



The

Union Mail

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Published by the NY Metro Area Postal Union

"The Labor Movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress."—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Women's History Month: We Remember the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, March 25, 1911



Protest after Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, April 5, 1911.

Story on page 8

YOU are the Union!



Jonathan Smith

I've noticed that many members have a false and many times unreasonable impression/expectation of what is the role of the Union in the work place. So, I wanted to take this time to clear up this perception as best as I can.

The main role of the Union is to negotiate a contract to govern the work place. This is done at the national level. In simple terms, it's mutually negotiated and sometimes arbitrated rules that the employees and management should abide by. Of course this does not always happen.

The role of the Union on a local level is to police and enforce the contract. To put this language in simple terms, means to monitor management in following the rules. When management breaks the rules the Union brings it to their attention and if they continue to violate the contract the Union files a grievance to force management to comply.

This is where things get misunderstood. The union representatives work *with* the members to resolve issues in the work place, not for the members. There is a difference in working *with* you as opposed to working for you. Union representatives are not lawyers; they are bargaining unit employees who made a commitment to do their best to enforce the contract with the help of their co-workers.

Many members feel they have no obligation more than just paying their union dues. This is far from the truth. I say this all the time. We win

cases with evidence not argument. That evidence must come from the members. The union representatives are outnumbered by management 20 to 1. How do we even the odds? - with knowledgeable, active and supportive members willing to help the Union fight to enforce and protect the contract.

I had a manager tell me recently that he admires how hard me and my staff fight for our members but the Union will never win because the members are afraid to fight and easily swayed by overtime and wanting to be a 204B or regular supervisor. I wonder how hard would some of you fight for someone that won't fight for themselves? Why won't many members step up to be shop stewards? It's because they don't want to deal with people exactly like themselves. It's much easier to point the finger than to fight to make a difference.

The motor vehicle drivers don't want to wear their safety vests. WHY? The Union cannot fight for the members' right to be unsafe! Article 14 of the CBA says management is responsible for the safety and health of the employees. Many employees claim the bathrooms are nasty! I agree with you but it's not the custodians' fault the cleaning products that the postal service is supplying just don't work. The members are not putting in 1767s (safety hazard forms). When we filed an OSHA complaint, the Union was asked for these forms but we didn't have the evidence to support the charge. In my opinion that's the members not doing their part because the Union leadership did as much as it could do without

help. Another example is careless leave requests. You must pay attention to your 3971s. When you fill out 3971s, they must be filled out in duplicate -- management must sign one ("notified") at the time the request is being made. This is your proof that you requested the leave. Management must approve or disapprove your request within 3 days or your request is automatically granted but often the worker didn't get the proof. Or people claiming FMLA but having no approved FMLA documentation -- not submitting it or not telling the steward if there is a problem until it's too late.

Management likes to tell the employees that the request is being denied for "needs of the service." Put in the request anyway on a 3971

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Reversions hurt us all

By Tiffany Foster, Executive Vice-President



Tiffany Foster

If you are paying close attention to the Clerk job postings in your installation, you will notice that when people bid out of duty assignments, management has not posted those vacant duty assignments for career employees to bid. Well that is because the USPS has taken an aggressive position to revert duty assignments as they become vacant. Article 37.1.F states reversions are when management decides to reduce the number of duty assignments in an installation when such duty assignment(s) is/are vacant.

Why do you think they are taking this action? Management doesn't want to convert anymore PSEs. With the last Collective Bargaining Agreement 2015-2018, the USPS had to convert all the clerk PSEs across the country who had at least 2.5 years in the Postal Service to career status. This costs the Postal Service more money in pay and benefits. Forget providing people with a career and an opportunity to better their situations as was promised when they solicited people to apply for the PSE position. The Postal Service would rather get rid of career duty assignments and have the current workforce (career and PSE) work under unreasonable and sometime unsafe conditions to get the work done.

When we have interviewed management in your stations and sec-

tions, they have told us that their current staff can get the job done. We know this is not true because we see the amount of overtime and penalty time that is being paid. (I guess Article 3 gives management the right to mismanage.)

The process for PSE conversion is based on the Clerk Craft MOU dated March 20, 2014, that is now part of the Contract. The PSEs are converted into residual vacancies. Article 37.1.H defines a residual vacancy as "a duty assignment that remains vacant after the completion of the voluntary bidding process." The MOU requires that before a PSE is converted into one of these residual vacancies, all unassigned full time career clerks must be placed into one of them. Then if there are any excessing events taking place within a 50-mile radius of that Installation those residual duty assignments are set aside for them. If that is not the case, then it is offered to career employees across the country for transfer opportunities. There are about a total of 7 to 8 steps that must take place prior to the PSEs being converted into a residual duty assignments.

These vacant duty assignments that management has decided to revert means there is less opportunity for career jobs for our PSEs. When we started the Postal Service, we all looked forward to the day we would turn career. This is the same for the PSEs.

The union has stated numerous times, we need your help to fight and protect our jobs. We know that

the reversion of these duty assignments is not justified. We know that there are stations where the number of PSEs outnumber the career employees. But management doesn't care. They want a workforce of PSEs so that they can continue to pay low wages without benefits.

When do we become our brother and sister's keeper? Management may not get along with each other but when they must enforce the company policies, they will. When will we be the same way? If you are a PSE who is not window qualified and works at the Inquiry window and in the lobby, we need to know this. If you work in the plant or station and you witness carriers, mailhandlers, supervisors and managers performing our work, you **MUST** get in touch with your steward and provide a statement of what you witnessed. No longer is it alright to sit by and do nothing.

I was at a station and a PSE told me that the supervisor told them that they would be converted in July. I told her that was not true and why it wasn't true. Management is lying to you. They have no idea of when conversions will take place; and by them reverting duty assignments as they become vacant, that possibility is later than sooner.

Currently, we have been notified of reversions in the DVD, Manhattan and Bronx Installations. Rest assured that we are filing grievances on these reversions. The grievance process has already begun in all these Installations, but again, we need your help. ☐

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

America's public Postal Service in the Trump era

THE "SKINNY" BUDGET

By Nora Taggart, Legislative and Political Director

The "skinny" budget

President Donald Trump released the first budget blueprint of his new administration on March 16, 2017. The self-titled "America First Budget" outlines the president's priorities for discretionary spending. A fuller budget will be submitted in May. That one will include tax policy, health care and the massive programs like Social Security and Medicare and possibly even address the US Postal Service.

Although some GOP lawmakers defend it saying it is based on Trump's promises to the American people, recent news reports indicate the Trump administration relied heavily on The Heritage Foundation's "Blueprint for Balance" to craft some of the ideas included in Trump's own budget. The Heritage Foundation is a radical conservative think-tank that has spent decades trying to gut the federal government.

Included in the Heritage Foundation's blueprint is a section devoted to the US Postal Service. On pages 104-105 the foundation, which is funded by the Koch brothers and corporations like United Parcel Service (UPS) calls for:

1. the privatization of the US Postal Service;
2. lifting congressionally imposed restrictions on the closure of USPS processing centers and post offices;
3. lifting restrictions on delivery times and schedules, per-

mitting delivery on a five-day per-week basis or even less;

4. eliminating door-to-door service;
5. resumption of pre-funding payments for retiree health benefits in a limited period of time;
6. eliminating restrictions on competition in the postal business, including the prohibition on private delivery of letter mail.

The Trump administration is widely expected to adopt much of that blueprint as its own. Paul Winfree, the former director of Heritage's Institute for Economic Policy Studies, was named the White House director of budget policy. He's not the only Trump staffer from the Heritage Foundation. By Heritage's own account, "several dozen" of its staff members worked on Trump's transition team.

Trump's new labor advisor is postal workers' enemy

The White House has appointed James Sherk, a former Heritage Foundation fellow who opposes substantial minimum wage hikes and expanded union rights, to advise the president on labor and employment issues.

Sherk authored several "studies"

about the US Postal Service where he calls for Congress to:

1. reduce the pay of federal employees to market rates;
2. hire more contractors;
3. reduce federal employee benefits;
4. end the automatic deduction of federal union dues;
5. increase employee contributions to FERS;
6. replace the highest three years of earnings (high-3) with the lifetime average for FERS benefit calculation;
7. reduce vacation and sick leave;
8. gradually increase the federal retirement age to that of Social Security and index it for life expectancy. Currently, federal workers can collect retirement benefits as early as age 55 to 57. Non-federal workers cannot collect full Social Security benefits until age 67.
9. require employees to appeal their dismissal through only one forum. Currently, federal employees who are dismissed can file charges with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleging discrimination; the Office of Special Council (for whistle-blowing); and either with the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) or through its union grievance procedures.

With the appointment of Sherk, the enemies of America's Public Postal Service have yet another ally with the president's ear. ☐



Postal Reform Act of 2017

By Chuck Zlatkin

As *The Union Mail* goes to press, the Postal Reform Act of 2017 (HR 756), legislation that should concern every active postal worker, retiree, their families and anyone who cares about the future of a public Postal Service, has moved out of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee by voice vote.

This was an important step for the bill, introduced by Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), the committee's chair, and co-sponsored by Elijah Cummings (D-MD), the ranking member of the committee, Marc Meadows (R-NC), the chair of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Postal Service, Gerald Connolly (D-VA), and Stephen Lynch (D-MA). The bill will have to go through both the House Ways and Means committee and the Energy and Commerce committee before it would be voted on the full House.

The need now for postal reform legislation goes back to the manufactured financial crisis which was created by Congress with the passage of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) in 2006. The subsequent inability to get postal legislation passed that would deal with the punitive pre-funding of future retirees' health benefits will be dealt with by this bill. The Postal Service still owes \$33 billion to the fund. To opponents of a public Postal Service this "debt" will be likely used as a club to force postal privatization if something isn't done.

HR 756 includes the establishment of Medicare Integration for postal retirees that would deal with the pre-funding mandate. "...within

the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHB), it would place Medicare-eligible postal workers in Medicare Parts A and B. . . approximately 80 percent of Medicare-eligible postal workers and retirees are voluntarily enrolled into Medicare A and B. . . In addition to expanding Medicare's role as a primary payer, FEHB plans would be given access to discounted prescription drugs through an Employer Group Waiver Plan with Medicare Part D."¹ HR 756 would eliminate the negative financial impact of the PAEA.

H.R. 756, in its current form, is supported by the four national Postal Unions, postal management, a significant number of large mailing corporations. The broad-based support is a result of 18 months of work among the groups to find legislation that they all could support. Postal supervisors and a growing list of bi-partisan members of the House are also in support.


HR 756 has received opposition from the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) and a from a coalition of over 20 right-wing organizations headed up by the Koch brothers-funded Heritage Foundation who favor the privatization of the USPS.

Recent concerns about the bill have been addressed as the bill was marked up. APWU requested clarifying language to ensure that prescription drug benefit coverage under FEHB would not decrease through Medicare integration. A manager's amendment was offered by Chairman Chaffetz to address this concern. The manager's amend-

ment was adopted by the Committee.

APWU was also "concerned about the unintended consequence of certain postal annuitants who could not benefit from Medicare Part B." Chairman Chaffetz and Rep. Lynch recognized APWU's concern and "stated unequivocally that this is not the bill's intent. They committed to further investigate and consider any necessary revisions going forward to address this. A bill is always a work in progress until signed by the U.S. President."²

NARFE in its opposition to the bill ignored recent history by stating "There are simple solutions to the financial problems facing the U.S. Postal Service, such as eliminating the prefunding requirement outright." In 2009, the Democrats held the White House and both Houses of Congress and nothing was done. Other attempts over the years to bring about the "simple solution" failed and that is the reason that a new approach was developed and is gaining support. Considering the current political climate (*see Legislative Report*), it is essential that we do everything we can to defend a public Postal Service.

It is important that any confusion regarding this legislation be cleared up ASAP. New York Metro wants to make sure that it has all pertinent information needed before it takes a position on the legislation. As of press time, NY Metro has not yet received the Q&As that APWU National has been working on. As soon as NY Metro is ready to take a position on this important legislation, you will be notified. 

¹ APWU News Brief 02/07/2017

² APWU News Brief 03/20/2017

Sisters, we have P.O.W.E.R. Let's use it!



By Flo Summergrad

This is the 38th year of P.O.W.E.R. in the American Postal Workers Union. Sparked by the sisters from our own local, NY Metro Area Postal Union, P.O.W.E.R. was created as a caucus to strengthen and empower the women in the union, who were then a minority of the postal workforce. Issues that particularly impact women—such as: child-care, elder care, domestic violence, rape, and sexual harassment on the job – had to be made an essential part of the Union's concerns. Sisters helped each other deal with their own stress and family problems to become strong representatives of all workers, regardless of gender.

It did not come easy. APWU women had to fight to be able to speak at union conventions and be accepted in leadership roles. Their struggles have opened doors in the Union and in the Postal Service for women to advance. But these gains are not guaranteed. For those sisters (and brothers) who take our rights for granted, we spoke with some of our experienced representatives, who remind them that “the struggle continues.”

Brenda Jackson retired after nearly 40 years at the NJ BMC/NDC and 20 years as a Shop Steward in the Maintenance craft and is one of the retirees still active in P.O.W.E.R. In 1993, when Brenda became a shop steward, she started to attend P.O.W.E.R. meetings. She says, “I loved that P.O.W.E.R. stood for Post Office Women for Equal Rights. When I left work to attend


P.O.W.E.R. meetings, I would rub it in my boss's face: ‘I'm going to the meeting for POST OFFICE WOMEN FOR EQUAL RIGHTS!’”

Sharon Suchomel has been a postal worker for 20 years, most recently as a Maintenance Support Clerk at the NDC. She has begun to be active with NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. over the last year and already feels that she is developing strength and confidence. Sharon sees P.O.W.E.R. as a way to “help women get a voice.” In today's world, women are learning “we can do any job. It's a big breakthrough, and sisters working together are learning to stand up for women's rights.”

Barbara Harris-McKenzie started being active in P.O.W.E.R. twenty-five years ago. She was brought along by more experienced sisters, and now she can help bring other women along. “The sisterhood, the comaraderie, helps you become more aware of yourself—not just at work but in all aspects of your life. Networking with women from all over the country develops knowledge; we see where people came from and how they grew. It's uplifting. P.O.W.E.R. gives you HOPE and makes you stand strong.”

Jenny Gardner, NYMAPU Assistant Director in the Bronx, feels that we “can't just sit by the wayside. We have to get involved. Now, more than ever we have to organize to stand up for women's rights.” The small core of active P.O.W.E.R. sis-

ters has developed strong stewards on the work floor, has worked with voter registration, and is looking more to get involved with community issues.

Half of the NY Metro Executive Board consists of women who worked within P.O.W.E.R.: Executive Vice President Tiffany Foster, Secretary-Treasurer Sharon Tyrrell, Political and Legislative Director Nora Taggart, Coordinating V.P. Flo Summergrad, Clerk Craft Director Diane Erlanger, Morgan Director Jackie Owens, MV Craft Director Denise Holland, and Bronx Assistant Director, Jenny Gardner. They are examples of the best results of P.O.W.E.R. in action. As they grew stronger, they strengthened the union as well. Their dedication to the union struggle will continue to inspire us, in the NY Metro Local and in the APWU for years to come. 

Every woman member in the APWU is automatically a member of P.O.W.E.R. All sisters are WELCOME to the monthly meetings at the NY Metro Union office—the 4th Wednesday of every month at 1:00 pm. You are needed! If you can't get to the next meeting, speak to your stewards and officers about getting involved in the campaigns of the Post Office Women for Equal Rights. What do YOU need to fight for on your job? What are your issues?

Persistence pays off

By Flo Summergrad

How often do we hear workers complain that they are being harassed on the job but refuse to file any written complaint because “it won’t do any good.” An arbitration victory for Clerk Veronica Jones against the harassment she suffered at Lincolnton Station in 2015 shows that it’s worth pursuing a legitimate complaint against abusive management.

Veronica stood up for herself by utilizing every resource available. She contacted the union, followed up with written statements, filed PS Form 1767, and got co-workers to write about what they witnessed. NYMAPU Executive VP Tiffany Foster filed a grievance. NBA Liz Swigert presented it over 3 days at arbitration.

It was clear that Acting Supervisor Michael Poole harassed and bullied the grievant by standing behind her with his arms crossed, getting into her personal space, hurrying her to count faster, and demeaning and insulting her. This

directly violated the Postal Policy on Workplace Harassment which prohibits “making offensive or derogatory comments or engaging in physically threatening, intimidating, or humiliating behavior.” Arbitrator Joseph A. Harris ruled that management at several levels failed in their responsibility under Article 14 to provide a safe workplace. The grievant filed Form PS 1767, giving examples of a hostile work environment, which was not processed promptly, investigated and corrected. Instead, management protected the harasser while giving the victim no choice but to transfer to an inconvenient location, which she accepted for “sanity over convenience.” This cost her time and money.

Arbitrator Harris was particularly offended by management’s indifference: “Apparently, no one cared much about Ms. Jones’ plight. Did they all consider workplace harassment and bullying of a woman or of an African-American woman, to be

rather unimportant? Were they all too busy to bother? They ignored their contractually required actions. (p.14)”

He then granted several remedies to the grievant. The harasser is banned from having any contact with Veronica Jones, and must write her a personal apology. Also, USPS management must “provide Ms. Jones with a written apology for allowing her to endure undue stress and from forcing her to work in a hostile working environment.” The carfare she spent to commute to Washington Bridge Station will be reimbursed.

Although the wheels of justice ground slowly, Veronica feels vindicated by the arbitration ruling. She hopes her fight will be a lesson to management and give courage to other victims: “I hope this case will be an inspiration to those who are being harassed at work and believe there’s nothing that can be done. Keep a record; don’t give up; be persistent; and let your voice be heard.” ☐

2 removals; 2 wins!

By April Branch



In October, 2015, the grievant was given a Notice of Removal (NOR) after he hurt himself on the job. They tried to say he was working in an unsafe manner

when in fact the machine he was working on did not have sufficient space to move DCBS racks.

They issued a NOR in Oct of

2015 and turned around and issued another NOR in Jan of 2016 while he was already out of work and was out on his first removal. In June of 2016, the “unsafe act” removal was rescinded by Arbitrator Wellington Davis with back pay, but management still kept him out as “AWOL” another 8 months until February 2017!

The post office never made a conscientious effort to contact the grievant even after knowing he got a dif-

ferent address because he could no longer afford his rent. The grievant applied for unemployment and management mentioned they knew that there were two different addresses, but they never attempted to send certified mail to the new address.

However, DVD management lost in the end. I was able to get the grievant his job back. He was made whole for the entire time he was out and his record expunged. ☐

Roie Basino, 31; Anna Altman, 16; Kate Leone, 14; Esther Harris, 20; Mary Gallo, 23 ...

By Flo Summergrad

The names and ages of the 146 victims of Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire fluttered above the heads of the men and women gathered to commemorate the 106th anniversary of the worst industrial accident in the history of New York City. Each name was carefully let-



tered on a sash over a shirtwaist blouse—button up front and full sleeves—like the garments produced by the workers at 23-29 Washington Place. Young immigrant women, mostly Italian and Russian-Jewish, were earning between \$7–\$15/week, working 12 hours every day at piecework. The factory owners, Blanck and Harris, were notorious for resisting unions by hiring police as thugs and paying off politicians.

The sweatshop conditions, with closely packed lines of sewing machines, locked doors, and broken elevators, spelled disaster on March 25, 2011, when fire trapped the workers. There were no sprinklers, and the 1911 fire trucks could not reach beyond the 6th floor. With nowhere to go, many leaped to their deaths, crashing through the few

fragile nets. In a short 18 minutes of horror, 123 women and 23 men were killed. The average age of the victims was 19—with many young teenagers.

A turning point

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory tragedy was a seminal moment in U.S. labor history. It highlighted the issues of workplace safety, the exploitation of immigrant workers, and the plight of working women. It inspired union organizing and labor legislation.

The public outrage caused an upgrading of fire safety laws in NYC and beyond. Frances Perkins, who ran toward the screams from across the park, was changed forever by the experience. She was convinced that “...something must be done. We’ve got to turn this into some kind of victory, some kind of constructive action.”

Perkins went on to be the first woman cabinet member. As Secretary of Labor under FDR, she oversaw the beginnings of Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, the Minimum Wage, and the precursor to OSHA for monitoring workplace safety.

In 2017, the Triangle Fire remembrance included the 31 construction workers in New York City who deaths in 2016 were also preventable tragedies. Construction workers talked about the toll that a “profits over people” system takes on workers’ lives and called for support for legislation that will force contractors

to have apprenticeship safety training for construction workers who are expected to “learn on the job.”

Under the shadow of a NYFD truck with its ladder symbolically raised to the 6th floor of the building, a line of people brought carnations to a microphone, where they read the name and age of each victim. After the name was read, a fire department bell was rung, and the flower placed along the wall. The 146 white carnations and 31 red carnations were a moving reminder of the needless loss of life.



NY Metro Area Postal Union members and retirees were among the many unions of the NYC Central Labor Council, who attended the ceremony. It made us recommit to the goals of Women’s History Month and Workers’ Memorial Day, April 28th—the fight for equality, safety, and social justice for working people. The struggle continues. If we allow the clock to be turned back to 1911, we betray the efforts of what OSHA hails as “the labor pioneers, safety advocates, community leaders and ordinary workers whose vision for a stronger America laid the foundations for the laws that keep workers safe and healthy today.”

Photographs by Bernadette Evangelist

March on Washington for Climate, Jobs, & Justice

WE RESIST, WE BUILD, WE RISE

Our union, the American Postal Workers Union, has joined the People's Climate Movement to defeat all threats to the health, safety, and well-being of all workers and their communities.

Saturday, April 29, 2017
Washington, DC

Demand Justice for All Workers, Our Families, Our Planet

THE PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MOVEMENT OF ACTION
NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

To Build: a powerful movement for all that can defeat the greedy and fight for a healthy environment for generations to come.

To Rise: together to win a better world, a humane economy, and a healthy environment for our families.

Our union is in the fight for economic, social, and environmental justice. At the 2016 APWU National Convention, members stood strong to fight against the Flint, MI, poisoned water. We further passed a resolution to educate and become active with our communities at the local, state, and even federal levels to use our power to fight the continuing destructive practices that contribute to climate change, and to encourage Locals and States to organize with those in their areas to fight for environmental justice.

There are groups also organizing events in other cities. **Contact:** www.peoplesclimate.org

IT IS TIME TO SPEAK UP. IT IS TIME TO ACT. GET ON THE BUS!



YOU are the Union! *continued from page 2*

and we will grieve it. In the grievance procedure, management must answer what was the specific need that you couldn't get a day off. Management is not doing you a favor; you have a contractual right to time off. If the Union can prove that they're denying everybody's leave request, then the Union will file a class action grievance for their willful circumvention of the rights of the employees to use their leave.

Keep in mind that most requests should be made as much in advance as possible to take away management's argument that they didn't have a chance to adjust their schedule to account for your absence. I also like to pull the denying supervisor's attendance records, which often shows they are denying the employee's leave while taking leave themselves.

I will never forget an arbitrator told me once: I don't care how you

feel, I don't care what you think, I don't even care whether it's right or wrong. I only care about what you can prove with documentation and what the contract requires. Without the members getting involved, stepping up to be shop stewards, writing statements about contract violations they observe, we will lose. We must stick together. Our strength is our unity and commitment to have each others' backs. ☐

POSTAL PRIDE

Pass the torch

The New York Metro Area Postal Union has a long and storied history. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in what is happening at the present time that we lose sight of how we got here. That is knowledge that we all need to understand to help us make the right choices in deciding where we are going and how we should get there.

We should never forget that we do stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. For members of NYMAPU that means that we wouldn't be here now if it weren't for the courageous actions of the postal workers who participated in the Great Postal Strike of 1970. With that understanding the concept for Pass the Torch was born. It is important for us to record the first-hand comments of those who were working in the Post Office before, during and after the strike. But that isn't enough. We also have to bridge the gap with workers who are facing the challenges of working in the Postal Service right now. They will be the ones to Pass the Torch to those who will follow in future generations.

The first project of Pass the Torch is to bring together those who were working pre-strike to interact with recently converted employees and PSEs in a roundtable discussion that will be recorded on video. It will then be able to be shared with all our members past, present and most importantly with future members of NYMAPU.

We have been able to reach a good cross-section of workers who were working pre-1970 strike. What we need now are a few more recently converted employees or PSEs to participate in the roundtable discussion.

If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of please contact Renee Bost at the union office 212-563-7553 or renee.bost@nymetro.org to help make history and Pass the Torch. 📧

Postal News Briefs

DEBT CEILING MANEUVERS—TREASURY TO RAID TSP G FUND (AGAIN)

As of March 16, 2017, the U.S. Treasury was unable to fully invest the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund due to the statutory ceiling on the federal debt. This maneuver helps keep the United States from defaulting on its debts until Congress raises the debt ceiling. However, G



Fund investors remain fully protected and G Fund earnings are fully guaranteed by the federal government. This statutory guarantee has effectively protected G Fund investors many times over the past 25 years. G Fund account balances will continue to accrue earnings and will be updated each business day, and loans and withdrawals will be unaffected.

It's ironic how Trump's administration is constantly blaming the federal workforce for this country's financial woes yet have no qualms tapping our retirement funds to balance the budget.

88,153 USPS EMPLOYEE RECORDS LEAKED TO MARKETERS

ZD Net reports that a large database, owned by Dun & Bradstreet, containing more than 33 million records from government departments and large corporate clients has been leaked. ZD Net further reports that Troy Hunt, who runs breach notification site Have I Been Pwned, obtained the database and analyzed the records. Hunt's analysis of the records showed that the leading organization by records is the Department of Defense, with 101,013 employee records, followed closely by the US Postal Service with 88,153 employee records.



The database contains dozens of fields, some including personal information such as names, job titles and functions, work email addresses, and phone numbers. While the database doesn't contain more sensitive information, such as credit card numbers or SSNs, Hunt says it's an "absolute goldmine for targeted spear phishing."

STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

On Saturday, May 13, 2017, the Letter Carriers' Food Drive celebrates its 25th year helping the hungry. The Food Drive effort is the nation's largest single-day drive. In 2016, 80 million pounds of food was collected, which brought the grand total of donations to more than 1.5 billion pounds of food collected since the drive began in 1992.

Hunger affects about 50 million people around the country, including millions of children, senior citizens and veterans. Pantry shelves filled up through winter-holiday generosity often are bare by late spring. And, with most school meal programs suspended during summer months, millions of children must find alternate sources of nutrition.

To learn more about the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, visit nalc.org/food.



CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 19

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Hotel Pennsylvania

401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)

Paris/Zurich Room, 6th Floor

(check calendar in lobby for room change)

Wednesday, May 17

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Hotel Pennsylvania

401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)

Paris/Zurich Room, 6th Floor

(check calendar in lobby for room change)

Join NY Metro at the Circus

Saturday, May 13

12:00 Noon

Universoul Circus (Tickets \$21)

430 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102

NY Metro Picnic Tickets available!

Sunday, July 30

\$30/per person plus \$5 Bus

Children under 2 are FREE (2/members)

Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury, CT

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of 12/01/2016	\$ 342,340.58
Total REVENUE December 2016	\$ 132,030.58
Total Operating Expenses December 2016	\$ 113,450.17
TOTAL NET INCOME	\$ 18,580.49
Closing Balance as of 12/31/2016	\$360,921.07

Beginning Balance as of 01/01/2017	\$ 360,921.07
Total REVENUE January 2017	\$134,796.22
Total Operating Expenses January 2017	\$ 134,393.39
TOTAL NET INCOME	\$ 402.83
Closing Balance as of 01/31/2017	\$361,323.90

BENEFITS/RETIREMENT SEMINAR

No Cost! \$10 place holder returned at the seminar

NY Metro Office, 350 West 31st Street, NYC 10001

Tuesday, May 9, 2017 – 10:00 AM

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 – 1 PM

Thursday, May 11, 2017 – 3 PM

Fill out a form with your steward or call 212-563-7553 to reserve a place for yourself and spouse/partner

LABOR IN 'RIGHT TO WORK' AMERICA

Speakers: Carmen Arroyo, CWA Local 1102
Nora Taggart, NYMAPU, APWU
Eliza Carboni, NY Nurses Association

Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 7:00 pm

CUNY/ Joseph S. Murphy Institute
25 West 43rd Street, 18th Floor, NYC

In Memoriam:

Pat Parrish

By Dennis O'Neil



It is with great sorrow that the Stop Staples NYC posse announces the tragic death of our beloved comrade in arms, Patricia Princess Parrish, member of the Moe Biller Retirement Chapter since she retired.

In retirement after 50 years as a letter carrier, Pat died in an apart-

ment fire in the Bronx on February 7, 2017. Despite her 81 years and the cane she walked with, she came out day after day with the rest of us for two and a half years, subwaying it down from the Bronx to fight the privatizing greedheads of Staples. She was as thrilled as any of us when APWU president Mark Dimondstein phoned in to our weekly meeting to announce victory just a month ago.

Nor did the end of our leafleting campaign leave Pat at loose ends—

she was active in her church, from the choir to education programs for young children, and attended retiree meetings of the American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Pat was, to the last, a fighter for the working class, as she was almost half a century ago when she took part in the great postal strike of 1970—the largest wildcat strike in US history—which won union bargaining rights for postal workers! ☐



New York Metro Area Local, APWU
350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10001
BUG

Periodicals class
POSTAGE PAID
at New York, NY

Fight for Job Safety! April 28th Workers' Memorial Day

WOMEN'S HISTORY NOTE: On March 25, 1911, a fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory on New York City's East Side killed 146 young, mostly immigrant women workers. The building, which was 10 stories high, was overcrowded and filled with flammable material, and many of its fire exits were locked. Some workers leaped to their deaths from the building's rooftop. Protests after the fire led New York State to revamp laws governing working conditions, increase the number of fire inspectors, and write new fire safety codes. 📖

www.nymetro.org