President

Hello to all my union brothers and sisters,
What a mess of a year we had in 2020 and continuing in 2021. COVID-19 hit the plant hard in December, making the challenge of serving our customers almost a nightmare to deal with. Others stepped in and helped when I thought that we would come to a halt and moved mail for our customers, which is our business. The business of timely service often gets overlooked when trying to fix the Post Office. They never seem to realize that service is our only business and trust in the Post Office is not a daily given. This holiday season was the perfect storm. UPS and Fed EX said no more packages in early December, and then Amazon said they could not deliver all their parcels and dumped even more on the Postal Service. Was it a ploy to cause distrust among the American majority? Will this be a nail in the coffin for the USPS?
Amazon has used and abused the Post office, and now it has decided to deliver more and more of its own packages. It's amazing that they can buy or lease a vehicle to someone with their name on the vehicle and tell them when to report to work, yet not consider them employees and therefore feel that they don't have to pay benefits outside of an hourly wage. Covid not only hit the plant but wiped all Depere clerks in December and some other clerks in the associate offices that this local represents. Luckily, no USPS employee who I represent has died from Covid or has had underlying conditions that Covid made worse as of this article's writing. Some employees gave me a thank you card calling me superman for my efforts during December and I appreciate the gesture, but the real heroes are all the postal people who stepped up their game, working all those hours to move the mail. It is ironic seeing the ages of those hard workers and thinking, 'man, we have been doing this job for a long time.'
Now for the anger part of the letter. Those employees not affected by Covid or quarantined because they were named by someone having Covid, come to work. It is unbelievable how many people don't want to work anymore or feel that coming to work is an option. Where is

(Continued on page 3)

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	Christine Bouyear
Clerk Alternate Steward	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
Maintenance Chief Steward	Ekaterina Bouyear
MVS Chief Steward	Jeremy Linberg

Tour 3

Clerk Chief Steward	Vacant
Clerk Alternate Steward	Kelly Heaney, Christine Bouyear, Steve Paradise
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	Chris Opolka

DePere Post Office

Clerk Chief Steward	Sheri Beauleau
Clerk Alternate Steward	Alex Mahn

All other AO's

Clerk Chief Steward	Kelly Heaney

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Sec. 2. Immediate Action Regarding Federal Employees, Contractors, Buildings, and Lands. (a) The heads of executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall immediately take action, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to require compliance with CDC guidelines with respect to wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and other public health measures by: on-duty or on-site Federal employees; on-site Federal contractors; and all persons in Federal buildings or on Federal lands.

See the entire order: https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-protecting-the-federal-workforce-and-requiring-mask-wearing/

Why take the survey and give a supervisor a bonus when you can possibly get one instead!!

Jenny Starry and Debbie Lom

Each won a gift card for turning in their Postal Pulse envelopes. If you want your name added to that drawing, give your Postal Pulse surveys that you receive in the mail or at work, to a board member whenever you get one. We draw from a bag FULL of them. Thanks for playing everybody!

01/24/2021 Meeting Membership Drawing

$100

Bryce Thomas was not in attendance, so the February drawing will be for $120

Jeff Hackl —Mother passed

Pam Kraus—Mother and Sister passed

Pete Knutson —Mother passed

In December members were offered a chance in several gift card drawings for bringing in food donations for Paul's Pantry. 42 bags of food were donated thanks to everyone who participated. The winners of the drawings were:

Kelly Heaney	Ben Edinger
Pam Krause	Bethany Paiser
Maribel Sauer	Steve Paradise
Deb Nehmer	

TO ALL WHO DONATED TO HELP OTHERS—-

RETIRED~~~Carol Klescewski and Roger Ludke ~~~

CONGRATULATIONS !!!!!

Statement: Announcement by the Postmaster General Louis DeJoy That Recent Changes Slowing the Mail Will Be Temporarily Reversed

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

The above is a headline from APWU.org pre-election 2020. Here are my thoughts:

The changes were reversed for the election perhaps, but were they? They stopped taking blue boxes and sorting machines I heard. So maybe the mail moved better for election ballots, but that all ended almost immediately after the ballots were done. Ask anybody everywhere how that cheese and sausage was that grandma sent for Christmas once it arrived two months later. Epic fail Mr. Louis DeJoy. A transportation expert? How come he didn't see that coming?

Everyone in America bought online and shipped gifts to their loved ones, students were sent gifts from teachers, even Secret Santa went via USPS.

I ask my customers all of the time if they ever did finally receive their packages. So many still have not. Why not? There was no refusal of packages and no directives to the window staff accepting all of this mail, as to warn people that we were taking on too much and they, the customers, were going to suffer for it. We asked supervisors so many times and got no answers. Now, we clerks are asking what to tell these people who want refunds for the priority packages they sent to arrive on time (as the posted notices told everyone when to ship for prompt arrival). Many of which have yet to even show more than 'in transit' on the tracking. Customers are saying that reduced staff due to COVID is a tired excuse, even though that is the only legitimate one that we can see. Holiday help was hired but then let go immediately after the holiday. What about all of those parcels still in those trailers?? Did the end of the holiday season suddenly end the shortage of employees due to COVID? Did all of those late parcels suddenly go away? A parcel mailed today will surely arrive sooner than the one still sitting in the trailer that was shipped December 6, 2020. That is so not acceptable. Mr. DeJoy and his bonus-hunting crew of supervisors dropped the ball, He/They apparently didn't look at past the bonus expected for cutting costs and derailing the election (which we successfully accomplished despite his efforts). Just like the balance of powers that is hopefully now in the Federal Government branches, we need a balance of power in the Postal Government Branch. Here's hoping that more common sense and less greed gets this Postal Service back on track.

Kelsey Helf-Bay Breeze Editor

The APWU/USPS contract is going to expire this year. (didn't we just get that??) In any case, you should be getting a survey from APWU about what YOU would like in the new contract. Fill it out and send it in—-for the good of all of us.

Thinking about becoming a UNION STEWARD??!!

The APWU Research and Education Department is sponsoring a series of Zoom Trainings for local and state officers and shop stewards in <u>February 2021</u>. The link to register is only being sent to local/state presidents. If an officer or steward wishes to attend the Zoom Training, they must contact their president.
Kelly Heaney 715-301-3325

FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS

- ☺ 2nd Groundhogs Day
- ☺ 3 Feed The Birds Day
- ☺ 7 Super Bowl Sunday LIV
- ☺ 12 Lincoln's Birthday and Chinese New Year (Dragon)
- ☺ 14 Valentines Day
- ☺ 15 President's Day and Singles Awareness Day (Why is this a day?)
- ☺ 16 Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)
- ☺ 17 Ash Wednesday
- ☺ 20. Hoodie-Hoo Day
  What's Hoodie-Hoo Day I hear you ask? Well it's a special day which falls on 20th February every year and it is celebrated in a strange way! What happens is you're supposed to go out at noon, wave your hands over your head and shout "Hoodie-Hoo" to scare away Winter and make way for Spring!
- ☺ 22 Washington's Birthday
- ☺ 26 Purim (begins at sundown)
- ☺ 28 Oscar Night 2021

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(President's Letter continued from Page 1)

your work ethic? I bet that over 70% of USPS employees don't even have 120 hours of sick leave on their paycheck, especially if they have been here more than seven years. I am proud to say that every one of my surgeries that I had to be off work for three weeks or more was less stressful because I still had a paycheck coming in from my accrued sick leave, but employees nowadays don't seem to care. Listen-up, you younger generation, sick leave is a benefit to you fought hard by union men and women. It is a benefit to help you in case of actual need. The next time I hear a PSE, especially a new one, say that he/she called in during their probationary period because they were tired, I will walk away (because I have to), shake my head, and say wtf. Please, don't let me stereotype the young ones, suck it up and show up to work. For those on FMLA, if you need more than three months off a year, just quit the Post Office and find a different job, because unless you have a serious medical condition, this shows how selfish you are by the way you keep screwing over your fellow workers.

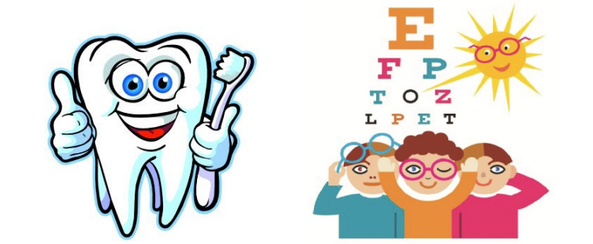
I always need stewards and help with the union. I have asked this before and will ask it until I am dead. This union needs your help. I need your help. If someone tells you that management was doing this or that, have that person write it down so I can attach that to the step 1. Being a steward isn't easy, but you can learn it eventually. Remember, I'm very old and won't be doing this much longer. Everyone complains but doesn't want to do the work to fix it, and you can save the excuses. I'll make it real simple; help out or complain to someone else.

Hey, employees who are engaged in trying to build morale here, how's that going? Ice cream, potluck, anything done in the last three years to improve the morale? Or that's right, blame it on Covid that there is no employee appreciation. How about safety and health - only management attends these meetings? Like employees aren't continually getting hurt.?

Vaccines- when and mandatory? I don't know when and didn't hear anything about it being mandatory, and yes, like you, I am sick of these masks, and no, I don't know if the spread would have been worse or better if no one wore the masks. If I keep my distance from you, I am not being rude, just following social distancing.

Ok, let me leave with good news. Your alive, and I am alive. We have jobs, and family obligations can be made easier because we currently have jobs. I am thankful that those extra hard-workers this past December helped move the mail against all odds, and this area kicked arse getting the ballots out in a timely fashion. For those hard workers that gave it their all Prost. Those employees who took time out of their busy December schedules to donate food (32 bags) a big thank you. Try and enjoy winter; get outside and do something crazy like sledding, ice skating, snowmobiling, or ice fishing. Yes, the ice will support you. Too bad Covid killed the polar bear plunge

Bye Bye



APWU HEALTH PLAN

For those members who have the APWU Consumer Driven Option, you can use up to $400 for single and $800 for self plus one or self and family for dental and vision claims combined. The easiest way to do this is to pay the provider at your visit and make sure you get a detailed receipt. You have to set up a member portal at MYUHC.com. Once you do that, go to Claims & Accounts. Then click on View All Accounts. Then go to Submit A Claim, then HRA Claim. Fill out the information and take a picture of your claim and submit it. You can either have a check mailed to you or go to Manage Automatic Payment Settings and set that up. I want to make sure people are getting the most out of this insurance. I hope this is helpful. If you have any questions, contact your **<u>APWU Health Plan Representative, Jenny Starry (920)373-3225 or jennystarry@yahoo.com.</u>**

Attn: Wisconsin High School Students

Cash prizes offered for essays on Wisconsin's labor and worker history

The Wisconsin Labor History Society announces its Essay Contest for the 2020-2021 School Year for Wisconsin high school students (Grades 9-12).

Win cash prizes up to $500.

Write essays of about 750 words on the topic: "Unions have been important to my family and my community because . . ."
Students could win cash prizes: First place, $500; second place $300; third place: $200; honorable mention (up to five) $100.
What to write about . . . All Wisconsin high school students have ready access to labor history. Check with parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts. Also, neighbors and family friends. Ask to interview them and then write your essay. Only 750 words. Also you may do independent research on topics of labor history. Check the Wisconsin Labor History website (www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org) for resources and other ideas.

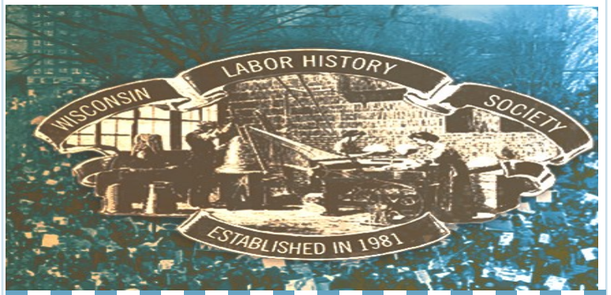
Contest Rules

Essays should be approximately 750 words in length. They will be judged on understanding, evidence of original research, writing style and significance. Essays must be submitted by email in Microsoft Word or as PDF file. Submissions must include a cover sheet with the following information: Your name, address, home telephone number, your email address, your grade in school, name and address of your school, and, if you were encouraged or assisted by a teacher, the teacher's name. (Also, list your family's union membership, if applicable.) If you have any questions, contact: Harvey J. Kaye at kayeh@uwgb.edu.

Deadline for submissions is Feb. 15, 2021.

Send your essays to the following email address: info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org.
Put "essay contest" in subject line.

SPONSORED BY: WISCONSIN LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY (Affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society; endorsed by Wisconsin State AFL-CIO) 6333 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee WI 53213 email: info@wisconsinlaborhistory.org website: www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org



What is The Union Plus Free College Benefit?

In partnership with Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC), the Union Plus Free College Benefit offers "last dollar scholarships" that fill the gap between any federal, state and employer education grants for tuition, fees, and e-books for certain online programs at Eastern Gateway. Please note: Only the Free College online degree and certificate programs listed below are eligible for these benefits.

Free College is possible thanks to the early support and enthusiasm of AFSCME, who entered into a collaboration with Eastern Gateway Community College in 2016. Since 2016, thousands of students have taken advantage of millions of dollars in Free College scholarships.

Earn an Associate Degree — completely online, for FREE! Even if you don't qualify for student financial aid, the Union Plus Free College Benefit will be applied to your balance for tuition, fees and e-books.

UNIONPLUS | Benefitting union families and supporting the union movement

(Q&As continued from page 9)

9. What is meant by "pool and relief areas" in Item IX of the *POStPlan: Staffing of Offices, Filling of Assignments, PSE Usage and Conversions MOU?*

Answer: This is defined in Q&A #23 of the Questions and Answers—Part-Time Flexible Clerks Working in Other Installations dates September 24, 2003, which states, "Normally, such employees will not be required to travel more than 50 miles from their duty station. This 50 mile criterion is measured as the shortest actual driving distance between installations."

10. If the provisions of Item IX of the *POStPlan: Staffing of Offices, Filling of Assignments, PSE Usage and Conversions* MOU are exhausted and there is a need for assistance in a Level 20 APO installation, what is the pecking order for assistance?

Answer: Employees withing 50 driving miles of the office in need of assistance may be utilized once all career Clerk Craft employees within the installation have been exhausted at the straight time rate. The pecking order for assistance shall be:

a. PTFs who have indicated a preference to work outside of their installation,
b. Available and qualified Postal Support Employees within the District, excluding Level 4 RMPO PSEs and consistent with the career window percentage for the Level 20 or above APO office,
c. PTFs, by juniority, who have indicated a preference to not work outside their installation, may be utilized at the straight time rate.

11. Did the POStPlan Staffing MOU, or the December 31, 2014 Addendum change the provisions of Article 7, Section 3 and/or the exception language in item 13 of the Q&As dated October 20,2011 regarding PTFs working in Level 21 and above offices?

Answer: No.

Filling Residual Vacancies

12. May PSEs decline an opportunity for conversion outside the installation, but within 50 miles?

Answer: Yes

13. If a PSE fails to pass the window fest for a conversion opportunity, how long must the employee wait before he/she can take the test again?

Answer: 180 days. However, there may be situations where the parties at the national level mutually agree to waive that time frame.

14. When converted to a career, does a PSE have to serve a probationary period?

Answer: Clerk Craft PSEs who have already served one full term as a PSE will not be required to serve a probationary period as required by Article 12, Section 1, after conversion to career.

Travel

15. Do Clerk Craft employees receive payment for travel time and/or mileage when required to travel to other offices?

Answer: It depends on the circumstances. Whether a bargaining unit employee who is required to work outside his/her home office is entitles to compensable travel time or mileage is determined by applying the applicable provisions of Section 438 of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) nd Chapter 7 of Handbook F-15. In accordance with the march 3, 2013 Step 4 settlement agreement, in case #Q00C-4Q-C04184581, employees who volunteer to work, on a temporary basis, are to follow the provisions of the ELM, Section 438, and Handbook F-15, Travel and Relocation, Chapter 7.d. *Determining Daily Expenses*.

16. For the purposes of compensable travel time and/or mileage, does it matter whether travel is within an installation?

Answer: No.

17. Can the Postal Service require that a bargaining unit employee use his/her personal vehicle for compensable travel time?

Answer: No. The use of a personal vehicle is the decision of the employee, in accordance with the 2012 JCIM, Article 36.2 (pages 197-198).

United States Postal Service
And
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
Clerk Craft Questions and Answers

Re: POStPlan, Filling Residual Vacancies, and Travel

The Parties have jointly agreed to the following Questions & Answers as further clarification and guidance on issues related to the Clerk Craft and POStPlan offices. Unless otherwise stated in this document, these Q&As are not intended to alter, amend, or change in any way the terms of the 2015-2018 Agreement, the September 22,2014, MOU Re: *POStPlan: Staffing of Offices, Filling of assignments, PSE Usage and Conversions, or the December 31, 2014, MOU Re: Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding of September 22, 2014, Re: POStPlan.*

POStPlan

1. Is the Postal Service required to separate Clerk Craft Postal Support Employees (PSEs) and reduce Clerk Craft Part-Time Flexible (PTF) hours to the extent possible within an installation (bid cluster) in order ro provide work and minimize the impact for full-time Clerk Craft career employees prior to excessing them outside their own craft or installation?
   Answer: Yes.
2. Is the Postal service required to separate Clerk Craft PSEs, including, but not limited to PSEs in any Level 4 RMPOs within an installation in order to utilize those work hours to minimize the impact for Clerk Craft PTF carer employees prior to excessing them outside their craft or installation?
   Answer: Yes.
3. Does Item IX of the September 22, 2014, MOU apply to relief work needed in Level 6 RMPOs that are staffed by part-time career postmasters pursuant to Item III?
   Answer: Yes. Bargaining unit employees per Item IX will perform relief work.
4. Can a postmaster or supervisor assigned to an APO perform bargaining unit work in a Level 6 or Level 4 RMPO?
   Answer: No, except if there is an emergency situation per Article 1.6 as defined in the July 2012 JCIM (page 24), "It is understood that an emergency is defined as an unforeseen circumstance or a combination of circumstances which calls for immediate action in a situation which is not expected to be of a recurring nature."
5. Does Question and Answer #17 of the POStPlan Q&As dated October 30, 2014, prevent part-time career postmasters identified in Item III of the September 22,2014 MOU Re: *POStPlan: Staffing of Offices, Filling of Assignments, PSE Usage and Conversions,* from working more than 15 hours of bargaining unit work?
   Answer: Question and Answer #17 was not intended to limit part-time career postmasters to 15 hours of bargaining unit work. Therefore, Question and Answer #17 of the POStPlan Q&As dated October 30,2014, is eliminated effective with he date of these Questions & Answers.
6. Who is considered an incumbent postmaster eligible to remain in a Level 6 RMPO and convert to the Clerk Craft per Item III of the POStPlan Staffing MOU?
   Answer: Any postmaster appointed to a Level 6 RMPO on or before September 5, 2014, the date of the arbitration award on POStPlan.
7. Will a part-time career postmaster who converts to the Clerk Craft per Item III of the September 9, 2014 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Re: *POStPlan: Staffing of Offices, Filling of Assignments, PSE Usage and Conversions* be allowed to stay in the same office and if so, what will be his/her Clerk Craft installation seniority date?
   Answer: The part-time career postmaster who converts to the Clerk Craft per Item III will remain in the same office as a full-time career bargaining unit employee. The Postal Service may assign the subject employee to a Traditional or Non-Traditional Full-Time duty assignment consistent with the National Agreement. The employee's Clerk Craft installation seniority date will be October 1, 2016, which is the first full pay period after September 22, 2016. The effective date will be reflected on his/her PS Form 50.
8. If a part-time career postmaster decided to convert to the Clerk Craft, will he/she be able to bid and occupy a duty assignment in another facility within the installation?
   Answer: Yes. However, if a part-time career postmaster elects to become full-time in the Clerk Craft in his/her level 6 office, he/she will not be allowed to bid on any full-time bid postings in the installation until such time that any PTF who is senior to the former part-time career postmaster in the same craft and installation has been offered the opportunity for conversion full-time status.

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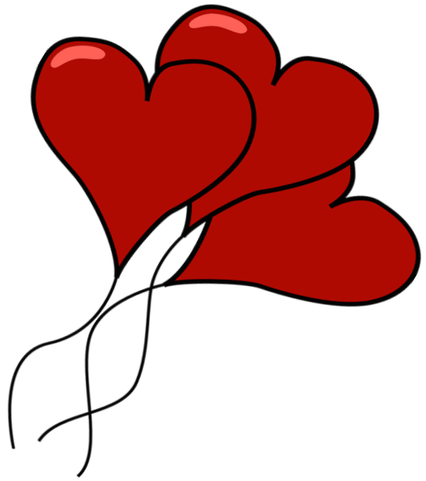
Christmas 2020
Toys For Tots donations from NEWAL

NEWAL Recording Secretary, Jenny Starry played Santa for NEWAL's donation to the Salvation Army Toys for Tots program.
She went shopping during the COVID pandemic and spent about $420 so a few local kids could have a Christmas gift under their tree. Thanks for shopping Jenny!!



Sabrina Tebo had a great Christmas Eve Day at the Cofrin Station with her fantastic Christmas seater.

The Good News and the Bad News

On the surface, the election of Joe Biden as President of the United States and the ouster of Donald Trump is the good news, especially for the future of the Post Office. However, it can be argued that the bad news can also be that Joe Biden was elected as President of the United States as far as the Post Office is concerned.

First, it is definitely good news that Trump has been ousted. As postal employees, we can rest easier knowing that the Postal Service will not be privatized or even begin the process of privatizing over the next four years.

Second, the bad news is that President Biden wants unity in a very divided nation, which is well reflected in the Legislature in Washington, D.C.

A lot of Democrats from around the country and myself included, gave money to the Democrats in the state of Georgia's U.S. Senate runoff elections. The good news is that both Democrats won the two Senate seats giving the Democratic party a majority vote and control of the U.S. Senate. The Democrats can now pass a lot of legislation that was previously blocked by the Republican leader Mitch McConnell in the 115th U.S. Congress. Many bills in that legislative agenda included postal reform, including the full repeal of the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA), which mandated the Postal Service to pay retiree health benefits for 75 years into the future. The PAEA is what started the downfall for the Postal Service financially.

Now in the 116th U.S. Congress, with the Democrats holding a majority vote in both the U.S. Congress and Senate (Vice-president Kamala Harris as President of the Senate can break a 50 to 50 tie in favor of the democrats) and Joe Biden as President can then sign these bills into law, and the USPS will be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

The bad news, Joe Biden is President. He wants unity in the Legislature, especially in the Senate. So, instead of 50 votes plus Kamala Harris's tie-breaking vote to pass postal reform measures into law, it will now take 60 votes. Basically, it puts Mitch McConnell back in charge. However, Biden stated that his many years in the Senate and knowing how to negotiate, he can reach that 60-vote threshold. For the future of the Post Office, I hope he is right. But why take chances? He should just sign an executive order protecting the finances of the Postal Service.

The good news; the national Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has put Postal Workers into phase two for Covid 19 vaccine distribution. The bad news is many states, including Wisconsin, have dropped Postal Workers from their Phase II rollout of the Coronavirus vaccine. I was surprised to see that mink farmers made the list for phase II rollout in Wisconsin. I thought this was crazy given the fact that people are to be shamed for wearing fur garments made from once live animals. When I inquired online, I found that mink are equally susceptible to coronavirus as are humans. It just takes one human with coronavirus to infect one mink, and then in a matter of a few days, a whole mink farm that has several hundred animals can be infected, including their human caretakers. I guess it is hard to get those furry critters to wear a mask. There are more mink farms in Wisconsin than any other state in the nation.

The grocery store workers at one time were also left off the phase II list in Wisconsin. However, as reported by Spectrum One News, over 5,000 grocery store workers wrote letters and made calls to the Wisconsin Health Dept and the state's Legislature to be readmitted to Phase II, and now they are again a part of Phase II min Wisconsin. This can be good news for postal workers. As postal workers, both union members and non-members should make a concerted effort to contact the Wisconsin Health Dept and the Wisconsin legislature to get Postal Workers back into Phase II or at least keep us in Phase III. This is also true for contacting our representatives in the Congress and the U.S. Senate to speed along the postal reform bills that were denied an up or down vote in the Senate by Mitch McConnell. I would suggest calling or email Senator Tammy Baldwin's office. Check out her web page at www.baldwin.senate.gov/feedback.

I know many of you would say, "why don't you, Steve, call or email Senator Baldwin on behalf of all of us. I have already called and emailed Senator Baldwin's office. I could have said that I am the Legislative Chair for NEWAL, representing nearly 200 members; however, it would be logged as one call or email and not 200. We all need to make a concerted effort to call our legislators and people at the Wisconsin Health Dept. If we do this, there will be good news for all of us in the Postal community. If we don't perform our concerted effort, I don't want to even ponder what the bad news will be.

Steve Paradise, NEWAL Legislative Chair

(*The Good News and the Bad News Continued from page 7)*

The Bay Breeze Volume 64/Issue 1

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247

Date: Sunday, January 24th, 2021
Place: Gallagher's

President Kelly Heaney called the meeting to order at 1300 hours.

A quorum was declared with 14 members in attendance.

Kelly Heaney led the Pledge of Allegiance and Steve Paradise gave the Invocation.

The following officers were present:

President Kelly Heaney, Secretary/Treasurer Art Ciesielczyk, Clerk Craft Director Steve Paradise, Maintenance Craft Director Pete Knutson and Bay Breeze editor Kelsey Helf. Vice President Dave Kroll, Recording Secretary Jenny Starry, and Motor Vehicle Craft Director Jeremy Linberg were excused.

Minutes of the November 2020 meeting were printed in the Bay Breeze.

The financial reports for November and December were read by Secretary/Treasurer Art Ciesielczyk.

Executive Committee: There was no e-board meeting because there wasn't a quorum.

Labor/Management: Steve Paradise attended the labor management meeting. Some items discussed were the COVID vaccine, the employee break room counters and shelves being full, rumors of an early buy-out, COVID leave, removing snow piles from the parking lot, expeditors new finance number and postal vehicles in the parking lot. The minutes are posted on the board.

Grievance: Grievances are being filed for people who get COVID. They are not getting admin leave, only the people they name as contacts are. Grievances were filed for supervisors and carriers doing clerk work. Several grievances from Cofrin are at step 2. If you are called in for discipline, it is up to you, the grievant and the steward to take notes and speak up as to why you think you shouldn't be disciplined.

Safety/Health: They are disciplining people who get hurt. Be sure you have a witness if you get hurt. If you go to the Dr., make it clear it's a work-related accident.

Legislative: Steve Paradise gave the legislative report. He talked about privatization of the Postal Service. Contact Senator Tammy Baldwin to get a reconciliation bill to repeal the pre-payment of health benefits. You can do this through the APWU website.

OWCP:

Constitution:

New Members:

Lost Members: Carol Klescewski

Communications: We received thank you letters from House of Hope and N.E.W. Community Shelter for our donations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A box will be put out for members to put in to choose if you want a shirt and a hat or a hoodie and your size.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

Our contract is up this year and since all the conventions are most likely cancelled, all members will receive a survey form the APWU about your wishes for the next contract.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is already scheduled for Sunday, February 21st at 7pm at Gallagher's.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kelsey Helf and seconded by Deb Nehmer to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. NEWAL meeting adjourned at 1345 hours.

The $10 door prize was won by Art Ciesielczyk.

The 2 $50 gift cards for turning in your VOE surveys went to Debbie Lemmens and Jenny Starry.

The $100 rolling jackpot winner was Bryce Thomas. He was not present so it will be $120 next month.

The winners for bringing in food for Paul's Pantry are $200 gift card-Kelly Heaney, $50 gift cards (4)-Maribel Sauer, Bethany Paiser, Steve Paradise, and Ben Edinger, $20 gift cards (10)-Kelly Heaney (3), Bethany Paiser, Pam Krause (3), Maribel Sauer, Deb Nehmer, and Ben Edinger.

Attendees: See attached sign-in sheet.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Jenny Starry.