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THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA AREA LOCAL AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION

SWFAL APWU Updates On Wide Range Of Issues Of Importance To Postal Employees



Sam Wood
President
SWFAL APWU

SWFAL-APWU WEBSITE UPDATE

As of last month, our Local's website has had over 6.3 million hits since April, 2009. I could have never imagined the success when I began putting the site together. I am very proud of all of the information that our Local supplies to not only our members, but to all Postal employees around the country.

Last month, I created a page for our Postal Support Employees (PSE's). If you have questions that arise concerning PSE's, it should be available on that web page. There will be continuous updates to the page as information becomes available.

The website address is:
www.swfloridaapwu.org

APWU (STATE OF FLORIDA) FALL SEMINAR

The State of Florida APWU Fall Seminar will be held here in Fort Myers from August 21 - August 24, 2013, at the Crown Plaza at the Bell Tower Shops.

Union Representatives from all over the state of Florida will be in attendance for this training seminar.

On Wednesday, August 21, Florida Local Union Presidents will meet to discuss issues from each local and discuss ways to deal with problems facing our members. This meeting is for local Presidents and/or their designees.

Also on Wednesday, all APWU Retirees who are members in good standing are invited to all of the following:

Wednesday, August 21, 2013

10:15 am - Noon
Board Meeting (Optional)

12:15 - 1:45pm
Complementary Lunch
(You may bring up to one guest).

2:00 - 4:00pm
Retirement Seminar

Retirees who plan on attending this Seminar should notify Dave or Phyllis Bernstein via phone at (813) 839-4233 or e-mail at specialdelivery_db@yahoo.com

Thursday, August 22, 2013

9:00am - Noon
General Assembly - Introduction of State and National Officers

1:30pm - 5:00pm
Clerk / Maintenance / Motor Vehicle Craft Forums

Friday, August 23, 2013

All Day Friday
Union Representative Training Classes

Saturday, August 24, 2013

Saturday Morning
Union Representative Training Classes

On Saturday morning there will be a Retirement Class taught by Brad Pate from 10am - 1:00pm. This is a class on "Understanding and Maximizing your Federal Benefits." Anyone wishing to attend this class, please call the Union Office at (239) 275-1007 and reserve a spot for this class.

PSE TRANSFERS

There are no provisions to take your seniority with you as a PSE to another Postal Installation. It seems as though some PSE's have been getting the wrong information concerning transfers. If you are contacted by management or are interested in a transfer, please contact your Union Representative prior to accepting a transfer. If not, you may find out that you made the wrong decision.

Also, please do not sign any documents that are not official when prompted by management to do so. If you are unsure about whether the document is official or not, ask for your Union Representative prior to signing the document. If management gives you a direct order to sign the

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Secretary-Treasurer's Report Felicia Gluhareff



July, 21, 2013

Secretary - Treasurer's Report
Felicia Gluhareff

CALL TO ORDER:

Time: 9:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge of allegiance was led by Barbara Carr.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

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

MAP:

Barbara Carr and Robert Nowall both told a joke in honor of Charles Glennon.

NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome new members Meschla Valbrun, James Dickover, Reiner Moreno, Carey Lambert, Allen Franklin and Peter Dojcsan.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES:

Attendance discipline being ramped up at the plant. Letter to PSEs regarding layoff and transfers. This issue will be addressed in an article included in this month's Eagle's Eye. When you have a question for the executive board and they do not answer their phone please leave your question in their voicemail to avoid playing phone tag. If that is not possible please send an email with your question. Our president, vice president and clerk craft director all work tour 1 hours so they may not be available at the time of your call. Sam Wood added a PSE page to our local's website, www.swfloridaapwu.org, we encourage our PSE members to check it out. When PSEs hit 360 days they cannot roll over their annual leave, you will receive reimbursement for

you leave in the form of a check. Bokeelia grievances were also discussed.

SECRETARY- TREASURER'S REPORT:

Paul McAvoy made a motion to accept the minutes as reported in last month's Eagle's Eye. The motion passed. National APWU has to be contacted to take out the correct dues for PSEs.

REPORT/ SELECTION OF COMMITTEES:

Grace Baer reported for the hospitality committee for the fall seminar. Danny Carinci has secured the food for the hospitality room through Publix. We received a check for \$250 for drinks and state APWU will also be providing some beverages.

REPORT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEE:

None.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

National APWU sent a letter asking about delayed mail. Bid reversions. August 5th through September 6th Congress will be in recess. President Guffy asks that members reach out to Congress during that time. Letter requesting labor/mgmt. meeting July 23rd.

OLD BUSINESS:

Marco issues discussed. Carriers still performing clerk work. We must continue to document when other crafts or management are performing clerk work. PSEs must be credited to the proper office when moved between one or more offices. An information request can be submitted to management to confirm that they are credited to the office in which they are working at that time. Some stations are taking out or planning on taking out POS machines that are located in the back.

NEW BUSINESS:

Retirement seminar will be held on August 21st. Sam Wood will send out information. If you do not receive this information and are interested please contact him.

LABOR/ MANAGEMENT MEETING:

Management requesting a meeting on July 23rd at 8:30 a.m.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

The winner of the COPA 50/50 drawing was Julio Mayo who won \$32.00. The total netted was \$64.00. Julio donated \$12 of his winnings back to COPA. The name drawn for the member's incentive award was Vincent Garvis. He would have won \$100.00 had he been present at the GMM.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DELEGATES:

None

LEFTOVERS:

Sam Wood thanks Karen D'Angelo for helping him gather information for Labor Charges. Barbara Carr informed us that past state president Charlie Redd passed away. Our local sent a card to his family. WIFI password for union members has been changed at plant, see your steward for the new password.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

The roll call of officers was performed and recorded.

NEXT MEETING:

Robert Nowall moved to have the next meeting on August 18th, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the union hall. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Robert Nowall moved to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. The motion passed.

APWU Stewards Work To Communicate Correct Information In The Workplace

This is not the first time I have written an article on the subject of rumors or incorrect information that is relayed to you at work. We work in a work place



Daniel M. Gray
Vice President
SWFAL APWU

where rumors swirl around almost on a constant basis. Please, when you hear something that doesn't sound correct or is off the wall, verify the information yourself.

I recently found out that during training for Tour 3 Automation Clerks at the P&DC, employees were told that I was on an OSHA committee and that the Union had approved the new feeding tables that were soon to be utilized on the DBCS's.

Funny thing; I am not on any OSHA committee and our local did not help design the feeding tables or help approve them. The only interaction I have had with OSHA concerned the charges I filed against management for improperly disciplining employees for accidents and the improper staffing on the DBCSs.

The APWU at the national level instructed all locals in 2009 to file OSHA charges on the DBCSs related to ergonomic safety issues with these machines. The new feeding tables that are going to be utilized were one of many recommendations that were suggested to the USPS to correct the ergonomic issues with the DBCSs.

It was also suggested that the DBCSs, be slowed down, shortened in length, limits on the height

(reduce number of tiers), allow more breaks for employees working on the DBCSs and increase number of employees working on the machine.

The USPS ignored all of these recommendations and many others and decided to go with the feeding tables instead so they can claim they did something concerning the ergonomic safety issues.

Remember the Postal Service has now had over a decade to correct ergonomic safety issues with the DBCSs, but have done little if anything.

We have many employees who are a constant source of bad information; this includes both bargaining unit and non-bargaining unit employees.

One of the other constantly repeated rumors is that Manasota is no longer going to be consolidated with the Fort Myers P&DC. This is also false; the latest excessing report from our APWU Regional Coordinator sent to our local clearly shows the excessing information for Manasota.

The recent and temporary use of Manasota to run DPS mail for other facilities is just that - temporary. Manasota is still slated to be consolidated into the Fort Myers P&DC in 2014.

The USPS will first have to change overnight delivery standards before they can consolidate Manasota Plant into Fort Myers, P&DC.

Funny thing; it is the same employees who relay the inaccurate information all the time, yet people still listen to them. Remember the old saying "kiss me once, shame on

you - kiss me twice, shame on me."

It baffles me on how uninformed many people are concerning their own workplace and life in general. With the continuing change in the Postal Service, sometimes on a daily basis, it is nice to stay up to date. It never makes sense to bury your head and ignore what is going on around you, remember things do not just go away.

Still my favorite is when a Manager or Supervisor claims that the Union agreed to something that is a complete lie or totally unbelievable. Ask to see it in writing or ask to see your Union Steward to verify the information. It would be great if we could blindly trust management, but the reality is, we cannot. Now not all Managers and Supervisors will lie and mislead you. However, there are far too many that do, so it is important to check with your Union Steward.

Remember you must ask your supervisor to see your Union Steward so they can file a grievance on your behalf. The Union has the burden of proof in a contractual grievance. Management has the burden of proof in discipline.

Do not complain about things when you refuse to do anything about them. The proper procedure for Steward Release is when an employee requests to see a Union Steward; normally, a steward/employee will be released within two (2) hours of his/her request.

If the condition cannot be met, the supervisor will notify the steward/employee of the reasons for the delay. Normally, the steward/employee will be released

before the end of the tour.

However, if the steward/employee is not released within that time frame, the steward/employee must be released immediately upon the beginning of his/her next tour of duty. In the event a steward or employee is delayed until their next tour, the steward/employee should notify the supervisor of the prior request.

Management does not dictate if you have a grievance or not, only the Union determines if you have a grievance or not. Also, at Step One, it is your grievance not managements or the Unions.

Now at Step Two, the grievance belongs to the Union to determine the remedy or if it is a valid grievance. So don't let a supervisor blow you off and tell you that you don't have a grievance. Remember, management does not decide whether you have a grievance or not.

This year is election year for National Officers of the APWU. Please become informed and vote. It is really sickening to see the low turnout of voting members. You have no excuse not to vote.

You are mailed a self-addressed and stamped envelope to mail back your ballot. We all work in offices with the ability to send letters out. What could possibly be your excuse?

You only have to check the appropriate boxes and lick the envelope shut. You are also generating business for your own livelihood.

Remember if you have any questions or concerns ask to see your Union Steward.

Bullies In The Workplace When Will USPS Management Care About It?

Truth has a way of coming to the surface for observation. The amount of time before it happens, or the manner in which it happens, is not very predictable, but sooner or later, it happens.

Once truth comes to the surface, and is laid open for all to see, it needs to matter to someone. After all, wrongdoing by management needs quick remedies if its damages are to be limited to the greatest extent.

Bullying in the workplace is a growing phenomenon. Anyone listening to the pulse of American workplaces is aware of this fact.

Bullying in any organization cannot thrive if front line supervisors know their conduct will not be tolerated. Again, it takes someone in management to care about the problem of management bullies in the workplace.

At Bokeelia Post Office, I have watched the number of grievances skyrocket over the past few years because of management's desire to extinguish the union presence we have here. Those that have supported the truth, that have assisted me in getting the truth out in the open, have themselves been bullied, targeted and had their work efforts sabotaged. What

kind of manager would go to such extreme measures? Obviously, a manager who did not have any concern about wrongful conduct, or being held accountable for it. Additionally, who could ever trust an individual supervisor that would report fiction about an employee's work, as if it were fact?

The issue of workplace bullying is one that crosses political lines and it needs to. I have heard conservative and liberal commentators express their concern about bullying in the workplace and its damaging and costly consequences. The fact that the truth about workplace bullying is starting to come

to the surface is a good sign. It gives workers hope that employers who ignore this issue are not going to be able to do so that much longer.

Over the last few years legislation has been proposed in several states that address workplace bullying. Although little of this legislation has been adopted into law as yet, support continues to grow for help for bullied employees. If employers continue to sanction bullying in their workplaces by simply ignoring it, they may ultimately be faced with increasing liabilities.

Kathy Moyer, Editor

Management Bullying Of PSE's Must Stop

In the last month a P&DC supervisor has called PSE clerks stupid, threatened them with their job and totally disrespected them.



Paul McAvoy
Clerk Craft Director
SWFAL APWU

Sam Wood had a talk with Dorinda and mentioned the fact that PSE's were complaining about the way they were talked to by an individual supervisor. Dorinda said she would talk to her about the matter and make sure it was corrected.

That very night when this supervisor had her service talk with the PSE's, she told them, "I hear you don't like the way I speak to you. If you don't like the way I speak to you, you can just quit. There are plenty of people out there who would just love to take your place".

This is a classic case of supervisor bullying.

No employee should have to come to work and listen to those kind of threats and work under that pressure. This has been addressed further by both management and union and although she is better than she was, this supervisor still has problems with dealing with pressure and treating people with dignity and respect.

When a PSE leaves one facility and transfers to another facility in a different installation, they go to the bottom of the seniority list. They do not carry their seniority with them.

Management has been telling some PSE's that when they transfer they keep their seniority date from the facility from which they left. This is not true. Clerk Craft PSE's accrue clerk craft standing on the roll within the category of PSE from their original date of employment within the craft and installation, regardless of any break in service as a PSE, including all time spent as a clerk craft PSE within the installation. That is based on language from the JCIM Article 37, page 8 (Q&A #35).

Management had a service talk with the PSE's and handed them all a form titled; PSE REPLY FORM SUNCOAST DISTRICT. They were told they must read this form, sign it, and give the form back before they left the service talk. A PSE asked to have a union steward present and this request was ignored by the supervisor speaking to them. This is what this form said;

Manasota P&DC, Tampa and a few associate offices in customer service have positions available for any PSE clerk wishing to reassign. As a result of the AMP Events, there will be a reduction of PSE Clerks in your installation that

will occur on SEP. 7, 2013. There are a minimum of 55 PSE Clerk positions that will be eliminated. You will start a new period of seniority if you should reassign out of your bid cluster. There are only a few PSE clerks at the Manasota P&DC location currently, so you may end up with a higher standing on register than you currently hold at this time. For example, current seniority date 8/1/11, rank 9 would change to 8/24/13 rank 4. If a conversion occurs within the installation, you will be the 4th person converted instead of the 9th person converted.

This despicable tactic is pure unadulterated bullstuff. This is a power play move by management to manipulate PSE's into thinking they are better off driving 90 miles with the chance of being converted in an office that is still slated to be closing in March of 2014.

Why would they convert any PSE in Manasota now? We have 30 open bids in Fort Myers P&DC currently and they don't want to convert any PSE's.

This is why they wanted no union stewards present when they gave the PSE's this form. This is one of the sleaziest, distasteful stunts I have ever seen management pull off.

Although they may decide to let a few PSE's go it would only be for a very short time because busy

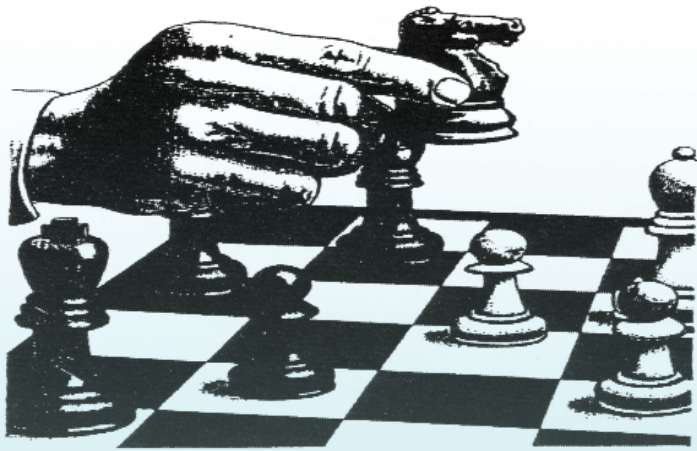
season kicks in and they would have to bring them back anyway. The 55 number is district wide, and encompasses well over 100 offices. We cannot clear the mail, or do we have sufficient staffing to operate efficiently now. How can they justify letting PSE's go. We have clerks working by themselves on a DBCS every night now and they want to reduce staffing.

This form had to be filled out with either interested or not interested, signed and returned. Management was going through this process so they could pick and choose which PSE's they wanted to send. The contract is quite clear on this, that when PSE's are let go because of lack of work it is done by juniority and brought back by seniority.

All PSE's in the Fort Myers bidding installation are past their probationary period. This means they have bargaining unit rights and must be dealt with according to the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

PSE's do have the right to file grievances and if you feel you are aggrieved please ask your supervisor to see a steward and give us a statement. It does make a difference on how you may be treated. If management can take advantage of you they will. PSE's, if any of your fellow PSE's are not members yet, please ask them to join.

We will protect your rights.



It's Your Move
Join
Support
Be Involved
in

YOUR
Union

Absences Of Three Days Or Less

Through the application of ERMS, local management is improperly requiring (deeming desirable) employees to submit medical documentation or other acceptable evidence for absences of 3 days or less.

The Postal Service has an obligation to adhere to Article 10 of the National Agreement and applicable provisions of subchapter 510 of the Employee Labor Relations Manual before an employee can be required to submit medical documentation for absences of 3 days or less.

Remember, you are required to submit valid medical documentation or other acceptable evidence

upon your return to work if management requests it. Failure to provide the requested documentation could result in the denial of paid leave even if the absence is FMLA-protected.

Your health care provider's note must state that you were incapacitated or unable to work for the entire duration of your absence. If you have been deemed improperly, ask to see a steward to file a grievance for time, mileage, and all out-of-pocket expenses incurred in obtaining acceptable documentation.

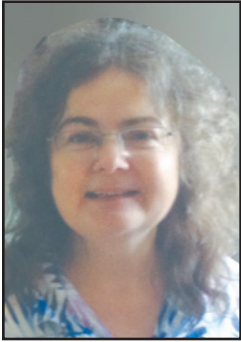
In solidarity,
Grace Baer
T2 and T3 Steward

APWU



Safety Matters

Okay, so the USPS is concerned about all of its employees' safety.



Mickey Szymonik
Maintenance Craft
Director
SWFAL APWU

We have safety talks every day, or at least we play catch-up when PE6 audits are imminent, or there is actually an imminent danger forecast for our area.

For instance, this past April's tornado warnings that had management at the Fort Myers P&DC shepherding its employees to a "Shelter In Place" in the old CFS area of our facility.

Wait, let's back up a few days when suddenly, around the Plant, "Shelter In Place" placards showed up in various spots around our workplace. "What's this?" "What does it mean?" At least those were the questions I

heard...and had myself. What? No safety talk on these cryptic messages suddenly being posted?

Well, we found out, not exactly in a timely manner, but we found out. But only after the aforementioned day of the tornado warnings.

"Shelter In Place" meant that any area designated as such was an interior place, without windows, that would be considered a safe haven, even in the event of a tornado.

While being ushered past the "Shelter In Place" signs posted outside the restroom/locker rooms, and past the array of doors and windows in which it would be advised not to "shelter in place", I asked my manager if it was wise to be taking this route in the event of a tornado. Her response was "Well, that's a good question to ask when we get there."

"If we get there", I thought.

Anyway, thanks be to God, we arrived safely in the designated

CFS "Shelter In Place" area. The employees questions and concerns were heard and notated for further study. I have not seen a new SOP on this matter yet.

Now let's move ahead to the "Active Shooter in the Building" mandatory safety presentation. This event was proctored by a safety representative from the District and an EAP counsellor.

The employees were instructed to "shout out, get out, or hide out." Any of these you could do safely, do so. Good advice, but the questions from the peanut gallery (employees) raised some further flaws in the Plant's emergency plans.

For instance, if an employee without badge access to the Plant floor from the administration area, or from the administration area to the Plant floor was trapped by an active shooter in the area, you really didn't have a lot of options.

When this dismal reality was broached by employee questions,

the facilitator of this discussion merely stated that management had the right to determine whom had access to where.

The facilitator also cautioned us not to pull the fire alarm in an "active shooter" situation because we did not want firemen to show up. We needed law enforcement to show up.

Imagine her surprise (and ours) to find out that the Plant's fire alarm pull stations do not summon the fire department. The alarm only alerts the employees to evacuate the building. The facilitator seemed nonplussed by this fact and stated that this piece of information may need to be looked into further.

Again, I have not been made aware of any change in the Fort Myers P&DC SOP in regards to this issue.

On a positive note, the EAP guy said he'd be there for us.

Peace, love, prosperity.

Working Together Hand In Hand

Greetings to all of my American Postal Worker Union brothers and sisters. I am hoping to remind - we must all work together, hand in hand.

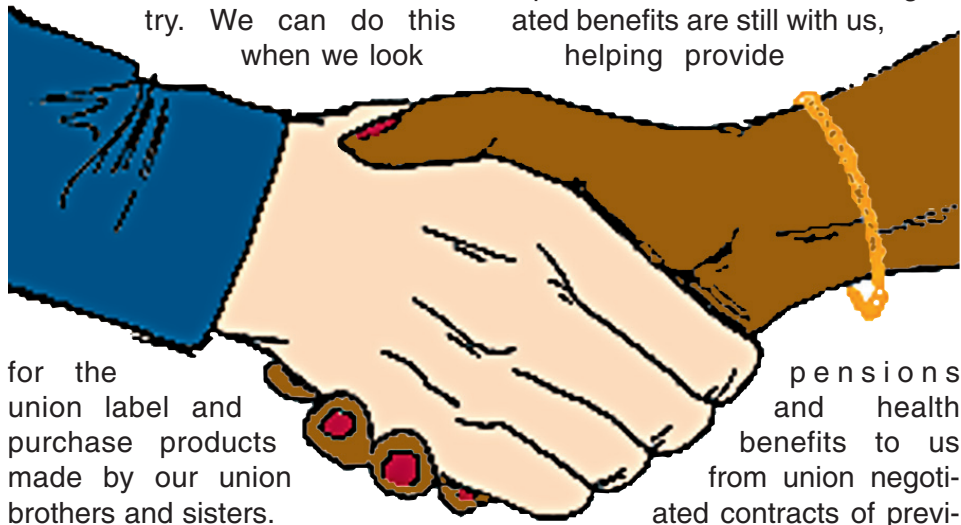


Vivianne Finley
Alternate
Steward
Tice Station
SWFAL APWU

Part of working together means supporting other workers in other unions across our country. We can do this when we look

When we buy union, we support American workers and American jobs. Working hand and hand, together, with our union brothers and sisters, is best for everyone. Union workers are paid a livable wage, have better benefit packages and have better working conditions than their non-union counterparts. These good union jobs give workers and their families a higher standard of living than they would otherwise be able to attain. We know this first hand from our own experiences in the USPS.

Upon retirement, our union negotiated benefits are still with us, helping provide



for the union label and purchase products made by our union brothers and sisters.

pensions and health benefits to us from union negotiated contracts of previous generations of workers. These benefits help protect our many years of dedication to our jobs.

American made by union workers is a sign of quality. It is important to think about. Not only that, union made products and services are comparably priced. You can't get better value than that. A quality made product at great prices made by American workers.

So next time we shop for a product or service, let's remember to look for the union label. Let's all work together, hand in hand, supporting our union brothers and sisters.

Our Next Union Meeting

AMERICAN POSTAL
 WORKERS UNION AFL-CIO

Sunday, August 18, 2013

9:30 am

11000 Metro Parkway, Unit 8

Fort Myers, FL 33966

Take It Back

About two years ago the E.T.s at the Fort Myers P&DC (as well as other processing facilities around the country) were issued laptop computers.



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

These laptops were to be used as a troubleshooting tool for servicing mail processing equipment. The purpose was to improve overall efficiency and reduce down time.

A few months ago, and for reasons unknown, this program was abandoned by Suncoast District maintenance management and the

E.T.s were given the choice whether or not to return their assigned laptops. If you chose to keep your laptop (as I did) then you were required to log-in (to a USPS secured Website) once a week.

A few days ago I received notice that my laptop was to be confiscated or I would be disciplined because I had not logged in for the past five weeks.

Of course this is a bunch of crap because I do log in every week. If a user is able to log on to a secured site, utilize the functions within that site, but not be recognized at having been at that site, indicates a problem, but not at the user end.

But the powers-that-be say otherwise and I must turn in my

assigned laptop or be disciplined. I would think that they would be interested in knowing why this breach in security occurred instead of issuing discipline for something that never happened.

Oh well, what do I know? I just accept the situation for what it is and decided to access my assigned laptop one last time. I wanted to copy all my collected notes and info as well as to delete my personal information. Imagine my surprise when lo and behold, I was locked out of my assigned computer.

The question now is what authority does the USPS have over an employee's right to protect their personal and private information?

Evidently the USPS does not want to go down that road (in this situa-

tion anyway) and reason prevailed. I did what I had to do and now a perfectly good laptop (that was being used weekly) will end up somewhere unused and wasted along with all the hundreds of others that were turned in.

The USPS does come up with a good idea sometimes and in my opinion, this laptop program was one of them. If Management had followed up with the implementation then this could have worked. Unfortunately some bureaucratic talking head decided something different for the wrong reasons.

Be careful with what the USPS gives you. They just might take it back.

Did You Know?

**Your SWFAL APWU
Local 1279
has its own website!**

swfloridaapwu.org

**Visit our website to find out about
News, Information and Events.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Continued from Page 1

document, simply write by your name "Management forced me to sign this document."

JOINT LABOR / MANAGEMENT MEETING - JULY 2013

Management admitted that 2006 was the year that the USPS began their financial decline. Ironically, that is when Congress passed the bill to force the USPS to pre-fund retiree health benefits for 75 years into the future.

Some statements made by Suncoast District Managers:

- 1) The USPS showed a \$3.1 million dollar loss so far in 2013 but would have actually broke even without the pre-funding mandate.
- 2) Mail volume continues to decline.
- 3) There are over 121,000 non-career USPS employees (the most ever). The non-career employees are made up from Postal Support Employees (PSE's) represented by the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), City Carrier Assistants (CCA's) represented by the NALC, and Mail Handler Assistants (MHA's) represented by the NPMHU.

4) There are 2705 career employees in the Suncoast District (Function 1 - Mail Processing) compared to 2900 in October, 2011. Over the same period, non-career staffing went from 119 to 424 employees.

5) There are 1625 career employees in the Suncoast District (Function 4 - Customer Service) compared to 2047 in October, 2011. Over the same period, non-career staffing went from 67 to 302 employees.

6) There are 4385 career NALC employees in the Suncoast District compared to 4680 in October, 2011. Over the same period, non-career staffing went from 296 to 658 employees.

7) The Suncoast District ranks as #33 out of 67 district offices in performance.

NEW USPS INITIATIVES AND MACHINERY

Please try not to laugh. It is amazing to me what these USPS managers come up with. Some seem legitimate, but then again when you have idiots who implement these plans, it never quite works out correctly.

- 1) Communications Ambassador Program is intended to provide better communication in the work

place. The plan is to have one (1) Ambassador in each facility who will be a craft employee who will work with an EAS Senior Ambassador. Let's see how this one works out. Too Funny!

2) PASS Machines there are already 40 of these deployed in the Suncoast District and are about 30% accurate. I am sure the USPS is proud of this investment so far.

3) PASS Lite Machines these are scan machines not yet deployed.

4) DSS Machines these are ring scanners that scan parcels and audibly call our route numbers and may have the ability to come with a headset.

5) Express Mail name changed to "Priority Express Mail", of course there will be some minor changes in the handling, processing and insurance claims. With the way that the USPS is going, maybe the name should have been changed to "Pony Express Mail."

6) Day Certain Delivery this allows competition with Fed Ex and UPS. This is a good move as we should be competing with our competition.

7) Lean Mail Processing (LMP)

the intent is to reduce cycle time, reduce waste, improve efficiency, improve service performance and increase employee satisfaction. This program will see Mail Processors receiving refresher classes and instructions on how to reduce injuries and to be ergonomically compliant. Tampa will be the test site for the Southern Area.

I really hate to sound negative about new initiatives, but let's face it, the managers that control the USPS are not about improving the Postal Service. Whenever managers need to come up with program after program to somehow show that they are doing something rather than to just do it, that's a problem.

Coming up with programs like "Premier Post Offices" where the USPS cleans up only certain Post Offices is way out of touch. Shouldn't all Post Offices already be up to standards? Employees who have gone through training for the "Premier" program have told me that it is a joke. I say it is one more way to waste time and money.

I can only hope that someday they will find a good Postmaster General that will return the USPS back to a great institution so that it will prosper for many years to come.

My thanks to Joe Paul for his help in providing the information above.

THE TRUTH ABOUT POSTAL FINANCES

DID YOU KNOW:

BEFORE PRE-FUNDING WENT INTO EFFECT, USPS WAS PROFITABLE AND DEBT FREE.

But this burden has forced USPS to borrow billions of dollars and is preventing it from pursuing thoughtful reform.

CONGRESS CREATED THIS PROBLEM, AND CONGRESS CAN FIX IT.

But, instead, Congress is asking the American public to give up important services — like Saturday delivery and next day service — dismantling America's vital postal network in the process.

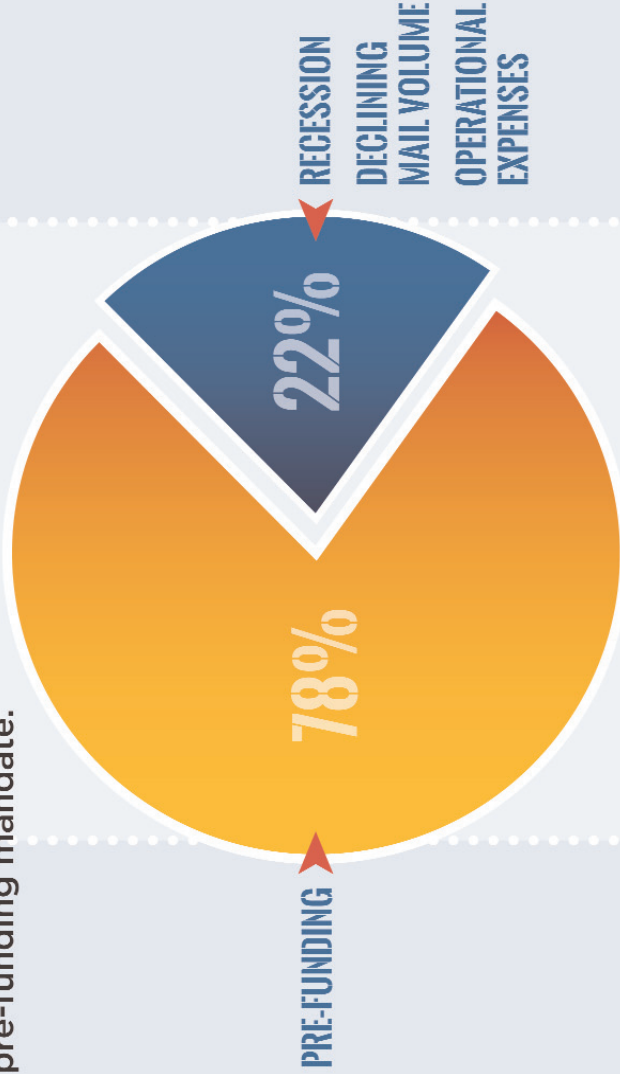
The Effect of Pre-funding

The United States Postal Service is facing financial uncertainty as first class mail volumes have declined. But the most immediate challenge facing USPS is not related to its operations.

The vast majority of USPS red ink is a result of an unprecedented and unnecessary **mandate imposed by Congress in 2006** that the Postal Service fund most retiree health benefits decades in advance ("pre-fund") — and do so in just 10 short years.

THE BOTTOM LINE ON PRE-FUNDING

Since 2007, the Postal Service has recorded losses of **\$42.5 billion**. **\$33 billion** of those losses are a direct result of the pre-funding mandate.



Pre-funding of retiree health benefits

accounted for **100% OF USPS LOSSES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF FY 2013.**

USPS BY THE NUMBERS

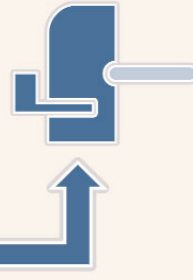
152 million

Homes, businesses and post office boxes USPS delivers to each day, six days a week.



528 million

USPS' average daily volume



40 percent

Amount of the world's letter mail volume handled by USPS. This is **eight times** more than the German postal system, which is the next largest carrier of letter mail and is almost **two times** more than the next five largest posts combined.



46 cents

The price of a first class stamp in the U.S., which is among the lowest in the industrialized world. For the same 46¢ price, you can send a letter down the street or across the country. USPS will make sure it's delivered.



ZERO, ZIP, ZILCH, NADA

Taxpayer dollars received to fund operations since 1982. USPS operates on the revenue it receives from selling postage and services.



Visit www.deliveringforamerica.com for more information.

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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

We wish to extend our welcome to all new employees coming on board by inviting you to our next SWFAL APWU meeting on August 18, 2013, at the Union Hall located at 11000 Metro Parkway, Unit 8, in Fort Myers. Meetings are held once a month on Sunday at 9:30am. Be united, protect your job and discover the many benefits of becoming a member of the SWFAL APWU. Join us at our next meeting - united we can make a

positive difference in our workplaces.

For those of you that have recently retired who 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.

We want to encourage our members to email information to the



editor regarding marriages, graduations, special events or achievements of our employees, or their families, at Edswfal@aol.com. We will be pleased to include as many member announcements as possible.

Game Changer: Healthy eating at the ballpark

Free Agent Scouting

Before your trip to the ballpark check the stadium's website for food and drink options. Then look up calories at NutritionData.com so surprises like a seemingly innocent beverage becomes a homerun and not a foul ball.

Throw your own no-hitter

You can bring a small cooler with food and nonalcoholic drinks to most ballparks. To stay hydrated and keep a clear head drink lots of water. This will also save you money and calories.

Don't Go Over Your Salary Cap

Ballparks now offer inexpensive all you can eat seats. These are diet disasters. Get the hot dog combo, it's cheaper, healthier and Kosher franks have fewer than 320 calories.

Pitching Duels

A cup of roasted peanuts has 863 calories compared to a box of Cracker Jacks, which has 2 grams of fat and 120 calories. Although the peanuts total would look good if this was your batting average, unfortunately it doesn't help your BMI or the 101 diets you've tried. Let's stick with the Cracker Jacks!

Selecting A Designated Hitter

Here's how you hit a homerun on your first chance at bat. Each of the 30 major league stadiums serve up vegetarian options, some offer vegan, and some fresh fruit and veggies. Going, going, gone!

Don't get picked off at first base

Meal vendors can be a temptation. By using the new At Bat App at MLB.com order something with less calories delivered to your seat. Now you won't have to run the bases 197 times to work off those extra nachos you might purchase.

APWU Health Plan Weight Management Program

APWU Health Plan members of the High Option have access to an in-network registered Dietician/Nutritionist at no out-of-pocket cost (FREE). Members who enroll and actively participate in the weight management program will be eligible for this benefit.



Sign Up Today! Call 1-800-582-1314

APWU
HEALTH PLAN
Together. Better Health.

1-800-222-2798

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