



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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THE STAPLES PROJECT

THE BEAT GOES ON!

The campaign of demonstrations at Staples stores has entered the third year! Communications by the Western PA Postal Solidarity Committee setting forth the schedule of these events have been and are being sent to active Pittsburgh Metro members and members of our Retiree Chapter. But beyond the mere announcement of the where and when demonstrations will be held, a lot goes on behind the scene. One of the important activities is meeting with workers prior to the demonstrations.

JOE ANTHONY'S CRITICAL ROLE

A vital part of each demonstration is a visit to the Postal facilities nearest to the 'targeted' Staples the Thursday prior to the demonstration during which leaflets that we prepare are distributed to the workers as they enter and/or leave the buildings. This is typically done before the work day begins, which is rather early in the day. Moreover, for the larger facilities such as the L & DC and the BMC, to catch the various shifts, early morning and later in the day distribution is necessary to catch as many workers as possible. This is done regardless of the location where the demonstration will be held, in fair weather or foul. When one recognizes the geographical area that we have been active in, this is clearly an arduous undertaking requiring rising in the early AM, then traveling to the various locations.

Joe Anthony has been our "point man" for this chore. Along with a member of Pittsburgh Metro, this duo has faithfully carried out this assignment. At virtually every demonstration, their efforts were in large measure responsible for swelling the turn out. At the recent Cranberry demonstration, for example, along with our usual core of active and retired demonstrators, participation from the L & DC and BMC was present.

The nuts and bolts of this activity are basically unknown to most members. In addition to this critical activity, Joe has been present and been an important factor in the meetings with Pittsburgh and Allegheny County officials where we obtained resolutions in support of the Staples campaign. He has also 'carried' the APWU flag at other demonstrations in support of fast food workers and casino organizing and others. Whenever assistance was needed, Joe was there.

The Union, and I might add on a personal note, this writer, has depended on Joe's unwavering involvement and effort during the 20 years he served as Ex. Vice President/Business Agent for the Pittsburgh Metro Area Local, continuing as one of the founders of the Retiree Chapter while serving as the fiscal officer since we were formed. Joe has always and continues to 'be there' for the Union in whatever capacity is required. It is safe to say that it would be a much different operation without Joe's steady hand on the wheel. Thanks again, Joe.

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LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE

The leadership, support, and involvement of officers and members of Branch 84 NALC for the Western PA Postal Solidarity Committee has been a critical element in the Committee's Staples demonstrations. Mike Plaskon, President of Branch 84, has served as chairman of the committee since its inception. The Committee meets at Branch 84 offices. Letter Carriers have participated in numerous demonstrations. They have been true partners as the demonstrations have continued.

Pittsburgh Metro and our Retiree Chapter now have an opportunity to show our appreciation and solidarity. Every year the Letter Carriers conducts a nationwide food drive. This year the food drive will be held on Saturday, May 14. Carriers are asked to collect food products from their route customers and bring them to the Post Office. Every year there is an enormous collection that is turned over to various food pantries for distribution to needy and deserving people. It is a worthwhile community effort that helps those in need while at the same time garners favorable publicity for the Postal Service.

To show solidarity and support for Branch 84, we are urging our Retiree Chapter and active Pittsburgh Metro members to join in the food drive. Beginning in March, the letters sent by the Committee prior to demonstrations will include a reminder of the food drive.

It is very easy to support the food drive. The Letter Carrier who brings your mail will solicit you as a customer to support the drive. If the NALC uses procedures that were used in the past, you will be requested to put the food products on your porch near the mailbox to be picked up by your carrier when s/he brings the mail. The collected food products will be distributed as has been done in the past. **This is a simple yet effective way to show solidarity with our Letter Carrier sisters and brothers while providing an important civic service. We urge that you give it 100% support. We thank you for your cooperation.**

STOP STAPLES RALLIES SCHEDULE

The Committee ran into a few problems scheduling Staples rallies for February. According to our usual schedule, a rally should have been scheduled for Sunday, February 7. But the Super Bowl was scheduled for that date. We decided that it was likely that potential demonstrators would be glued to their TV's for the game and the hype that precedes it.

We considered scheduling for Sunday, February 14. A problem with that date was it was Valentines Day, a day that usually sees crowded restaurants as wives and sweethearts are treated to dinner. Recognizing that attendance could therefore be a problem, we decided to skip that date also. That is how we settled on Sunday, February 21, as the next demonstration, to be held at the East Liberty Staples, 6375 Penn Avenue Suite B, Pittsburgh PA 15206.

The Committee selected Sundays as the best days for demonstrations because all window clerks are off that day, providing the potential for their involvement since the Staples operation directly impacts on their jobs.

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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