

*Let's Turn Our Union Around!*

# Elect the APWU Members First Team!



Tony D. Mckinnon, Sr.  
Industrial Relations Director



Debby Szeredy  
Executive Vice-President



Mark Dimondstein  
President



Violetta "Vi" Ward  
Secretary-Treasurer



Clint Burelson  
Clerk Craft Director



John L. Marcotte  
Legislative Political Director



Robert Furbush  
Health Plan Director



Anna Smith  
Organization Director



Kenneth Beasley  
Coordinator, Southern Region

***Dear APWU Members, We respectfully request your endorsement and support in the upcoming National APWU election.***

Workplace conditions are deteriorating, full-time career jobs are disappearing before our eyes, and management refuses to respect postal workers. Too often Local Unions have to fend for themselves without adequate support from the incumbent national officers. There is much to fix.

Behind the Congressionally manufactured postal financial crisis the Postmaster General is leading the charge to degrade, dismantle and privatize the public Postal Service. Yet postal workers and postal customers have not been fully mobilized to defend our national treasure.

The APWU Members First Team is prepared to meet the challenges of protecting a **secure future** for current, retired and next generation workers.

It is time to elect experienced and visionary leaders who will chart a new direction by always putting the **members first! Help us, help you! We pledge to:**

- ✓ **Put members first in the next Contract Negotiations - Work to fix the problems!**
- ✓ **Better Defend the Public Postal Service -- Our jobs depend on it!**
- ✓ **Implement National coordinated plan on fighting station and plant closings!**
- ✓ **Serve the members by listening to and timely addressing local concerns!**
- ✓ **Stand with APWU Retirees in defense of all rights and benefits!**
- ✓ **Seek unity of action with other postal unions in our common struggle!**
- ✓ **Call for a new PMG who will protect the Postal Service - not destroy it!**
- ✓ **Organize the Unorganized to build numbers and strength!**
- ✓ **Be honest with the members -- Always!**

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We ask for and welcome your ideas, endorsement and support! Please contact us through email: [apwumembersfirst@gmail.com](mailto:apwumembersfirst@gmail.com) or phone at 336 210-2229 and visit our Website: [www.apwumembersfirst.org](http://www.apwumembersfirst.org)

# Meet the APWU Members First Team

## Team of Experience and Vision!

### **Mark Dimondstein for President**

With lifelong years of activism and experience, his fervent belief that the union belongs to the members and our good union jobs depend on fighting for vibrant public postal services, Mark has the vision, credibility and passion to lead the union in a new direction that puts Members First!

Mark served as elected Local President of the Greater Greensboro Area Local (6 consecutive terms) and as Shop Steward, labor educator, National Arbitration Advocate, EEOC and OWCP representative and a leader of the Workers For One Postal Union movement. Appointed by APWU Presidents Moe Biller and William Burrus, Mark worked for ten years as National Lead Field Organizer representing the APWU in a series of ground breaking contract negotiations. In tribute to his efforts, he received the Southern Organizer of the Year Award from the AFL-CIO.

By City Council appointment, Mark served on the Greensboro N.C. Human Relations Commission. He co-founded the local Jobs with Justice chapter and helped initiate a local coalition "Postal Customers and Workers United to Save the Postal Service."

### **Violetta "Vi" Ward for Secretary-Treasurer**

Vi is currently in her 26th year as full-time Secretary-Treasurer of the Cleveland Area Local, and also serves as the Director of Industrial Relations of the Ohio Postal Workers Union. She has held a variety of positions since 1983 including shop steward, recording secretary and national union committees. She is a skilled trainer and mediator.

With her knowledge of budgeting, accounting and regulations regarding union finances, Vi is ready to hit the ground running as APWU Secretary Treasurer. With a strong belief that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect, a principle shared by the Members First Team, Vi will be a valuable Executive Board member and leader of the APWU.

### **Clint Burelson for Clerk Craft Director**

With his long experience representing Clerks and his pioneering work, Clint will be a Clerk Craft Director the members will be proud of! Clint is the Local president of Olympia, WA and has been a stand up chief steward for almost 30 years. He represents Clerks in all job titles in processing plants and stations and has been a successful negotiator for the membership. Clint was an early APWU leader exposing corporate discounts and their negative impact on Clerk jobs and the public.

In 2005 Clint led his local's effort to stop plant consolidation. His effective plans were adopted by many locals and recognized by the national APWU. Prior to the ratification vote for the current contract, Clint provided detailed information regarding the harmful provisions, including the impact of NTFT assignments. As Clerk Craft Director, Clint will work to organize coordinated actions to restore the power of the Union.

### **Anna Smith for Organization Director**

Anna is hard working, energetic, and motivated, qualities necessary to be the next Organization Director. With years in the field signing up new members, Anna is committed to working with Locals to develop new tools and methods to bring the non-members into the APWU family.

Currently serving her third term as the Oregon State President, Anna's experience as a local and state officer has prepared her well. Anna is ready to apply what she has learned to the National level on behalf of the members of our great Union. "I became a Union member and Steward because I have the desire to help others. I wanted to make a difference."

### **Debby Szeredy for Executive Vice-President**

Debby is the Local president of the Mid-Hudson NY Area Local, having previously been elected as full-time president of Phoenix AZ (one of the largest locals in the country) and Arizona State President.

Debby has been union active since 1973 and is currently the Research and Education Director of NY State APWU. From 1980-88 Debby was the elected Western Region POWER Coordinator. She also serves on her local AFL-CIO Executive Council. For her years of activism, Debby was awarded a "Leadership Award" by former President William Burrus.

She is currently leading the struggle against a proposed plant closing and helping to guide and inspire others around the country facing similar battles. Debby knows how to stand up and fight!

### **Tony D. McKinnon for Industrial Relations Dir.**

Tony doesn't believe in negotiating from fear or weakness. With so many problems to fix with the existing contract and its implementation, Tony is the union leader for the job!

Tony has been the elected Local President of the Fayetteville NC Area Local for 29 years. Other elected positions include both president and vice-president of the NC APWU Council, the Local Chapter of A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI), 10 year sitting president of his AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, an Executive Board member of the NC AFL-CIO and former chairperson of the APWU National Presidents Conference.

As chief negotiator for the NC State APWU, Tony was a national trailblazer for negotiating the first small office LMOUs now incorporated into the National CBA. In two Remote Encoding Centers, he negotiated the first due process protections for TE employees. He led APWU National Committees on automation and labor-management.

### **John L. Marcotte for Legislative/Political Dir.**

"Job Security through political action" sums up John's beliefs. John successfully led the fight to defeat multiple AMP studies to remove mail processing from his facility by combining legislative and grass roots action. His wealth of legislative experience, high energy and passion will prove to be valuable in our ongoing legislative fight.

Organizing comprehensive legislative training for the National Presidents Conference and at multiple state functions, John helped lead the charge to make political action a top priority for our union. John is currently serving as the President of both the Michigan Postal Workers Union and the Gaylord, MI Local. Previously he served as Legislative Director of the Michigan Postal Workers Union. John is an Executive Council and Board member of the Michigan State AFL-CIO.

### **Robert Furbush for Health Plan Director**

Robert served as Health Plan Director of the New Orleans Local for 16 years and Human Relations Director of Louisiana State APWU, helping members with Injury Compensation, EEOC and Health Plan issues. He transferred to the Houston TX Local where he is a Bulk Mail Clerk. Robert is dedicated to an improved Health Plan with broader PPO coverage, preventative care and personal attention to members' problems.

### **Kenneth Beasley for Southern Region Coordinator**

Kenneth is in his third term as president of the Atlanta Metro Area Local, having previously served as Vice-President, Assistant Clerk Craft Director and Associate Office Director. He is a National Arbitration Advocate, EEO and MSPB representative. He has served on various convention committees and as an elected Executive Board member of the ABA.

Kenneth's experience representing small offices, large processing centers, a Bulk Mail Center and all crafts makes him especially suited for the position of Regional Coordinator. He believes that "union business is serious business" and acts accordingly!