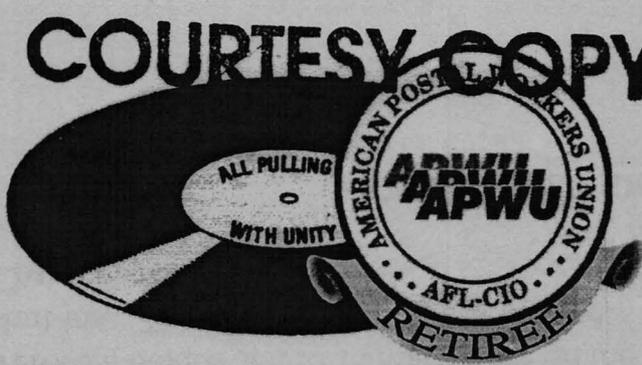


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The **RETIREE RECORD**

A NEWS BULLETIN FOR MEMBERS
AFFILIATED WITH APWU POSTAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

PITTSBURGH AREA RETIREE CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO

POST OFFICE BOX 39 ◊ SLOVAN ◊ PENNSYLVANIA ◊ 15078
JOHN P. RICHARDS, *President and Editor*

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MID SUMMER BLAST

Had enough snow, ice, and cold? We have! But the end is in sight, at least that is the theory. So here is a thought that should make the rest of Winter a little more tolerable. The date for the Mid Summer Blast has been set. We are providing this early notice so that you can mark the date on your calendar now to preserve the date to prevent any conflicts that may occur later. Here are the particulars:

DATE ~ JUNE 24, 2015

**PLACE ~ PETER'S PLACE RESTAURANT
1199 WASHINGTON PIKE (ROUTE 50)
BRIDGEVILLE PA 15017**

TIME AND MENU TO BE DETERMINED LATER.

The annual Mid Summer Blast Party has always been supported and enjoyed by huge gatherings of our members and guests. It is an opportunity to shake off the Winter blahs, renew old acquaintances, and have some fun while kissing winter good bye and embracing a more gentle season. As usual, the Chapter will do our level best to insure that it will be a gala party with a few surprises that have been a high point in previous parties. So mark that date now as you read this notice to preserve it. We will be looking for you at the party!

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY

This edition is being drafted on February 19, the kick-off date of National Negotiations. Needless to say, it is not an understatement to note that these are critical, if not the most critical negotiations, in APWU history. The stage has been set by a management hell bent on destruction of the Postal Service as we know and have known it, against a backdrop of a give back contract foisted on the Union by an inept, incompetent bargaining team at the last round of negotiations. The ground that was sacrificed in those negotiations will be a formidable task to reverse in this round of talks.

The current Dimonstein administration came to power in part as a dump-the-rascals reaction that sent former President Guffey et al out to pasture in large measure as a reaction to the shameful contract. But that is history now, and the Dimondstein administration will be scored on the results of this negotiation, whether it results in a contract or ends up in arbitration. President Dimondstein has reached out throughout the Union to try to awaken the sleeping giant that has suffered the benign neglect of the previous administrations that eschewed directly involving the rank and file in support of the Union's agenda. He is trying to reverse years of dormancy that took the spark out of concerted mass actions in support of the Union's program. It is a formidable task, but a necessary one that seeks to infuse the spirit that brought the Post Office Department to it's knees in 1970, and saw mass demonstrations at L'Enfant Plaza during the Biller years.

(over)

A ROLE FOR RETIREES?

The Union has reached out to retirees and retiree chapters for support by rank and file chapter members for involvement in the contract negotiations and other activities, the most notable being the ongoing series of demonstrations against the Staple's company. For negotiations, a sticker has been developed to be worn to indicate support of the bargaining process. The Chapter has requested that a supply of these stickers be made available to us so that one can be included with this newsletter. Hopefully, before we go to press, they will have been received with one enclosed herein. If they don't arrive in time for this edition, they will be inserted in a later edition.

Earlier, the Chapter was in full support of the Day Of Action demonstration at the General Mail Facility. This writer was honored to be recognized as a speaker at that event.

THE STAPLES DEMONSTRATIONS THE BEAT GOES ON!

Throughout the Winter, the Staple's demonstrations have continued. Neither rain nor snow nor gloom of night....has kept us from a vigorous schedule of demonstrating at the Staple's stores throughout the Local's geographic area, which is extensive. The protests have even gone beyond the Local's boundaries! A recent protest was held in Greensburg. The demonstrations have been on an every other week schedule throughout the Winter. The Committee that supports this activity, consisting of the four Unions that represent Postal Workers in this area, meets frequently where the schedule is determined. Prior to the demonstrations, a delegation is sent to the post office in that area to drum up local support for the demonstration.

Since this project began in 2013 we have demonstrated at Staple's approaching 25 separate activities at all the Pittsburgh stores and those that are beyond the city environs. The recent Staple's/Office Max merger clearly emphasizes the effect these demonstrations are having.

As the weather breaks and the more arduous challenges recede, the logistics for travel etc. ease, making it easier to get to the far reaches of the area where Staple's exists. Unless and until the Union determines that the protest should end, we intend to keep the heat on.

It is not possible to send notice of the schedule of these demonstrations via the mails. The schedule is too fluid to allow direct mailing. Yet the Chapter invites membership involvement to the extent possible. If you are interested in joining a demonstration, call the Chapter at 724 947 9374 to learn where the next protest will be held. **Many thanks to those retirees that have marched with us. You have carried on the finest traditions of our Chapter, and have contributed to a legacy of activism and dedication.**

PASSING ~ The Chapter has been advised that William Adams has passed. May he rest in peace.

NEW MEMBER ~ Albert Reavis. Welcome aboard!

SHUT-IN LIST ~ Norbert Conway, Jeanne McCarthy, Charles Miksic, Laverne Heil, Veronica Bujdos and Ruth Marlett are on the shut-in list. Please keep a good thought for our shut-ins. There but for the grace of God..... (To be included on the shut-in list, call the Chapter at 724 947 9374.)

MAY BE PASSED AROUND/DUPLICATED