



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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LABOR DAY PARADE 2015

The tens of thousands that lined up for the Labor Day Parade couldn't have created a better day for the event! (One estimate calculated 60,000+ marchers that took part in the line of march.) It was a cloudless day from beginning to end, with a bright blue sky overhead. As the mercury rose in the assembly areas, marchers anticipated that the trek to the reviewing stand would be a real challenge, since the parade took a new route from the strip district down Liberty Avenue, over Grant Street, then down the Boulevard Of The Allies, ending at the reviewing stand opposite the USW headquarters. A saving grace was the welcome shade from tall buildings throughout the line of march.

Security was tight due to the participation of Vice President Joe Biden, who addressed marchers before the parade began, then marched at the head of the parade, followed by a visit to the reviewing stand and another speech at USW headquarters. The Pittsburgh Metro/Retiree Chapter delegation area was 'cleared' by a bomb sniffing dog as an example the heightened security. A heavy police presence permeated the area. Secret Service agents were conspicuous in the area of Biden's presence.

RETIREE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

We had an inkling that the new route might be problematical, therefore we made it our business to arrive @ 7:00 AM to find our assembly place. (The parade was scheduled to start at 10:00 AM. We began to march @ 11:00 AM.) It's a good thing we did! Our assembly area was scheduled at 14th Street. To our surprise the street was blocked with construction! We huddled with parade monitors who directed us to Liberty Avenue under the Veteran's Bridge. We found the Metro caterer who had arrived earlier, and directed them to our assembly point. They immediately set up, and departed for the after parade picnic area to prepare for the picnic. We 'guarded' the food setup until relieved by arrival of Local officers.

Telephone contact was established to several Metro officers to alert them to what the situation was at the assembly point. Within 30 minutes or so they arrived with the van that was used to distribute shirts, hats, and goodie bags for the kiddies.

My wife Charlotte, the Local's Recording Secretary, decorated our vehicle with Stop Staple's signs on both sides and with gala balloons attached to various points on the car. When the parade got underway we brought up the delegation's rear. A few volunteers agreed to distribute Stop Staple's leaflets throughout the parade. Many thanks to those that performed this essential activity in support of the Stop Staple's campaign. We did not take a count of the number of leaflets that were distributed, but well over several thousand were passed out to parade viewers. Our vehicle was also used as a staging point to keep the distributors supplied. In addition to our leaflet activities, we transported a member who had difficulty making the long march. The vehicle was a 'fail safe' haven available to provide water and juice and shelter if needed by other members as the march continued in the 90 degree heat.

AFTER PARADE PICNIC

After a tough slog in the 90 degree heat for over two hours, which by the way was delayed due to Biden's presence, the prospect of 'a cold one' and a bite to eat in the cool shade of the picnic grove drew the marchers to Avonworth Park. All who marched with the Pittsburgh Metro delegation were invited to the festivities.

Chapter members and their guests turned out in respectable numbers for the parade and the picnic later. While some of our members continue to fight father time, the facts are that some of the activities that we engage in are simply beyond their physical capabilities. Assembling and marching in a long parade on one of the hottest days of the year is impossible for most of our members. Nevertheless, it was gratifying to see so many Proud Retiree badges on loyal members at the parade and the picnic. It was a treat breaking bread with them at the picnic.

We enjoyed sharing the solidarity of those that were able and willing to put themselves and loved ones and friends on the line for this most important yearly celebration of labor history and goals for the future. It is significant that the APWU continues to fight for a fair contract while celebrating with sisters and brothers in the steel industry who are locked out seeking their fair contract. Their slogan of 'one day longer' is an inspiration to Postal Workers who share the struggle with them facing a management that desires to take rather than give.

STAPLE'S DEMONSTRATORS

Chapter members have been a critical element at the various Staple's demonstration for well over a year. At our recent Mid Summer Blast, APWU Retiree lapel pins were awarded to demonstrators who were at the party. It is Chapter policy that all who participate or have participated are to be awarded a pin. Due to the nature of demonstrations, we were unable to obtain the names of our members who attended. If you demonstrated at any of the actions and would like to have a lapel pin, call the Chapter at 724 947 9374, and we will get your pin in the mail to you. If you haven't joined us before, but do attend future demonstrations, insure that you register via a telephone call to the Chapter to get your pin.

VICE PRESIDENT/TREASURER OFFICE VACANT

Vice President/Treasurer Joe Anthony has resigned. The office of Vice President/Treasurer is a very important office for the Chapter. The primary duties of this office are to manage the Chapter's fiscal operation. We are therefore seeking applicants from the Chapter to succeed Anthony. There is no salary for the office. (All officers serve without salaries.) Members that are interested in being considered for this office should call the Chapter at 724 947 9374 to apply. Anthony will continue to perform these functions through the transition period for the next few months. In the event that there are no viable applications, as President, I will fulfill these duties until the next election, which will occur in 2016.

NEW MEMBER ~ Steven Grochalski. 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