



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

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HOLIDAY PARTY WRAP-UP

(Space restrictions in our last newsletter prevented a complete report about the Chapter Holiday Party on December 3. This is the final report.)

Before the meal was served, Member Vaughn Fry was called upon to give the blessing. In his remarks, Brother Fry commented on the passing of member Robert Augustine and offered a special prayer for our shut-ins.

The Post Office has long been one of the largest employers of military veterans. Our party, held between Veteran's Day and Pearl Harbor Day, made special note of the number of veterans in the Chapter. They were asked to rise to be recognized. There was a large number in attendance. They received a nice round of applause that honored them for their service.

Guests in attendance were: Honorary Members Mike Plaskon; President Branch 84 NALC and his guest Ted Lee; Bob Montana, Secretary Treasurer, Pittsburgh Metro Area Local; and John Doe (name withheld for his protection), Pittsburgh Metro member. The honored guests briefly addressed the gathering, with a focus on the ongoing Staple's demonstration campaign. Along with our members Joe Anthony, Andy Sabol, Tim Rogozinski, and this writer, we are the nucleus of the Western PA Postal Workers Solidarity Committee that has led this fight that began in late 2013!

The Chapter awards APWU Retiree lapel pins to members that participate in the Staple's demonstrations. Members in attendance that were awarded their pins were: Janet Shepherd; Barbara Averell; David Singer; John Lockhart; Anita Tamburo; Dick Sager; Tom Britting; and Betty Koch. Members that have participated in demonstrations but have not received their lapel pins may obtain one by calling the Chapter at 724 947 9374. This modest reward for stepping up and being involved in this struggle is given as a reminder that these are the members carrying the banner for those that are physically unable to join us 'on the line'. Lest there be any misunderstanding about providing this recognition, for those unable to join in the demonstrations, 'they also serve who merely stand and wait.' It is their membership that makes our activities possible.

Moreover, taken on a percentage basis, our Chapter's active participation greatly surpasses that of the active Local members who, while slowly warming to the task, lag far behind in percentage of participation. As the schedule for 2016 develops and is released, we will leave no stone unturned in our attempt to take the fight to Staple's, including the effort to get more active members involved. In addition to direct participation, there are some exciting developments in the legal arena over this struggle that will have been reported through the letters that the Western PA Postal Workers Solidarity Committee sends.

The party ended on a very positive note, with an expression of gratitude to the assemblage for their attendance, and a caution to drive safely on the way home.

(over)

2016 WILL BE A BUSY YEAR

The Chapter will have a full plate this year! First and foremost is the commitment to continue the Staple's demonstration campaign, going into the third year of activity. The first two locations scheduled for January are set forth in the letter the Western PA Postal Workers Solidarity Committee sent to active and retired members recently. (We will demonstrate January 10 at Robinson Township, and January 24 at Cranberry Township.)

The importance of this activity cannot be over stressed. A recent projection reported in US News and World Report that forecast employment gains and losses in both service and manufacturing employment from a period of 2014 - 2024 targets the Postal Service as the greatest job loser from all sectors. The forecast for the Postal Service is a whopping job loss of 165,000 jobs!

If that is an accurate projection, to drop to those levels, obviously Clerk and Letter Carrier crafts must take the biggest hits. For the Clerk Craft, the Staple's deal and the move toward so-called Village Post Offices, if completed, will end customer services as we know it. For Letter Carriers, home delivery will end with a transition to cluster boxes. These are real threats to Post Office jobs.

Our Chapter retirees are doing more than our share to support the demonstrations. Without your participation, the effort would have failed many moons ago. Throughout this period, we have been trying to motivate more active members to get involved. That effort will continue. For our membership, we appreciate the numbers that have stepped up 'on the line', recognizing that so many are physically unable to assist. Your continued support is noted and recognized.

A YEAR OF ELECTIONS

This is a US President and Congress election year. Much attention will be paid to it, beginning with the primaries and conventions that are not that far away. But there are other elections of importance to the Union that will also occur. The APWU Election of Officers will take place later in the year. Our Chapter will also hold elections this year. A heads up about our election was given recently at the Holiday Party. Members will be bombarded with electioneering of one kind or another throughout the year. It has obviously already begun with the debates by both parties that have been televised.

Preceding the APWU Election will be the Chapter Mid Summer Blast Party and the Union Convention in the Summer. The action will be fast and furious dealing with everything that is going on!

Not to be overlooked is the United Labor Day Parade set for September. More will be reported about that activity after the Parade Committee determines the logistics and conduct of the Parade.

As stated above, this will be a very busy year for the Chapter dealing with these activities. We will keep you 'in the loop' as the events occur.

SHUT-IN LIST ~ Norbert Conway, Veronica Bujdos, Jeanne McCarthy, Laverne Heil, 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.)

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