



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*

VOLUME XI

APRIL 9, 2016

No. 2

MID-SUMMER BLAST PARTY SET

The annual Mid-Summer Blast Party is scheduled for June 22. This advance notice is given so that our members can preserve the date to prevent scheduling another event on that date. The party will be held at Peter's Place Restaurant in Bridgeville, the location of our previous summer parties. Full particulars and menu options will be sent when the date is a little closer. According to Peter's Place, the rumors that they were going out of business are untrue. We verified this information prior to scheduling the party.

ELECTION YEAR

Chapter elections will be held this year. In the past the Chapter has scheduled special meetings where nominations for office were accepted. Those meetings usually had very limited attendance, despite that refreshments including a sandwich tray were served. It is our belief that the Chapter is better served when a broader opportunity is given to the members to participate in the election process.

Therefore, nominations have been moved up to coincide with the Mid-Summer Blast Party. An "official" notice of nominations and the election process will be provided in line with Labor Department regulations a little closer to the nominations. Their regulations are very clear as to what timing of notice should be. While we are not active members of the APWU, as a department within the Union, we are bound by those procedures.

It is our desire that you as a member will give the election your most serious consideration with this advance notice, and also give every consideration to standing for an office in the election. In the event that you should choose to seek an office and are elected to it, we will give every assistance to you to ensure that you will be successful.

THE STAPLES DEMONSTRATION CAMPAIGN GROWING!

Participation at the Staples boycott demonstrations has been growing, despite just having gone through the rough winter season. In addition to the solid cadre of Chapter retirees, in some cases with spouses or friends, active Pittsburgh Metro members from all crafts and multiple Post Office facilities, the demonstrations have seen members of Service Employees International Union, or SEIU, members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, or UFCW, hospital workers, representatives from Central Labor Councils from Allegheny, Beaver, and Westmoreland counties, college students from United Students Against Sweatshops, or USAS, and many others. Viewing the pictures we take at the conclusion of each rally verifies that fifty or more, up to seventy or eighty in some cases, have demonstrated with us. For able Chapter members who have not been to a demonstration yet, now that the weather has improved we urge and invite you to stop by at the next demonstration in the proximity of your residence. You will enjoy it! See you there?

(over)

LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE - SECOND NOTICE

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. A mailed notice will be delivered to you by the Carrier. Then a paper bag, which was partially underwritten by Pittsburgh Metro, will also be delivered by your Letter Carrier to be used for depositing the food donations. The filled bag will be collected on May 14.

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. If anything was learned in the last round of contract negotiations it was that greater unity between the four Postal Unions is not only desirable, it is critical! Our Chapter's support and involvement in the Solidarity Committee and also support of the food drive are examples of cooperation between the Unions. More is needed and desired!

Letter Carrier President Mike Plaskon has asked that the Committee solicit for volunteers to aid in collection of the donations. We recognize that most of our members are physically unable to do much strenuous activity, nevertheless, if you feel that you are able to assist in the collection, call Branch 84 at 412 321 3795.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH

There is a gap in membership from those that retired before the Chapter was established. While we desire to solicit as many as we can locate to invite them to join the Chapter, we do not have access to them. That's where you come in! In your circle of friends you may know Post Office retirees. If that is the case, if you could get names and telephone numbers we will follow through and attempt to bring them into the Chapter. Your help will be appreciated.

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.)

MAY BE PASSED AROUND/DUPLICATED