

President's Report Sam Wood



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope 2013 will be a better year than we had over the past few years. It is nice that elections are over and seeing everyone on the same page again. It is my hope that Congress will finally fix the financial burden on the United States Postal Service sooner than later and we can move forward.

Once again, I feel honored entering a new year representing our local as President. I will work hard the next two years to serve every member of this local. I am even more honored to be on the same team as our current Executive Board as I feel these individuals are hard working and are out for our member's best interest. I enjoy working with Dan Gray, Felicia Gluhareff, Kathy Moyer, Paul McAvoy, Michele Szymonik and of course our Union office manager Karen D'Angelo and the incoming Trustees. Please continue to contact us with any issues you need help with.

TRUSTEES

Thanks to all who voted for our New Group of Trustees. Danny Carinci, Grace Baer and Joyce Kelly. They are excellent choices to represent our membership. The primary duty of Trustees is to uncover any fraud or misuse of Union funds. They can make suggestions as to how financial affairs of the local can be improved.

I will miss our former Trustees as they also did a tremendous job for our members, but I am confident

that these new Trustees will also continue to do a great job for our local.

Thanks to the Election Committee led by Barbara Carr who once again did an excellent job. Without a good Election Committee we would have major problems. Those who serve on this committee should be appreciated by all. Thank You!

RETIREMENT INCENTIVE OFFER

As of last month there were over 25,000 APWU represented employees set to accept the USPS's early retirement incentive offer. With the numerous loses in the amount of employees here locally, this will have an affect on our service and our customers if these jobs are not filled. It is our hope that management will begin hiring some of our Postal Support Employees (PSE's) to replace the loss of employees due to these retirements.

COPA CONTRIBUTIONS

I am very proud of our members here in Southwest Florida. In 2012, we raised more COPA money in one year than we have in the past years. Our local raised over \$3,370.00 in 2012 for COPA. In 2011 we raised \$2,963.00, so we raised over \$407.00 more in 2012 than we did in 2011. I hope that we can continue to raise COPA money to insure that our future is bright for many years to come. Please consider making payroll deductions towards COPA through PostalEASE. It is easy and here is how:

To Contribute to COPA through PostalEASE

*(Employees may designate three payroll allotments.)
Follow the instructions below:*

1. Add your Social Security number to the 8-digit COPA account number (29320001) in line 11 on this form. This 17-digit number (no hyphens) will enable the APWU to identify this contribution as having come from you.
2. Dial 1-877-477-3273 (1-877-4PS-EASE).
3. Press #1 for PostalEASE.
4. When prompted, enter your employee identification number.
5. When prompted again, enter your USPS PIN number. (If you do not have a USPS PIN or cannot remember your PIN, follow the instructions on this form, under "Don't Have Your USPS PIN?")
6. When prompted, choose option #2 (to select payroll allotments).
7. When prompted, choose option #1 (to select type of allotment).
8. When prompted, press #2 to continue.
9. When prompted, press #3 to "add" the allotment.
10. When prompted, add routing number: 054001220.
11. When prompted, enter the COPA account number: 29320001 followed by your Social Security number (no hyphens, 17 digits total). Press #1 if correct.
12. When prompted, press #1 for checking.
13. When prompted for the dollar amount of the allotment, enter \$____.00, your choice for a biweekly allotment. Press #1 if correct.
14. When prompted, press #1 to process. At this point, you'll be provided with a confirmation number and the start date of the allotment. Record the confirmation number_____ and start date_____.
15. Press #1 to repeat, or press #9 to end the call.

Retain this form for your records.



This COPA solicitation is paid for by the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, 1300 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. (202) 842-4200; it is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Contributions or gifts to COPA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. COPA will use the contributions it receives for political purposes, including making contributions to candidates for federal, state and local offices, and addressing political issues of public importance. Contributions to COPA are voluntary. More or less than the suggested amount may be given, and the amount given or the refusal to give will not benefit or disadvantage the person being solicited. Federal law requires political action committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

Don't Have Your USPS PIN?

To obtain your PIN: Call 1-877-477-3273. Press #1 for PostalEASE. When prompted, enter your Social Security number. When prompted for your PIN, pause, then press #2. Your PIN will be mailed to your address of record the next business day.

SWFAL/APWU
11000 Metro Parkway, Unit 8
Fort Myers, FL 33966
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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PROUD



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FLORIDA POSTAL WORKER

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www.apwuflorida.org

Secretary-Treasurer's Report Felicia Gluhareff



12/16/2012

CALL TO ORDER:

Time: 9:30 a.m. There were 17 members in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge of allegiance was led by Carol Marlet.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

The roll call of officers was performed by Felicia Gluhareff. Present were Sam Wood, Dan Gray, Felicia Gluhareff, Paul McAvoy, Mickey Szymonik and Kathy Moyer.

MAP:

Barbara Carr handed out a consumer information catalog and told a joke in honor of Charles Glennon. Barbara and Paul McAvoy requested a moment of silence for the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting. The membership observed a moment of silence.

NEW MEMBERS:

Edwin Millheim.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES:

Sam Wood suggested that we make Danny Carinci the chairperson of the trustees based on him having the most votes by the membership. Helen Skinner offered to come to the next trustee audit to help train the new trustees.

Paul McAvoy started discussions about our instillation of officers. The executive board decided to have the installation of officers during our January general membership meeting in order to save money.

Overtime at the plant was discussed.

Discussed was shift of stewards at the plant due to new bids.

**SECRETARY- TREASURER'S
REPORT:**

Paul McAvoy made a motion to accept the November minutes as read at the December GMM. The motion passed.

**REPORT- SELECTION OF
COMMITTEES:**

Barbara Carr reported on the election. 203 ballots were returned. Barbara Carr thanked the committee for doing a fantastic job. Sam Wood also thanked the committee for doing excellent work. The full election committee report will be printed in the Eagle's Eye.

**REPORT OF CONVENTION
COMMITTEE:**

None.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES:

The new trustees are Danny Carinci, Grace Baer and Joyce Kelly.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Sam Wood read through this month's communications. There was a class action EEO case settled for the deaf and hard of hearing for \$4,500,000.

More bid reversions.

Sam read over an ABA flyer and talked about some of the benefits offered to the members.

Our local received a Christmas card from Joe Paul who is Florida's APWU Clerk Craft Director.

UPDATE OF GRIEVANCES:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Changes due to the upcoming retirements were discussed. The union is counting on some PSE's being converted to FTR's but we

have no idea as to the timeline or number in our area that will be converted. Members need to ask to see their stewards and write statements if they witness a supervisor or member of another craft performing clerk work. We need to continue to protect our jobs and make sure that grievances are well documented.

Paul McAvoy made a motion to spend no more than \$1,000 on food and prizes for the installation of officers during the January 2013 monthly meeting. The motion passed.

LABOR- MANAGEMENT:

Sam Wood, Dan Gray and Paul McAvoy attended the labor management meeting. Dan Gray spoke on the outcome.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

The winner of the COPA 50/50 drawing was Kathy Moyer who won \$37.50. The total netted was \$75.00. The name drawn for the member's incentive award was Mickey Szymonik. She won \$70. The pot will be \$50 at the next meeting.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND
DELEGATES:**

None

LEFTOVERS:

None

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Felicia Gluhareff performed the roll call of officers. Results were recorded.

NEXT MEETING:

Robert Nowall moved to have the next meeting on January 27th, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the union hall. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Robert Nowall moved to adjourn at 10:37 a.m. The motion passed.

Fort Myers P&DC Management Continuing To Violate The National Agreement

I hope everyone enjoyed Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Year's Day.



Daniel M. Gray
Vice President
SWFAL APWU

I hope everyone spent some quality and stress free time with their family and friends. Sometimes, between work and our personal lives, stress levels can be drastically increased. We all need to separate any work related stress from our personal lives.

We are always looking for stewards for the stations. Our local is made up of part time officers who sometimes can be spread thin due to many obligations happening at the same time. It always seems that the crap hits the fan everywhere at the same time.

We are constantly told by USPS labor representatives that we file more grievances than the Tampa Area local which is considerably larger than our own. We also have a considerable amount of discipline related grievances regarding discipline that should not have been issued. This is an indicator that local management is not abiding by the National Agreement.

I met for Step 2's at the Plant with a District Labor representative, since local management refuses to settle most grievances at both Step One, and in the past, at Step Two of the grievance process. The Union is allowed to process all Step One's, Step Two's, additions and corrections and appeals on the clock.

For many who do not realize, this is on management's time and not paid by the local as agreed to by the National Agreement. There are many other issues that must be addressed off the clock and on Union LWOP which is paid for by the local.

Many locals, even some smaller than ours, have a full time President. Our local, the Southwest Florida Area local 1279, spans 4 counties and covers 18 cities. We have a part time President basically doing a full time job. All of these Presidents have done a great job juggling their responsibilities and giving a lot of their own time to your benefit.

We have great stewards and Executive Board members, all working for the benefit of our members. With the declining membership due to many retiring we still have to cover the same area of representation with fewer funds.

We all tend to focus on our own little place in the world. The Plant forgets we have coworkers in the stations and vice versa. We also think our problems are not one in the same and are more important than everyone else's.

We are in reality all fighting the same battle. Management violates the National Agreement and blames it on the financial situation of the Postal Service. This is a lame excuse and laughable at best.

The National Agreement was mutually agreed upon by both the Union and Management and the financial situation was basically the same at the time of signing as it is today.

Another issue we have is managers telling employees the reason they are violating the National Agreement is due to an emergency. Usually 99.9% of the time this is also a bunch of bull.

The Joint Contract Interpretation Manual defines an "emergency" 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".

Reasons such as short staffed, the month of December or a lot of mail are not emergencies. The short staffing is due to managers constantly abolishing bids and claiming they have too many employees. If supervisors, carriers or mail handlers are performing your job, file a grievance. The job you are protecting may be your own.

Management is still improperly requesting medical documentation for absences of three days or less. The day after Thanksgiving, Plant Manager Dorinda Kohlun had all of Tour One improperly "deemed desirable" requiring submission of medical documentation for anyone calling in that night, no matter the reason.

Ms. Kohlun admitted this in a Labor/Management meeting and again on the answer to an information request. Management may only "deem desirable" on a case by case basis and cannot flag whole pay locations or Tours. If you are improperly asked for documentation for an absence of three days or less ask to see your steward.

We have also been having confusion as to which day a holiday is observed by an employee on holidays that falls on other days than a Monday. The ELM should be used as a guide to determine what day employees will observe holidays or what day/days employees should use to sign up to work.

Section 518 of the ELM covers this issue, and on the lower right of this page is table detailing the information contained in the ELM Section 518.1 Holiday Leave.

Section 518 of the ELM also contains information about holidays when the designated holiday happens to fall on a weekend as follows:

518.2 Holidays on Nonscheduled Workdays

518.21 Saturday

When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday is observed as the holiday.

518.22 Sunday

When a holiday falls on Sunday, the following Monday is observed as the holiday.

In addition, the ELM 518 contains information for other provisions for holidays as follows:

518.23 Nonscheduled Workday

When an employee's nonscheduled workday falls on a day observed as a holiday, the employee's scheduled workday preceding

the holiday is designated as that employee's holiday.

518.3 Holidays on Scheduled Workdays

Holidays falling on an employee's scheduled workday are observed on those days.

If you still have questions and are uncertain of which day will be your holiday or days you can sign up to work for the three day holiday period, ask to see your steward for assistance.

If you are disciplined for simply having an accident and you believe you did not violate any safety rules ask to see your steward and file a grievance.

Also contact OSHA and file a complaint with them. Now you only have thirty (30) days to file an OSHA compliant. The thirty (30) day window begins on the date the discipline is issued to you.

OSHA does take this issue seriously and will investigate the issued discipline. Remember if you have any contractual questions or concerns please ask to see your steward.

USPS Holidays
Compiled from Information in the ELM 518.1

The following 10 days are observed as holidays
by the U.S. Postal Service:

New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	3rd Monday in January
Washington's Birthday/President's Day	3rd Monday in February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	1st Monday in September
Columbus Day	2nd Monday in October
Veterans' Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	4th Thursday in November
Christmas Day	December 25

Current Events And Updates

I first would like to congratulate all our union brothers and sisters who are retiring in the near future. I wish to each of you a happy, healthy and prosperous retirement. You have earned it.



Paul McAvoy
Clerk Craft Director
SWFAL APWU

Another Holiday season, and of course, overtime grievances. Many of the grievances this year were not from lack of management cooperation but the micro-managing from our Plant Manager.

The supervisors know what they need and how to do it but they are not allowed to make a decision on their own. Dan Gray, Sam Wood and myself talked to Dorinda at a Labor/Management meeting and instead of helping it seemed to make no difference.

Management is still disciplining employees for a few unscheduled absences. Please check your 3971's. **DO NOT SIGN THEM IF YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH EVERYTHING ON THEM.**

This is what a supervisor wrote in his summary requesting discipline for an employee (name withheld): "Mr. Doe states that some of his absences should have been covered by FMLA, yet he signed the 3971's when he returned to work and never requested that they be changed to FMLA.

Also when asked which absences should be covered by FMLA he stated he was not sure. Mr. Doe has been an employee for 19 yrs, he knows to check anything prior to signing and to ensure it correctly reflects what he requested. The letter is both warranted and justified to impress upon him the seriousness of his actions."

In any discipline the document of record is the 3971 that you sign. If

you sign it, and it is wrong, management will use it against you.

Please verify all the information on the slips. Remember, you do not have to sign the computer generated 3971 that management hands you. You have a right to on the clock review them and/or make your own 3971.

Do not be bullied into signing the slip and/or signing it before reading it thoroughly because when you sign it you now own it.

As of the writing of this article management has still not paid the Lead clerks out of schedule pay for the delay in posting the lead clerk positions. Hopefully by the time you read this this issue will be resolved and these clerks will be paid.

We are still having problems with supervisors performing bargaining unit work. I have spoken to Dorinda and AMDO Mario Morones about this issue.

Some supervisors refuse to cease and desist from doing our work. If you see a supervisor working, PLEASE ask to see your steward and give a statement. It won't take long. All we need is the supervisors name, what he/she was doing and the length of time he/she was performing bargaining unit work.

WE have to have the statement of someone who actually saw the supervisor working.

Please treat the Postal Support Employees (PSE's) the way you would like to be treated if you were in their shoes. Many of them are union members and are just trying to make ends meet the same as you and I are doing.

Many of our postal employees have started as casuals and know how difficult it is to be a new environment. Please treat them with the same dignity and respect that would would like to be treated with.

Scheduled Sick Leave

Our Sick leave is a valuable benefit and as we grow older, the more valuable it becomes.

We of the USPS are an aging workforce and as we get older the more medical attention we will need. That means there will be times when we must schedule time off from work. It's a fact of life.

Our sick leave allows us to do this. It's a good thing and it's wise not to squander it away.

But, as always, upper management must micro-manage beyond reason. For example: Let's say you work on tour 1 with weekends off. Your Doctor schedules you for an out-patient surgical procedure



Scott J. Wiser
Tour 1 Maintenance
Steward
Fort Myers P&DC
SWFAL APWU

at 8:00 a.m. on a weekday. If you work until 7:30 a.m. management will reason that you can still work all night anyway.

Under a circumstance such as this management can and will deny your scheduled sick leave. The problem is that management does not have to be reasonable and they are very good at not being reasonable.

The point to remember is when scheduling sick leave for whatever reason, make sure your documentation covers all eventuality for your situation. If unsure, ask your supervisor for clarification. If they won't cooperate then ask to see your Steward.

Sick leave is your rightful benefit to use. If you need to schedule sick leave then provide documentation along with as much notification as possible and you should not be denied. Ask to see your Steward if you are denied.

Our Next Union Meeting

AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION AFL-CIO

Sunday, January 27, 2013

9:30 am

11000 Metro Parkway, Unit 8

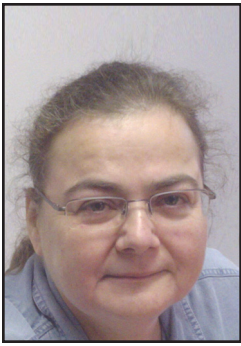
Fort Myers, FL 33966



Union Matters

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable holiday season.

Let's all take a breath and decompress from the frenzy of work, family obligations and financial stress that the season entails for us all.



Mickey Szymonik
Maintenance Craft
Director
SWFAL APWU

Okay, that's it, time to jump back into the fray! To borrow from the Ed Show's Ed Schultz (MSNBC), "Let's get to work."

Although the Presidential election was considered a win for labor, the fight is by no means over. Case in point: The State of Michigan's ignoble descent into

"right to work" status. Michigan!? Really?

The once proud jewel of the labor movement decimated by outsourcing, bailed out, reinvigorated, and ultimately, sold out all over again.

The State of New York, my home state, now has its industrial cities turned into rust piles. The State of Pennsylvania, our former Maintenance Craft Director Steve Krankowski's home state, fracked up for the sake of a well paying job that can't be outsourced.

Let's pause for a sip of water that doesn't ignite right out of the tap. The State of Wisconsin, like Michigan, has recently been blindsided by anti-union politicians who lied to get elected and did their dirty deeds in the back rooms of what once was called justice.

The State of Ohio and other formerly union states have been set up and knocked down like dominoes, by business concerns that have no concern for the working class. No concern whatsoever for you, the American worker.

What I'd like to wish for the New Year is for workers in all states to wake up and smell the coffee, before the cup is empty, and redouble the efforts to protect American jobs and workers. (Secretly, what I'd really want is for the APWU to step up and take more of a public, leading roll in workers' rights and labor matters nationally.

We have quality APWU Union leadership. We have a dedicated and intelligent membership and workforce. And we have the numbers. We can no longer sit back and wait for the fight to come to us.

We can see where that got our fellow union workers in Michigan, Wisconsin, and other states. All studies and polls show clearly that the public likes and trusts Post Office workers more than almost any other profession. Who better than us to spread the "Union" word?

Brothers and Sisters, please help all workers to enjoy a Happy New Year; enjoy your co-workers who are not yet in the Union, to embrace a "good will to all" mentality in 2013.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for reinstating me as your Craft Director. As difficult as things have been, we have shared many victories these past two years and I look forward to carrying on the fight, and I look forward to our future successes.

Peace, prosperity, peace.

Greetings From Bokeelia

MANAGING TO LOSE MONEY

I have worked at the Bokeelia Post Office for a number of years now. Over the course of that time, I have seen a number of Postmasters/OICs come and go.

However, during the last six years, Bokeelia has been used as a revolving door by management to place nomadic supervisors into the role of Postmaster/OIC. How is it working? Not that well.

Since 2006, the number of grievances, EEO complaints, safety complaints and Labor charges at the Bokeelia Post Office have skyrocketed.

I can also tell you that the number of telephone calls I have received, the number of private conversa-

tions I have been asked to lend an ear to, during that same time frame, has increased significantly. At one time or another, every employee at Bokeelia has come to me with a complaint about management here.

I have had Postmasters/OICs speak with me privately about their complaints concerning their own line of management. Sadly for them, they are afraid to speak out about it openly.

When you hear managers in the USPS speak to you in this fashion, of the fear they have of their own line of management, it is clear that postal employees, such as clerks, need to have a strong APWU to have any kind of job protection at all in this environment.

It is noteworthy that there exists no channel for consistent, open communication wherein employees can address issues with supervisors. I know - I have tried it.

You would think supervisors would want input from their employees. But, they do not. If we did not have the union contract and the grievance procedure, we would have zero input about our jobs.

I have heard many say that the USPS will have to change and adapt in the coming years to new economic realities. Postal management is going to need to change, also.

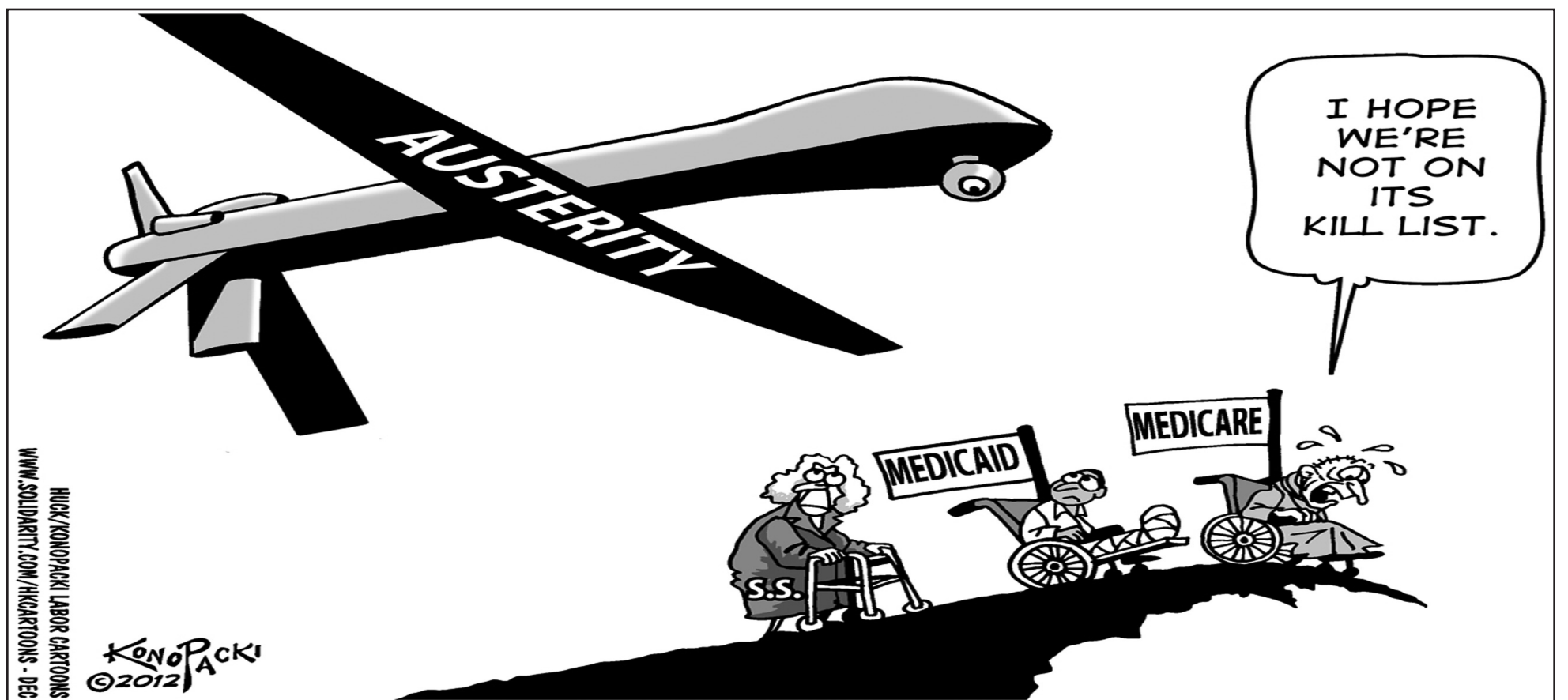
Management installed only one of the two new POS touch screen machines. There were times the

customer line reached the door because I was the only Clerk working on the window. Some customers left because they did not like the long line and long wait. Customers asked, I know there are other people who work here - where are they? Why don't they help?

During the height of the Christmas season, our stamp order did not arrive for over a week. We ran out of all Christmas stamps and almost all other forever stamps. Customers were sent away to purchase stamps elsewhere.

Shhhhhh! Management doesn't want to hear about that.

Kathy Moyer
Bokeelia Steward



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Report Of The Election Committee

On Monday, December 10, 2012, the election for the trustee positions for the Southwest Florida Area Local APWU took place. Four candidates ran for three positions.

Robert Nowall and I picked up the ballots at the Page Field Post Office at 9:00 a.m., returned to the union hall where we were joined by Eileen DiMase and Wayne Nichols, and began verifying the eligibility of the voters.

The total number of ballots mailed out to members in good standing as of October 21 was 488. The total number of ballots received on December 10 was 203.

One of these was determined invalid because the return address label was peeled off. Another member attempted to obliterate her label, but we were able to verify and count it.

In the cases where the inner blank

envelope was not used (total of three), great care was taken to keep these votes secret before co-mingling them with the rest of the secret ballots.

Two more ballots could not be counted, as one was left blank and the other had all four candidates checked off.

The results of the tally are as follows: Daniel Carinci - 150, Grace Baer - 134, Joyce Kelly - 134, and

Lisa Guaraldi Griswold - 105.

The election materials were sealed in a box, and the candidates were contacted with the results.

The post office boxes will be closed and the rebate returned to the local, along with the unused postage stamps.

Barbara Carr, Chairman
Election Committee



SWFAL APWU FINAL ELECTION RESULTS

TRUSTEE

Daniel Carinci	150
Grace Baer	134
Joyce Kelly	134
Lisa Guaraldi Griswold	105

Count me in and enroll me as an APWU Retiree for only \$3 a month!

Complete details for the following are listed in APWU National Constitution and Bylaws.

OPTION 1

Retiree Membership of only \$36 per year, ANNUITY DEDUCTION of retiree \$3 dues monthly.

Privileges: The right to vote and run for office as a Retiree National Convention Delegate or National Director of the APWU Retirees Department. Shall be eligible for vote for the three (3) APWU General Officers: President, Executive Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer, and four resident department officers: Director and Assistant Director Legislative/Political Department, Director Human Relations Department, and Director, APWU Health Plan; excluding all local, state, and national resident and craft/division officers not specifically listed herein, or in any matter pertaining to national agreement ratification, LMOU's, or proposed work stoppage.

OPTION 2

Retiree Membership of \$36 per year plus APWU National Per Capita Tax, ANNUITY DEDUCTION of approximately \$23 per month. *

Privileges: Same as OPTION 1 plus eligible to participate in national elections (limited to areas outlined in the election rules).

OPTION 3

Retiree Membership of \$36 per year plus APWU full dues (National Per Capita Tax and local dues), ANNUITY DEDUCTION of retiree \$3 dues monthly. You will be billed for the National Per Capita Tax and the required local dues amount. This amount will vary from approximately \$200 to \$600 annually.* (Note: Constitution or reinstatement of full dues-paying membership requires compliance with Article 3, Section 4 of the APWU National Constitution and Bylaws. This language can be reviewed on the APWU web-page, www.apwu.org, in the Secretary-Treasurer section under "Constitution and Bylaws").

Privileges: Same as OPTION 2 plus eligible for full local and national membership rights.

* For Options 2 and 3 only, contact 202-842-4288 to find out the current amount.

When Choosing Retirement – You Can Still Support APWU

At the time of writing this article, the APWU has announced that over 25,000 APWU represented postal employees have chosen to accept the "Special Incentive Offer" to retire. From all of your fellow employees, we wish to congratulate you upon reaching this milestone.

Recently, you may have received a letter from the APWU inviting you to join the APWU Retirees Department. Just in case you did not receive this invitation, we are providing you with the highlights of the letter for your consideration.

"For those of you who have made the decision to retire, we are providing a checklist to help you make sure you take the right steps.

1. Download your personnel folder at <https://liteblue.usps.gov>
2. Confirm that you are eligible to accept the Special Incentive Offer and verify your estimate.
3. Discuss retirement with your spouse or family members.
4. Participate in retirement counseling offered by phone through the Human Resources Shared Service Center (HRSSC). Your spouse or an "advisor" may participate in the call.
5. Complete your application.
6. Apply for membership in the APWU Retirees Department by completing the enclosed application.

We are providing an application for membership in the APWU Retirees Department to the left of this article in case you have not received one in the mailing.

The letter goes on to state:

Why should you join the APWU Retirees Department?

Quite simply, the benefits you have earned - including your annuity and health insurance - are not safe. Congress can reduce or eliminate these essential benefits, and has shown an interest in doing so.

The APWU is committed to continuing the fight to protect your rights, even after you retire. This is a top priority of our organization, along with protecting postal jobs and preserving the USPS as a public service. To continue the fight, we need your help!

Membership in the Retirees Department brings many benefits. These include: The opportunity to continue health coverage with the APWU Health Plan, access to a variety of discount programs, a \$5,000 accidental death and dismemberment policy, and the opportunity to stay informed about our struggles through The American Postal Worker Magazine.

Dues for retirees are inexpensive - just \$3 per month, deducted directly from your annuity. To join the Retirees Department, you must complete the application and mail to:

Judy Baird, Director
APWU Retirees Department
1300 L St. NW
Washington, DC 20077-1668

Trustees Report

The semi-annual audit by the Trustees of the Southwest Florida Area Local 1279 of the American Postal Workers Union was conducted November 15, 2012. This is in accordance with Article 4, Section 710 of the Local's Constitution and By-Laws.

Present were Trustees Dave Grant, Wendy Skaff, and Helen Skinner. Also present were our Secretary-Treasurer Felicia Gluhareff, who provided the financial records, documents and files necessary for the Audit and our office secretary Karen D'Angelo assisted us as needed.

The purpose of the audit is to verify that:

1. The financial statements are substantially and materially correct and verifiable.
2. The local received and deposited all dues check off (DCO) monies received from the APWU Headquarters.
3. All disbursements have been properly authorized as required by the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1958, as amended (LMRDA).
4. The Local is in compliance with the reporting and disclosure obligations under the LMRDA and the Internal Revenue Code (IRC).
5. All expenditures are supported by adequate documentation and that said expenditures are for the benefit of the Union Members as a group and do not result in any personal gain or private benefit or recognition that would be detrimental or harmful to our Union.

We reviewed bank drafts and statements for the period March, 2012 through October, 2012. We verified the copies of the quarterly and annual tax returns, payments for the Dues Check Off (DCO's) from the National APWU, the Local's fiduciary bond status, leases, mortgage records, source documents, bills, receipts, and COPA contribution logs.

We reviewed documents such as the Constitution and By-Laws, minutes of the General Membership meetings, Executive Board minutes, Labor Organization Annual Reports, and LWOP/Authorized Union Leave records, and previous Trustee Reports for notations of any recommendations made.

The quarterly and annual tax reports and Labor Reports are current as well as the annual 990 Report and the LM-3 Reports.

The Local has finished paying off the Mortgage effective April, 2012. This is 8 years earlier than the original payoff date. However, our Local is still facing lower dues, and income with the employees that will be retiring. We checked with Felicia about the Property Insurance rates and telephone costs, and all annual payments have been made. Possibly at the next audit we will review the insurance rates for 2013 for possible savings.

Since the Local is in a situation where we are unsure of the changes the Postal Service is planning, we are leaving all accounts status quo.

We wish to thank Felicia Gluhareff and Karen D'Angelo for their cooperation and assistance in locating records and providing us with the necessary materials to do our audit. We also wish to thank the membership and the Executive Board for their trust in allowing us to serve as your Trustees.

Respectfully,

Dave Grant

Wendy Skaff

Helen Skinner

Your Elected Officials

President Barack Obama
 Web Site:
www.whitehouse.gov
 E-mail:
president@whitehouse.gov
 Phone: 202-456-1414
 Fax: 202-456-2461
 Capital Address:
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
 Washington, DC 20500

Senator Bill Nelson
 Web Site:
www.billnelson.senate.gov
 E-mail:
senator@billnelson.senate.gov
 Phone: 202-224-5274
 Fax: 202-228-2183
 Capital Address:
 716 Hart Senate Office
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 Washington, DC 20510-0905
 District Office:
 Tallahassee, FL
 District Phone: 850-942-8415

Senator Marco Rubio
 Phone: 202-224-3041
 Fax: 202-228-5171
 Capital Address:
 524 Hart Senate Office
 Building
 Washington, DC 20510-0903
 District Office:
 Tallahassee, FL
 District Phone: 813-207-0509

Our members live in several different districts. For your representative's information, go to www.congress.org. Enter your zip code and the web site does the rest. You can e-mail most of your representatives at once with a click of your mouse at this web site. Their voting records are also available here. Check it out! Let them know how you feel, it's your DUTY!

THE EAGLE'S EYE EDITORIAL POLICY

The Eagle's Eye is the official publication of the Southwest Florida Area Local, APWU, AFL-CIO. The editor has the right to determine whether the material submitted shall be printed, and has the right to edit as needed. It is the policy of this newsletter to disallow any attacks on individuals. Opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily those of the Executive Board. The deadline for submission of all articles is the day of the monthly membership meeting. You must be an APWU member to submit an article. Name may be withheld upon request. All articles may be reprinted with proper credit given. Captions/cartoons may only be reprinted upon written permission of the editor.

Southwest Florida Area Local Membership News

As the January edition of *The Eagle's Eye* goes to press, I know many of our APWU brothers and sisters are eligible for this special retirement incentive. What is unknown at this time is who, and how many, will be choosing to retire!

The Eagle's Eye wants to recognize all of our members that have made the decision to retire. We congratulate you on your many years of service and wish you the best in the years ahead.

We will be pleased to honor you in this section of our newspaper. Please submit information and/or photos that you wish to be included for publication. Publication of information/photos will be subject to our standard editorial policy.

For those of you retiring that wish to continue receiving *The Eagle's Eye* newspaper, please email the Editor at Edswfal@aol.com or call Karen at our local APWU office at 239-275-1007.



You may also email the Editor if you are aware of one of our members that has retired, or will be retiring soon. You may email information on marriages, graduations, special events or achievements. We will be pleased to include as many member announcements as possible.

Your

HealthCare Companion








Energy Roulette

Grabbing a sports drink to hydrate while working out, or an energy drink for a quick boost to get through a long day has increasingly become a popular gamble. These drinks are the fastest growing beverages on the market, especially among teens. Marketed as dietary supplements with names like Rock Star, Full throttle, Monster, and Red Bull consumers often view them as trendy, convenient and safe, with no idea of the potential threat. Studies reveal there are serious health risks associated with these drinks and consumers should be cautious.

Potential Risks

The main ingredient found in energy drinks is caffeine, many times in undisclosed amounts. Take a closer look at the label and you'll find they are loaded with sugar and often contain a variety of unregulated herbal stimulants. Doctors warn this can be a potentially dangerous mix resulting in heart palpitations, seizures, strokes, and even sudden death. These risk increase in young children and teens. Researchers report energy drinks can also be highly addictive which may be the reason they are flying off shelves. Some of the side effects reported are increased blood pressure, headaches, nausea, dehydration and fatigue, often prompting you to drink more and develop a dependency. Studies have also revealed that the sports drink variety are highly acidic and have corrosive properties that alter your mouths natural PH balance which can very quickly damage teeth.



To Drink or Not to Drink

The question raised is, "Are these drinks even necessary?" The general consensus of researchers is No. Aside from being costly, the risks seem to outweigh the reward. The added sugars pack on calories sometimes more than you would burn off in an average work out, quashing the calorie burning benefits of your exercise regimen. The energy boost is often short lived with unsafe side effects once the jolt wears off. Doctors advise for the non-athlete, hydrating with water is a much better choice and it is usually free. Try getting 8-10 hours of sleep so you are fully charged to make it through the day. Reducing stress; maintaining a healthy weight and eating a balanced diet would be your best bet.