



A Busy Season, A Time of Great Pride

The extra cards and packages that go through the mail in December can make the holiday season especially stressful for postal workers. But it's also a time when we take great pride in the work we do – connecting families and friends across the country and around the world.

As we fight together for a better life, the officers and staff of the American Postal Workers Union, wish all our members a safe and joyous holiday season.

Contract Update

Our fight for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement has moved to a new phase, APWU President Mark Dimondstein reports.

“We are taking the preliminary steps necessary to proceed to arbitration,” he said. The first step is to select a three-member arbitration panel, which will be comprised of a union-appointed advocate, a management-appointed advocate and a neutral arbitrator agreed upon by both parties.

The neutral arbitrator is the person who will ultimately decide the terms of the contract, so this is a vitally important part of the process.

The APWU and the USPS have exchanged five names each from which we expect to select a neutral arbitrator. As soon as the neutral arbitrator is chosen, both parties will begin scheduling hearing dates, which the APWU anticipates will begin by late January or early February.

A Major Milestone Reached:

PSE Conversions Top 25,000!

The APWU reached a major milestone in November: More than 25,000 Postal Support Employees (PSEs) – including some from every craft – have been converted to career over the last two years.

“This is a life-changing event for the workers who were converted and their families,” said APWU President Mark Dimondstein. “It means more stability and greater financial security. It’s an outstanding example of the union at work.

“It’s also a great example of what we can accomplish when we work together,” he said. “Local and state leaders, National Business Agents, Regional Coordinators and Craft Directors and Assistant Directors all persevered to win these conversions.

“Of course, the PSEs themselves – and the former PSEs – played an important role,” Dimondstein added.

“Many spoke out about the need for conversions and got active in the union to make sure they happened.”

The involvement of a new generation of workers in union affairs is a great benefit to the APWU, and will be for years to come.

The majority of the conversions were the result of the Memorandum of Understanding on Filling of Residual Vacancies, which the APWU and the Postal Service signed in March 2014. A July 2014 Maintenance Craft settlement on custodial staffing, a September 2014 arbitration win on staffing “POSTPlan” offices, and the “global settlement” that enforced limits on postmasters performing clerk craft work in small offices, were also essential to the PSE conversions.

Were you converted recently? Tell us what it has meant to you. Write to Communications@apwu.org.