



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
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A NEW DAY, A NEW ERA

Following the Chapter election of officers at the Membership Meeting/Party on June 22, this communication is intended to introduce the "new" Executive Board to the members: This writer was re-elected as President, Vaughn Fry was elected as Vice President/Treasurer, and Rege Davis was re-elected as Trustee. Subsequent to the meeting, Betty Koch was appointed to the vacant office of Recording Secretary. This is the team that will lead the Chapter for the next three years.

Following the election, on June 30, the Chapter's financial responsibility was transferred from Joe Anthony, who held the office of Vice President/Treasurer since the Chapter was formed many years ago, to Vaughn Fry, his incoming successor. It was a seamless transfer. As Joe Anthony departs the Executive Board, it is with our most sincere gratitude for a "job well done." He will be missed. Joe has pledged to provide whatever assistance may be needed to ease Vaughn Fry into the office. They have already had one meeting where Joe explained how the fiscal operation works. Moreover, Joe has pledged to Vaughn that he will always be available by telephone if his assistance and advice is needed. Thanks for everything, Joe.

The "new" Executive Board expresses our sincere gratitude for the members having the confidence that we are capable to faithfully administer the Chapter in the membership's best interests. We pledge to do our best to faithfully discharge that duty and responsibility.

The new Executive Board will have hopefully had our first meeting or at least have a meeting scheduled by the time this newsletter is published. It is being written prior to the Fourth Of July Holiday, which will have an impact on publishing plans. It is our hope that when you are reading this after July 4, you will have had a safe and sane holiday.

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER RETIREES, THE BACKBONE OF THE STAPLES DEMONSTRATION EFFORT!

There has been a lot of buzz about the size and numbers of participants in the Staples demonstrations that have been sponsored by the Western PA Postal Workers Solidarity Committee going on three years since the effort began. Our Chapter is a member of that Committee. Several of our members attend not only the demonstrations, but also attend Committee meetings that are usually held the Monday after the demonstrations. The most recent demonstration in Blawnox is a case in point. In the picture taken at the conclusion of that demonstration, which was published in the APWU website, by actual head count, **50% of the demonstrators were retiree members of our Chapter!** That is a typical participation by our members at most of the demonstrations. The rest of the demonstrators at the Blawnox event were Letter Carriers, MVS APWU members, activists from as far as Beaver County, Maintenance APWU members, Clerk APWU members, Mail Handlers, and others.

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**THIS COMMUNICATION WAS DRAFTED ON THE LETTERHEAD OF
THE WESTERN PA POSTAL WORKERS SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE,
INTENDED TO BE MAILED TO RETIREES AND ACTIVE MEMBERS. THE
LOCAL DECLINED TO MAIL IT. IT IS REPRINTED BELOW FOR YOUR
INFORMATION:**

A CHANGE IN TACTICS. STAPLES DEMONSTRATIONS END?

(By John P. Richards)

June 27, 2016

It is undisputed that the effort to demonstrate at Staples stores throughout Western Pennsylvania going on three years, under the auspices of the Western PA Postal Solidarity Committee, was and is a fantastic success! The effort of the Committee reaching out to other labor unions, the Central Labor Councils of Beaver/Butler, Allegheny, and Westmoreland Counties, the Pittsburgh Mayor, the Allegheny County Executive, and the President of the county delegation, provided moral support and participants 'on the line'. Many thousands of leaflets were distributed to passing motorists, shopping center patrons, and potential Staples customers. (In this area, all Staples stores are in shopping centers.) Many Staples customers were turned away by our demonstrations. Staples managers were 'brought to their knees', totally frustrated in their unsuccessful attempts to intimidate demonstrators as various police departments kept the peace by advising Staples that we were within our rights to peacefully demonstrate at the stores based on the documents we provided.

With this backdrop, we as leaders of the effort, were stunned to learn that the mass demonstrations were to be augmented, with a handful of volunteers handing out leaflets at various stores for hours at a time. The claim is this method is more effective than mass demonstrations. Having motivated our demonstrators as we did, and it was far from an easy task, we are dubious that additional numbers of volunteers can be found for the new initiative. Moreover, the new method will draw only on Pittsburgh Metro members, obviously abandoning the Solidarity Committee's involvement. The facts are the Pittsburgh Metro Local had taken a very low level of involvement with the demonstration effort. Few of their officers even bothered to attend the demonstrations, and those that did were very spotty in their attendance. Rank and file members, retirees, and 'outside' unionists and supporters were clearly the nucleus of the effort. From our experience, it is unlikely that much if any support for the new program will come from rank and file, retirees, or 'outsiders'. One thing is for sure, and that is the mass demonstrations may be ended by stretching or diverting resources, not by our desire, but from micro managing from above. Nevertheless, if you are interested in volunteering for this new initiative, contact me at 724 947 9374.

All good things must come to an end someday. But this pulling the rug out from under us by national makes no sense. In closing, we cannot thank those that demonstrated with us enough for your effort. You are Union Heroes who are owed much by the fence sitters.

{WE WERE JUST INFORMED BY NATIONAL THAT THE PLAN TO DISTRIBUTE LITERATURE AT STAPLES STORES BY SMALL GROUPS HAS BEEN RESCINDED. THE MASS DEMONSTRATIONS WILL CONTINUE!}

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