I Am Honored To Serve In Our SWFAL APWU

HONORED TO SERVE THE SWFAL APWU

I feel honored being elected by the membership to my ninth (9th) term as the Southwest Florida Area Local President. We still have work that needs to be done and I hope we continue to build on our successes over the past sixteen (16) years.

Thanks to Clerk Craft Director Paul McAvoy and Maintenance Craft Director Michelle Szymonik for their service to our membership.

Paul has been a huge asset to me personally along with being a great personal friend. I hope that both Paul and Mickey will continue their service to our membership in the future.

Congratulations to Vice President Dan Gray, Secretary-Treasurer Jamie Robertson, Motor Vehicle Craft Director Joe Fracek and Editor Kathy Moyer for being re-elected to their positions. It is great knowing that you have familiar faces on the E-Board that know the issues we face and show management that we are united.

Congratulations to Grace Baer as she will become our new Clerk Craft Director and Jeremiah Strunk as he will become our new Maintenance Craft Director. I look forward to working with Grace and Jeremiah on the Executive Board.

AWAITING FORT MYERS P&DC LDRC RESULTS (APBS MACHINE)

As I write this article we are awaiting management’s determination as to work jurisdiction on the Automated Parcel Bundle Sorter (APBS).

As I informed the membership last month, the Fort Myers Branch of the National Postal Mail Handler Union (NPMHU) leadership sought almost every job on the APBS.

They forced a Local Dispute Resolution Committee (LDRC) meeting that challenged the work on the APBS as it currently stood. During the meeting the Mail Handlers made it quite clear that they didn’t want to come to an agreement. This forced the APWU and NPMHU to provide position papers for each job on the machine.

We believe, through the hard work and effort of our local’s behalf, we may not lose jobs on this machine. If we do, it would not be because of our work ethic or approach.

In fact, we believe that this may have ended up as a strategic mistake by the Fort Myers Mail Handler leadership. I think they awoke a sleeping giant in the APWU leadership. Fresh off of our $5.2 Million RI-399 award earlier this year, the Mail Handlers may have thought we would let down our guard so they could get management or us to grant them Craft Jobs.

I believe the Fort Myers Mail Handler leadership felt they needed a win of any kind to reverse their recent failures (Arbitration and Federal Court). In this APBS LDRC meeting, it was clear that they (Mail Handlers) were picking a fight with the SWFAL APWU. They thought we would bend in our efforts to keep all of our work. They may have thought we would give up some work in an effort to come to a signed agreement. They thought wrong; the APWU called their bluff and were not afraid to fight, win or lose.

I can’t begin to explain the amount of work that I poured into making the very best arguments for keeping our work on the APBS. I also went after the work the Mail Handlers have attempted to steal from the APWU over the years. Our goal was to show management the historical inventory at the Fort Myers Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC).

I believe that through our research, hard work and dedication, we have made great arguments for each job to be performed by Clerk Craft employees on the APBS. I would like to thank everyone who assisted me on writing our position papers (especially Dan Gray, Jamie Robertson, Paul McAvoy, Danny Carinci, Grace Baer, Dave Grant and Dan Williamson).

See: I Am Honored To Serve

Continued on Page 6
Secretary-Treasurer’s Report  
Jamie L. Robertson

General Membership
Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: 9:30am. There were 17 members in attendance.

THE PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE: The pledge allegiance was led by: Melody Clower

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Sam Wood, Dan Gray, Paul McAvoy, Jamie Robertson, Kathy Moyer, Joe Fracek, Kathy Moyer made a motion to excuse Mickey. Paul seconded the motion and the motion passed.

MAP: Barb Carr told jokes in honor of Charles Glennon


EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: The Executive board discussed transfers and the 3 PSE conversion rate. PFT conversions. The Executive board discussed some on this money and leave it untouched as long as possible and some on this money and leave it untouched. I paid the RI-399 settlement was paid to management in regards to the LDRC for the APBS machine. Other items discussed were, LMOU negotiations, nominations and Constitution changes.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT:

Paul McAvoy made a motion to accept the minutes as reported in the last month’s The Eagle’s Eye. Dave Grant seconded the motion, and the motion passed. We received another refund after the audits i completed. We received another refund after the audits completed. I have gotten the Union reimbursed for it. I set this money aside in our savings account which is separate from our general funds and convention fund. I would like to try and build some on this money and leave it untouched as long as possible and only use it when need be. I paid the $410 taxes that were due. I am also working on the quarterly report that is due soon. I recently sent in all the proper paperwork to fix any dues discrepancies on the dues check off list. I also sent the proper paperwork to the IAPWS to change the PSE dues from $15.62 to $20.95. I am also working with the Trustee’s to set up a date for the audit in November. Looking at January 2017. Chairman Jamie L. Robertson is currently looking at November 18th, 2016.

REPORT/SELECTION OF COMMITTEES: Constitution committee – Dan Gray will meet with Dave Grant, Danny Carinci and Grace Baer to discuss constitution issues and the possible changing of some of the language in the constitution. Once they go over them, they will write them up as resolutions and submit them to the membership to vote on. Some of the issues to be discussed: Constitution Delegate ranking. The Eagle’s eye: the wear and tear for use of personal vehicles for Union business. If anyone has any ideas to save money that could be used to be presented in this board’s representation, rather than things not needed as much please submit your ideas to the Union office or your steward. Having a full-time president was discussed but after review from Dan Gray and Jamie Robertson, it was agreed upon that it was not feasible at this time but will be revisited again in the future.

REPORT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEES: Constitution Committee – Dan read the proposed changes to the constitution. The board read with the current constitution reads and then read the proposed changes. Those proposed changes will be posted in each office and also will be printed in this month’s The Eagle’s Eye. Paul made a motion to extend the time to mail ballots from 20 days to 25 days. Barb Carr seconded the motion and the motion passed.

REOBT OF TRUSTEES:

Looking to schedule an Audit in November, possibly the 18th.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Sam had Karen send Postmasters language to negotiate LMOU’s. Sam wanted to thank Dave Grant for stepping up while the LMOU negotiations and LDRC meetings were going on. Dave helped and went to the Punta Gorda and Cape stations to help keep up with the grievances in those stations. We had a lot of work on the LDRC and LMOU negotiations. Our wonderful Secretary/Office Manager sent a wonderful Thank You card to the membership thanking us for the Birthday card and gift card. “You are so welcome Karen!” November 5th, 2016 is the National Officers installation. The Union leadership meeting has been rescheduled to November 2, 2016.

UPDATE OF GRIEVANCES:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

LABOR/MANAGEMENT:

NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE:

The winner of the COPA 50/50 drawing was Julio Mayo who won $27.00. The total netted was $56.68. Julio donated $27.00 back to COPA. The name drawn for the Incentive Award was Scott Wiser. He won $80.00 and Scott donated $40 dollars of his winnings to COPA. The pot will go back to $50.00 at the next meeting.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND DELEGATES:

Sam Wood nominated nominations and read each position that would be run for three times. PRESIDENT: Dan Gray nominated Sam Wood for President. No other person nomination. VICE PRESIDENT: Sam Wood nominated Jamie Robertson for Vice President. No other person nomination. Congratulations Dan Gray. SECRETARY/TREASURER: Paul McAvoy nominated Jamie Robertson for Secretary/Treasurer. No other person ran. Congratulations Jamie Robertson. CLERK CRAFT DIRECTOR: Paul McAvoy nominated Grace Baer for Clerk Craft Director. No other person ran. Congratulations Grace Baer. MVS DIRECTOR: Dan Gray nominated Joe Fracek for MVS Director. No other person ran. Congratulations Joe Fracek. MAIN-TENANCE DIRECTOR: Shirley Christ nominated Jeremiah Strunk for Maintenance Director. No other person ran. Congratulations Jeremiah Strunk. EDITOR: Jamie L. Robertson nominated Kathy Moyer for Editor. No other person ran. Congratulations Kathy Moyer. TRUSTEES: Dave Grant nominated Danny Carinci for Trustee. Jeremiah Strunk nominated Scott Wiser for Trustee. Danny Carinci nominated Dan Williamson for Trustee. Danny Carinci nominated Dave Grant for Trustee. There are only three positions for Trustee. Therefore, Danny, Dave, Scott and Dan will all run in an election for the membership to vote on which three people they would like to have as Trustee's.

LEFT OVERS:

RI-399 checks that have not gone out yet were discussed. Sam has been maintaining the labor constantly on this issue any way possible by phone, phone. Grievances have been filed for non-compliance on this issue. Sam spoke on how we feel strongly that we have proven our case on the APBS machine. Danny Carinci spoke on the LDRC meeting which which, Sam Wood, Dan Gray, Jamie Robertson and Danny Carinci were at. Danny said he can’t thank Sam enough for all he has done to protect us and our jobs. Dan spoke on FPARS and told the membership we are awaiting an LDRC meeting which we have requested.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Results were recorded. Reminder, Mickey was excused from the meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Robert Nowall moved to have the meeting on November 13, 2016. Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed. The next meeting will be Sunday November 13, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT:

Robert Nowall moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:28am. Paul seconded the motion, the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.
Happy Holidays And Good Luck
To The New Executive Board

I would like to thank all of you who have wished me well in my departure from being Clerk Craft Director.

It has been 6 very fulfilling years filled with much success for our local. I leave with a great feeling of accomplishment.

I would like to thank Grace Baer for stepping up to take my place as SWFAL Clerk Craft Director. I could not have hand picked a better replacement.

For those of you who do not know her, Grace is a tenacious steward willing to fight and take on management for every violation of our contract. I leave you in very good and capable hands. Thank you Grace.

I would also like to congratulate Jeremiah Strunk on his acclamation of Maintenance Craft Director.

Congratulations to all our present Executive Board members who have won their nomination by acclamation. We are all in good hands under the leadership of President Sam Wood and VP Dan Gray.

Having worked closely with them for the last 6 years on the Executive Board gives an even greater appreciation for the jobs they do.

I believe the SWFAL local is one of the strongest in the country. For the amount of members we have it is amazing the accomplishments we have received.

Your Executive Board is a team of very knowledgeable professionals who are all willing to go the extra mile to be sure your rights are not violated. Back them in every way you can as they have a difficult and often times thankless job.

Thanks again to all and have Happy Holidays!!!!!!!

Buying Back Military Time

Buying back military time can be a lengthy process and employees with creditable service time should consider buying it back within the first three years of career appointment to avoid accrued interest being added to the cost.

Making payments for military service can increase the amount of your retirement annuity and add years of service to your eligibility requirement.

Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) Employees with active military service ending prior to December 31, 1956 will receive full credit without needing to make a deposit for retirement eligibility and annuity calculations.

CSRS and FERS employees with active military service after January 1, 1957 must make a deposit to buy back their time for retirement eligibility and annuity calculation purposes.

Information about requirements for these employees can be found online by clicking on the retirement link at OPM.gov. Employees desiring to buy back their military time must call the USPS HR Shared Service Center at 1-877-477-3273, option 5 and request an information packet for military buy back.

Follow the instructions in the document packet to obtain your estimated earnings from the finance center for the appropriate branch of the U.S. Military.

An official copy of your DD 214 (Report of Separation) must accompany the request for estimated earnings. All military service time must be honorable to complete a buy back.

Once you have received your estimated military earnings, Shared Services will determine the amount of your deposit.

Should you elect to buy back your military time, follow the instructions for completing the forms included in the packet.

Payment options are also included in the packet, and your deposit must be paid in full prior to your USPS retirement date. Once the deposit has been fully paid, your retirement computation date will be adjusted to include your military service. Retain proof of payment for future reference.

The decision to buy back military time is a personal one that should be undertaken after careful consideration.

Postal employees with a military retirement are under no obligation to combine their military retirement with their postal retirement. Conversely, postal employees who do not have a military retirement, but have served one or two enlistment periods may want to add their service time to their postal retirement.

Holidays Are Coming
Take Extra Care To Work Safely

The holiday season is fast approaching and along with it increased mail volumes, longer working hours and increased stress for postal employees.

Management that is often harried and panicky under normal circumstances becomes even more harried and panicky during this time of year.

Under normal circumstances, management looks for ways to circumvent the CBA, but during this busy time, management may try to throw the CBA out the window. Of course, far too many in USPS management care only about their numbers; their numbers need to look good, so they try to get them any way they can.

There is a reason why the Union and Postal Management has agreed to the CBA. If you work more hours, you get overtime pay. If you work holidays you get extra pay. Each party to the contract agrees that employees should receive extra compensation for working longer hours and doing extra work.

The CBA is a series of agreements between the Union and Management recognizing that USPS employees are provided a two way street arrangement in the workplace. If employees provide something extra, management provides something additional to them. It’s a give and take, or supposed to be.

The problem is that there is a disconnect between front line supervisors and the CBA. Many supervisors see the CBA as standing in their way to postal numbers glory and prefer to ignore it. It’s one thing for management to try to cheat employees out of monetary guarantees in the CBA, but it is entirely a different matter for managers to demand unreasonable expectations.

Postal employees have a right to a safe workplace. They have a right to perform their work in an environment free from management intimidation and bullying.

Unfortunately, there are many in management who believe none of these issues matter. When the holiday season arrives, they become even more antagonistic because of the faster pace of the work and their need to “make the numbers”. It is very difficult to work safely in a hostile work environment. During the holiday season rush a hostile work environment’s related problems are magnified. No one should have to work in a hostile work environment, whether it’s the holiday season or some other time of year.

Now I understand, managers are often not held accountable for their abusive conduct. However, if you are willing to document the wrongful conduct, a pattern of this wrongful conduct can be demonstrated. If the offending supervisor will not correct the situation, continue documenting and prepare to file grievances, safety complaints or EEO complaints.

I hope all have a great holiday season. And remember, your family, friends and union brothers and sisters care about you and your safety, especially this time of year.
The National APWU Elections of Officers has been completed and the results are on the APWU National website.

Now not all the candidates we endorsed won, but that is what democracy is all about. The real issue is the appalling low number of members that didn't even bother to vote.

Where I commend each and every one of you that cared enough to vote, there was really no excuse not to vote in this election or any election. How lazy has the membership gotten?

Nationally the APWU represents more than 200,000 members but only a little over 40,000 members bothered to vote. The response rate nationally was disgusting low. Only twenty percent of the members even bothered to mail back their ballots.

This is a ballot that is mailed to your home. You only have to open it up, check a few boxes and place it back in another supplied envelope. Postage is paid by the National APWU to return the ballot, and you can mail it at your work site.

The apathy that members displayed both locally and nationally is sad and disturbing. Voting is a right that everyone should exercise. Too many of you are doing nothing and then have the audacity to complain how things turned out.

We are continually getting complaints from employees when management forces them to work on their holiday. You need to remember the Union does not schedule you to work a holiday, management does.

Management makes the determination as to their needs for staffing. The Union only verifies that the proper holiday schedule pecking order is followed.

So do not start yelling at your steward when management schedules you to work. Go yell at the supervisor or manager that forced you in.

The following is the pecking order for holidays for the Fort Myers Bid Installation:

LMOU ITEM 13: THE METHOD OF SELECTING EMPLOYEES TO WORK ON A HOLIDAY

A. Ten days prior to the posting of the holiday schedule, Management shall post a list seeking volunteers to work any day of the three-day holiday period. Management shall provide a copy of the sign-up sheets and final holiday schedule to the local union president.

B. Employees shall be selected as follows:

1. All full-time employees by tour who possess the necessary skills and have volunteered to work on the holiday or their designated holiday.
2. All PSE employees.
3. All full-time volunteer employees by tour who possess the necessary skills and their scheduled non work day falls on the holiday, even though the payment of overtime is required, by seniority.
4. Full-time employees by tour who possess the necessary skills who have not volunteered to work their holiday, by inverse seniority.
5. Full-time non-volunteer employees by tour who possess the necessary skills and their scheduled non work day falls on the holiday, even though payment of overtime is required, by inverse seniority.

Please check you LMOU for your specific office since some pecking orders vary (all LMUs are available on the SWFAL website).

Also we continually have employees complaining that junior employees on other Tours are not required, by seniority.

Remember to not stress the stupid and small stuff, enjoy your family and friends. There is more positive out there than negative - you just have to look for it.
Union Matters

With an equal measure of regret and relief, I have decided that I will not run again for Maintenance Craft Director. Family concerns and personal health issues have taken a toll over the past couple of years and I feel that my Union brothers and sisters would be better served by someone less distracted by life’s more difficult circumstances.

While it’s not quite accurate to say that I’ve always enjoyed my time as Maintenance Craft Director, I will say that I am proud to have been a part of Southwest Florida Area Local’s Executive Board. I truly believe that our SWFAL APWU is one of the best in the country.

I am sure that I have pissed off, dismayed and disappointed some of the membership on some occasions. It comes with the territory. I am equally sure that I have done some good and been involved in securing some great victories for the Maintenance craft.

In challenging discipline, safety issues and other contractual violations, I believe that I, along with all of our Local 1279 representatives, have served our membership very well.

To the next Maintenance Craft Director, I have this to say: Fight on, to the best of your ability, with integrity, honesty and compassion. If you do that, you win the war even when you lose the occasional battle. And I wish you the best as you carry out your duties.

Solidarity, Prosperity, Peace out

Stop And Be Proud . . . But The Battle Goes On

There’s not a day that goes by that I don’t feel a great sense of pride and gratitude for being a part of such a great local.

Every seminar or convention I have had the privilege of attending makes me realize just how special our SWFAL APWU really is. And the recent APWU National Convention which I attended was no exception.

It is such a great feeling to be greeted by members of other locals from around the country and actually have them say, “Thank You”, for what our local has done and achieved.

Although I am humbled by their compliments, I know that the road to this point has been long and hard fought.

Which brings me to our current state of affairs; The RI-399 case involving the Flat Sorter continues.

Yes, we have won the opening battle with a 5.2 million dollar compensation, but still we must fight to be made whole for the remainder of our work and for the work being returned to us.

Now as if it were not bad enough that we have fought this battle for so many years, representatives for the Mail Handlers have now had the audacity to try and “steal” more work from us. Yes, I used the word “steal”.

I don’t like to use that term but, it is what it is.

I was present during the LDRC meeting in which the Mail Handlers requested the return of the APBS. I witnessed our President Sam Wood attempt to negotiate with the Mail Handlers representative so that both parties would be happy with the outcome.

But instead the Mail Handlers representative wanted all the work on the Bundle Sorter, leaving only one Clerk position. That work has historically always been done by the Clerk Craft.

I was one of the many Clerks who held a Flat Sorter bid years ago. My tour 2 bid was abolished and our positions were replaced with Mail Handlers. I was forced to take a bid back on the night shift and it took years to get back on tour 2.

Although it was hard to accept the fact that I was losing my job, I placed the blame on Management and not the Mail Handlers.

Now it’s happening all over again, but this time it’s clear to me. The representatives for the Mail Handlers have started a battle that I am sure some of their own members must disagree with. The Mail Handlers representatives have done so with a “Nothing personal, just business attitude”.

Well, I have got news for those representatives. Wrong is just that, wrong!

And you have only succeeded to once again place a rift between the two Crafts.

I have nothing but respect for the Mail Handlers at the P&D, but the line has been crossed. I just hope they come to realize that the people they have chosen to represent them ultimately reflect back on themselves. They have no idea what they have started.

We will fight to protect our work! And we will stop any attempt made to take it! Nothing personal, just business!

So as always, when you see a violation such as “Cross Craft work”, File!

And if you’re not a member, join today!

In Solidarity

SWFAL APWU Election Update

At the regular membership meeting on Sunday, October 16, 2016, the following were unopposed and therefore elected by acclamation:

President - Sam Wood
Vice President – Dan Gray
Secretary-Treasurer – Jamie Robertson
Craft Director – Grace Baer
Motor Vehicle Craft Director – Joe Fracek
Maintenance Craft Director – Jeremiah Strunk
Editor – Kathy Moyer

The office of Trustee is contested. The four nominees for the three Trustee positions are Daniel Carinci, Scott J. Weiser, Dan Williamson and David Grant.

Ballots will be prepared at the union hall beginning at 9:30am on Monday, November 7. They will be secured and subsequently mailed on Thursday, November 10. All Members in good standing as of October 16, 2016, from all crafts represented by the SWFAL APWU will receive a ballot for the Trustee position.

If you fail to receive your ballot package by Tuesday, November 15, you must contact me at 239-936-2778 as soon as possible. You must also contact me in the event you lose or spoil your ballot prior to Tuesday, December 6, so I may provide you with a replacement ballot.

Read the instruction sheet accompanying the ballot carefully. Ballots must be returned in time to be picked up on Saturday, December 10 at 9:30am.

This is your opportunity to exercise your right as a union member to elect your local’s trustees by secret ballot. Don’t throw this opportunity away.

Barbara Carr, Chairman
Election Committee
Hello Brothers and Sisters. My name is Daniel Carinci and it is with great pride that I accept the nomination for the position of Trustee to our great local. I have learned so much during the years I have had the privilege of performing the duties as your Trustee. I cannot thank you enough for giving me this opportunity once again. I have had the fortune to watch our local grow and prosper. Together we have brought our local to a sound and solid level of financial security and in the coming years I foresee nothing but upward growth. These are good times. We should all be proud of these accomplishments and I only hope I have the privilege to continue representing our great local as your Trustee. I thank you once again for all your support.

In Solidarity

Daniel V. Carinci, Jr.

DAVID GRANT

I would appreciate everyone’s support in voting for me in this election as a Trustee. As a Trustee it is our responsibility to audit our financial books to insure that they are correct and to make recommendations when needed. I have been one of the trustees for the past two years and in the past. I have been in other offices in my last 29 years as a Steward, Vice President, APWU Health Plan Rep, Safety Rep and filled in other positions as well. I feel that I am well qualified for the position and have proven to do an excellent job for our members. If elected again I will continue to work for you all and insure that our money is spent wisely.

David Grant

DAN WILLIAMSON

My name is Dan Williamson. I have been in the Postal Service for 23 years and have been a faithful member of the union for all of those years. I have some experience serving on a committee for oversight of a prior administration. I have been nominated to serve as a Trustee for the union and I have accepted. I know that the job of Trustee is an important one. Every organization needs oversight and the union created the job of Trustee for just that reason, to insure that the local’s money is well spent and that that the member’s dues are being properly utilized. That all logs are in good repair and kept up properly. I promise to give my best effort on the member’s behalf. I know all the other nominees, they are friends, and I wish each of them good luck in the election for Trustee. Thank you to all in our area local for considering me for this job.

SCOTT J. WISER

My name is Scott J. Wiser and I am running for APWU SW FL Area Local 1279 Trustee. I have been a member of the APWU for 18+ years, 10 of those years spent as Ft. Myers P&D Tour 1 Maintenance Steward. Prior to being hired by the USPS I was a member of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners for 15 years.

I have a strong Union background and experience in representing the members of our local. I am asking for your vote for Trustee so that I can continue to serve and represent our local.

Thank You

Scott J. Wiser
Tour 1 ET
Ft. Myers P&D

Give Thanks

At this time of the year when we are giving thanks I would like to say, “Thank you”, to all the SWFAL APWU family for their support over these last several years. The support for our local, which has not only been directed to myself, but also to all of our stewards and officers has given us the strength needed in the continued fight for every postal employee’s contractual rights in the workplace. The battle for workplace justice must continually be fought in the USPS. Be thankful we have a union to lead in that fight.

I hope everyone counts their blessings this season and takes the time to be grateful for them. Remember those less fortunate than us and have a Great Thanksgiving.

Joe Fracek
Motor Vehicle Craft Director
Ft. Myers
Lead Steward
Page Field
SWFAL APWU

We have read the Mail Handlers position papers and feel that the SWFAL APWU’s arguments on each of the job duties on the APBS are far superior, better documented and well written. I assured everyone that we fought harder than the Mail Handlers imagined we would. We fought to take back every job on the APBS while also proving that all duties on that machine have historically performed by Clerk Craft employees.

We should know very soon which craft management awards each job on the APBS machine. Although, we do not know which craft will ultimately prevail on each position, we do know that every member should feel proud of our efforts and hard work.

Stay Tuned!

SWFAL APWU REQUESTS AN LDRC ON F-PARS

Recently we found out that Flats Pars (F-PARS) operation had come into the Fort Myers P&D and was unilaterally awarded to the Mail Handler Craft. So the SWFAL APWU immediately called for an LDRC meeting of our own challenging that work.

We haven’t had that LDRC meeting on those jobs yet but we are confident this is Clerk Craft work and should prevail in our attempt to get those jobs returned to the APWU bargaining unit.

I Am Honored To Serve

Continued from Page 1

We should know very soon which craft management awards each job on the APBS machine. Although, we do not know which craft will ultimately prevail on each position, we do know that every

November 11

Remembering Those Who Serve And Have Served

Veteran’s Day Friday

Support Our Troops

Stay Tuned!
Southwest Florida Area Local APWU, AFL-CIO
Proposed Constitution Changes

PRESENT LANGUAGE:
530 Secretary-Treasurer
Shall pay all bills by check. Each check issued by the Local shall be countersigned by another eligible member of the Executive Board, not the President. All expense vouchers must be approved, in advance of payment, by the President.

PROPOSED CHANGE:
530 Secretary-Treasurer
Shall pay all bills by check or electronic payment if required. Each check issued by the Local shall be countersigned by another eligible member of the Executive Board, not the President. All expense vouchers must be approved, in advance of payment, by the President.

PRESENT LANGUAGE:
550 Editor
Shall mail a newsletter monthly, excluding December, by the 12th of the month.

PROPOSED CHANGE:
550 Editor
Shall mail a newsletter bi-monthly, the months of January, March, May, July, September and November, by the 12th of the month.

PRESENT LANGUAGE:
1600 Salaries:
e) Editor $150.00 per month plus two days authorized union leave per month.

PROPOSED CHANGE:
1600 Salaries:
e) Editor $150.00 a month plus two days authorized union leave for the months a newsletter is mailed as listed in 550.

PRESENT LANGUAGE:
1611 Failure of an Officer to write a monthly article or attend a meeting shall result in loss of monthly salary for that month. Exceptions to this shall be approved by the membership. Officers who serve as Stewards shall not have to write Steward articles.

PROPOSED CHANGE:
1611 Failure of an officer to write a bi-monthly article or attend a meeting shall result in loss of monthly salary for that month. Exceptions to this shall be approved by the membership. Officers who serve as Stewards shall not have to write Steward articles.

PRESENT LANGUAGE:
1612 Stewards shall write one article bi-monthly or more often, if desired. Failure to do so shall result in forfeiture of monthly salary until article is written. Exceptions shall be approved by the membership.

PROPOSED CHANGE:
1612 Stewards shall write one article bi-monthly. Failure to do so shall result in forfeiture of monthly salary until article is written. Exceptions shall be approved by the membership.
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 Building Washington, DC 20510-0905

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

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!

Southwest Florida Area Local Membership News

We wish to extend our welcome to all new employees coming on board at the United States Postal Service by inviting you to our next SWFAL APWU meeting 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. Stand strong and be united, protect your job and discover the many benefits of becoming a member of the SWFAL APWU.

Join us at our next local meeting - united we can make a positive difference in our workplaces. We look forward to seeing you there!

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 SWFAL APWU office at 239-275-1007.

We encourage members to email information to the editor regarding marriages, graduations, special events or achievements of our employees, or their families. Please email information to The Eagle’s Eye at Edswfal@aol.com. We will be pleased to include as many member announcements as possible.

High Blood Pressure

One of the most important things you can do to reduce your risk of a stroke or heart attack is to keep your blood pressure at a healthy level. Ideally, your blood pressure should be no higher than 120/80.

Actions you can take to improve your blood pressure:

- Follow the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) with a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and low-fat dairy products.
- Reduce sodium intake to about 2,400 mg per day and increase potassium intake to about 3,500 mg per day.
- Reduce alcohol intake.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Reduce stress.
- Increase physical activity to at least 30 minutes at a moderate level, five days a week.

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