



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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LABOR DAY PARADE 2016

The Retiree Chapter invites all members and your families to participate in a full days activities on Labor Day, September 5, 2016, to honor workers and show support for the APWU and the Retiree Chapter, by maximum involvement in the full schedule of events.

NOTE: This is the second year that there are major changes from past years. The Civic Arena area where we used to assemble is no longer available. The entire parade will now mass in the strip district similar to the Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Please give careful consideration to the new arrangements.

THE TRADITIONAL LABOR DAY MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT SAINT STANISLAUS CHURCH, 21ST AND SMALLMAN STREETS, BEGINNING AT 8:00 AM. WHILE THIS IS A ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, AS A PROTESTANT, THIS WRITER HAS ATTENDED THESE MASSES FOR MANY YEARS WHERE LABOR AND WORKING WOMEN AND MEN ARE HONORED. PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THIS 'NEW' CHURCH AND THE NEW LOCATION.

WE WILL FORM UP ON LIBERTY AVENUE STARTING AROUND 12TH STREET BEHIND THE GREYHOUND BUS STATION. LOOK FOR THE WHITE ENTERPRISE TRUCK PARKED ALONG THE CURB. GOODY BAGS FOR THE KIDDIES WILL BE AVAILABLE STARTING AT 8:00 AM. GOLD COLORED SHIRTS AND HATS AND VISORS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL MARCHERS. FRESH DONUTS, BAGELS PASTRIES, JUICE, COFFEE AND ICE COLD WATER WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE STARTING AT 8:00 AM. WE WILL BE NEAR THE FRONT OF THE PARADE IN THE GENERAL DIVISION. FOR THE FIRST TIME ALL THE POSTAL UNIONS WILL MARCH TOGETHER IN A SHOW OF UNITY AND SOLIDARITY. THIS IS AN OFFSHOOT OF THE WESTERN PA POSTAL WORKERS SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE.

WE SUGGEST THAT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO PARKING. THE ROUTE IS RATHER LONG, SO YOU MAY WANT TO PARK NEAR THE END OF THE PARADE TO AVOID A WALK BACK TO THE STAGING AREA AFTER WE MARCH.

LAST YEAR THE ROUTE WENT ALONG GRANT STREET TO THE BOULEVARD OF THE ALLIES, WHERE IT TURNED DOWN THE BOULEVARD. IT WAS QUITE A TREK ON A VERY HOT DAY. WE HAVE REQUESTED THAT OUR VEHICLE BE PART OF THE DELEGATION SO IF RELIEF IS NEEDED ALONG THE WAY, WE CAN ACCOMMODATE TWO OR THREE THAT MAY NEED SOME ASSISTANCE. USING THE VEHICLE FOR A DISTRIBUTION SUPPLY VEHICLE FOR LEAFLETS THAT WE DISTRIBUTED ALONG THE ROUTE AND FOR TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE WHERE NEEDED SEEMED TO WORK VERY WELL. THE VEHICLE WILL ALSO BE FESTOONED WITH STOP STAPLES SIGNS TO PROMOTE OUR PROTEST.

(over)

AFTER PARADE ACTIVITIES

The Retiree Chapter has been invited to attend the Local's after parade activities. Immediately after we have marched, the Local will host a tailgate party. Food and ice cold beverages will be available. This will occur near the Clark Bar on the north side in parking lot Red 7A underneath the ramp from the Fort Duquesne Bridge. In true tailgate style, be sure to bring your own chairs since few to none will be provided. There is very limited parking in the lot. If it is filled up, other lots and a garage are nearby. Our Chapter is very thankful that the Local has generously included us in these parade and after parade activities.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES VS ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

All marchers will receive tickets to the baseball game that begins at 4:05 PM. The Pirates have been blowing hot and cold lately. They are now in a race for a Wild Card spot to make it to the playoffs, which are rapidly approaching. After a couple hours at the tailgate party, we should be ready to cheer them on.

A LANDMARK EVENT

Attendance at the Labor Day Parade by all Post Office Unions marching as a single group is a truly remarkable event whose significance should not be taken lightly. Over the years from time to time animus rather than cooperation between the Unions was the norm. Legitimate differences over interpretation of the CBA and agreements that flowed from them frequently saw the parties on opposite sides of contract enforcement. One example is the struggle between the APWU and the Mail Handlers Union over enforcement of Regional Instruction 399 that has been going on for years. We have put these differences aside in context.

But this is a new era. Issues created by a hostile Congress, a Postal management determined to destroy the Post Office as we have known it, and a give back contract a couple years ago, have created a landscape fraught with peril for all Post Office Union workers.

Facing the new reality, in this area we have taken a giant step to present the strongest struggle that we can muster by creating the Western PA Postal Workers Solidarity Committee. The presidents of the four Locals that represent most Postal workers in the western part of Pennsylvania sit as equals on the committee, and our Chapter also is a full member. Branch 84 NALC President Mike Plaskon is our Chairman. Mike has been an effective leader. We meet a couple times a month to develop strategy to combat the forces that would do us harm. We have worked together to oppose five day delivery of mails, conducted numerous demonstrations at Staples stores throughout the region, promoted the Letter Carriers food drive, and are gearing up to take on whatever comes next. It is this cooperation that led to marching as a single group at the Labor Day Parade. As we go forward it is our most sincere desire that this cooperation will continue and grow.

OUR HOLIDAY PARTY WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, AT THE CHADWICK IN WEXFORD - THE SAME PLACE AS LAST YEARS PARTY. MAKE A NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR TO PRESERVE THE DATE.

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