

# UNION

It's Who We Are

# POSTAL SUPPORT EMPLOYEES

*Rights & Benefits At A Glance*

*Revised July 2016*

## **APWU**

*American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO*

**ORGANIZING DEPARTMENT**

Mark Dimondstein, *President*

Anna Smith, *Organization Director*

Postal Support Employees (PSEs) are hired for a term not to exceed 360 calendar days per appointment. The PSE workforce is comprised of employees who don't yet have career appointments but who enjoy union representation and negotiated rights. The Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), which is the union contract between the APWU and the USPS, covers all aspects of your appointment related to wages, benefits, hours, and working conditions.

## The Right to Join the APWU

Unlike previous temporary USPS workers, PSEs have the right to join the APWU. Only by standing together with your co-workers can you ensure you earn a living wage, gain access to important benefits, and get a fair opportunity for a career job. We have been negotiating on your behalf and will continue to do so. But to do that, we need your help!

By joining the APWU you have a voice and a vote in your union. This will allow you to give input into benefits that are negotiated on your behalf and how your union is run. Don't let someone else decide your future, be a part of the decision making!

## Pay

PSEs will receive the following 5 wage increases over the life of the 2015-2018 Collective Bargaining Agreement:

- Nov. 14, 2015 – 2.2 % increase, plus a 9-cent per hour increase
- Nov. 26, 2016 – 2.3 % increase
- May 13, 2017 – 20-cents per hour increase
- Nov. 25, 2017 – 2.3 % increase
- May 26, 2018 – 21-cents per hour increase

PSE Hourly Rates effective November 14, 2015

PS Grade	5	6	7	8
Hourly Rate	\$15.10	\$16.06	\$17.07	\$17.43

## Overtime Pay

You will be paid at the overtime rate for work in excess of 40 hours in any service week. Overtime pay for PSEs is paid at the rate of 1½ times your hourly straight-time rate.

## Night Differential Pay

For hours worked between 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. you will also receive Night Differential pay.

Current PSE Night Differential Rates

PS Grade	5	6	7	8
Hourly Rate	\$1.05	\$1.12	\$1.19	\$1.21



## Career Opportunities

The union negotiated strong language in the 2015-2018 contract regarding opportunities for conversion of PSEs to career status when there are duty assignments that remain vacant after the completion of the bidding process; in addition, career conversions must be made in seniority order.

## Higher-Level Pay for Higher-Level Work

In the event you are temporarily assigned to a higher-level position, you will be paid at the higher-level rate for the time spent performing higher-level duties.

## Annual Leave

You earn 1 hour annual leave for every 20 hours of work, up to a maximum of 4 hours per pay period. Your annual leave accrues and is credited in whole hours at the end of each biweekly pay period. To request annual leave, complete a PS Form 3971, *Request for, or Notification of Absence*. You will receive a lump-sum payment for any unused earned leave during your break in service.

## Holiday Pay

PSEs receive the following 6 paid holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. PSEs who work on a holiday will have the option to have their annual leave balance credited with annual leave or receive holiday pay. The amount of holiday pay (or annual leave balance credit) you receive is based on the size of your office.

## Health Benefits

You are eligible to enroll in the USPS-sponsored health plan within 60 days of your "enter-on-duty" date. After that, the next opportunity to enroll will be during Health Plan Open Season. Visit [liteblue.usps.gov/benefits](http://liteblue.usps.gov/benefits) and click on "USPS Health Benefits Plan" for more information.

After your first 360 day term you can sign up for coverage under the Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) program. As a result of contract negotiations, the Postal Service contributes 75% of the total premium for any PSE who selects the APWU Consumer Driven Health Plan.

# Postal Support Employees Rights & Benefits

## Your Membership Matters ~ You Are The Union

### American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

#### UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AUTHORIZATION FOR DEDUCTION OF DUES

I hereby assign to the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, from any salary or wages earned or to be earned by me as a member (in my present or future employment) such regular and periodic membership dues as the APWU may certify as due and owing from me, as may be established from time to time by the APWU. I authorize and direct the USPS to deduct such amounts from my pay and to remit same to the APWU at such times and in such manner as may be agreed upon between myself and the APWU at any time while this authorization is in effect, which includes a yearly subscription for The American Postal Worker magazine as part of the membership dues.

This assignment, authorization and direction shall be irrevocable for a period of one (1) year from the date of delivery to the APWU, and I agree and direct that this assignment, authorization and direction shall be automatically renewed and shall be irrevocable for successive periods of one (1) year unless written notice by certified mail using PS Form 1186 is given by me to the APWU not more than twenty (20) days and not less than ten (10) days prior to the expiration of each period of one year, or within ten (10) days after the date I start work if I am rehired for any new term of Postal Support employment. In addition to the above, if I am a Postal Support Employee, this assignment shall remain in effect if I should be rehired within 180 days after the conclusion of my present term of Postal Support employment.

This agreement is freely made pursuant to the provisions of the Postal Reorganization Act and is not contingent upon the existence of any agreement between the Union and the Postal Service.

<b>NAME OF EMPLOYEE</b> <i>Last Name, First Name, Middle (Print Legibly)</i>		<b>SOCIAL SECURITY NO.</b> <i>(Entire # Is Required)</i>		
<b>MAILING ADDRESS</b>		<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>ZIP</b>
<b>HOME PHONE NO.</b> ( )	<b>MOBILE PHONE NO.</b> ( )	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>		
<b>WORK LOCATION (Post Office) &amp; STATE</b>	<b>WORK FINANCE NUMBER</b>	<b>CRAFT</b>	<b>POSITION TYPE (Circle One)</b> CAREER or PSE	
<b>SIGNATURE OF EMPLOYEE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>UNION TRANSFER CANCEL DUES TO:</b> <i>(Circle Union)</i> NALC    NPMHU    NRLCA		

Return Original To: APWU Organization Department at 1300 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20005

Form 1187

**Sign Up Today – Complete the form above and return it to your steward or mail it in!**

### Representation in the Grievance Procedure

Being a union member gives you a way to fight back if your rights are violated. If you believe your rights have been violated, request to see your union steward. You have the right to file a grievance and speak to your steward while on the clock. Do not delay in doing this as there are critical time limits in which grievances must be filed (14 calendar days from the date you first learned of, or should have learned of the grievance). Once you have completed 90 work days or have been employed for 120 calendar days, whichever comes first, you cannot be fired except for “just cause,” and, if you are terminated, you may challenge the decision via the grievance procedure.

### Safe and Healthy Working Conditions

You have the right to work in a safe and healthy environment. The union will always fight for the welfare of all union members. It is management’s responsibility to provide safe working conditions. To report unsafe conditions, file a PS Form 1767, *Report of Hazard, Unsafe Condition or Practice*, and be sure to contact your steward.

### Job Security and Re-appointment by Seniority

When PSEs are separated due to lack of work, re-appointments must be made by PSE seniority. PSEs will be re-appointed ahead of applicants who have not served as PSEs, provided the need for hiring arises within one year of the break in service.

### Uniforms

Under the 2015-2018 contract, PSEs who work in retail operations will receive an annual uniform allowance for three shirts.

### Family and Medical Leave Act and Injury Compensation

You will be eligible for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) after you have 12 months of employment and you have worked 1,250 hours during the 12 months prior to the start of leave.

You are also protected under the Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA) if you are injured at work or if you sustain an occupational disease. The union works on your behalf in the legislative arena to maintain protections under the FECA.

### Your Role as a Member

Being a union member goes beyond paying dues. Our union is a democratic organization whose strength depends on the participation of all members. So get involved! Be on the lookout for bulletins about upcoming events. Local membership meetings are a great place to meet with co-workers and help make decisions about how best to protect our rights and fight for justice at work and in our communities.

## Through Solidarity We Will Have Strength

For More Information Please Visit – [www.apwu.org](http://www.apwu.org)



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

ORGANIZING DEPARTMENT

1300 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

### MEMBERS-ONLY PRIVILEGES

- ✓ APWU MasterCard - Visit [APWUcard.com](http://APWUcard.com) for info.
- ✓ Voluntary Benefits Plan - Term life insurance, dental coverage, group legal services, accidental death and dismemberment insurance, and much more!
- ✓ Union Plus - Discounts mortgage programs, credit clinics and services, auto insurance, auto care, travel and legal assistance, to name a few.
- ✓ Accident Benefit Association - A member-owned organization that offers accidental death benefits, life insurance and wage replacement.
- ✓ Aflac - Savings on personal indemnity and specified health events insurance plans.
- ✓ The *American Postal Worker* magazine.



### Important Information For New Members To Secure Regarding your Local or State Organization

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Meeting Dates: \_\_\_\_\_