



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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LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE MAY 13

The NALC Annual Food collection will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017. This is premier Letter Carrier activity where non perishable food stuffs are collected from patrons in the Branch 84 jurisdictional area. As a recipient of this communication, you are not only an active or retired APWU represented Postal Worker, but you are also a patron that has mail delivered by our Sisters and Brothers Letter Carriers. We are calling on you to fully support this activity to the maximum extent possible.

Following on the unprecedented success of last years collection, this year will see a repeat of the tactics used last year. Collection bags are being prepared for all patrons. The other Postal Locals have contributed to the drive by having their Union logo printed on the collection bags. According to reports, Pittsburgh Metro made a significant financial contribution for this purpose. Using the bags last year resulted in an overwhelming response from the public. Various food banks had significant food stuffs contributed as a result of the collection, in some cases, unprecedented amounts.

Last year saw the full support of our committee. Along with moral support, we had committee members 'on the ground', working with Branch 84 to sort the bags for distribution, and work with the distribution of the food as the drive went forward. To repeat, the amount of food collected was unprecedented!

As we leave this Holy season, remembering our less fortunate brothers and sisters is a fitting way to commemorate the season. While all are not able to give as some others, it is hard to conceive that a few cans of food cannot be spared by most if not all. We urge in the spirit of Union solidarity to join with us to make the food drive a roaring success. You will feel so much better knowing that you have extended a hand in charity to those in need.

(The above was drafted with the intent that Pittsburgh Metro would mail it under the Western PA Postal Workers Solidarity Committee letterhead to their members and our members in support of the Letter Carrier Food Drive. It has been our experience that communications of this nature have the most impact and get the best results when mailed directly into the homes where the spouses and families are made aware of the effort, and moreover, that is where the foodstuffs that are sought for contribution are located. We received late word that the Local will not mail the solicitation. Instead, they may post copies on bulletin boards. In our opinion that is a short sighted mistake that will likely result in less food collected. Our Chapter is including the information set forth above with this newsletter in the hope that our members will respond as you did last year. It is unknown as this is written what effect that this development will have on the Committee.)

We urge in the strongest terms that we support our Letter Carrier Sisters and Brothers by giving until it HELPS. The foods that are collected are donated to food banks in the areas from which collected.

(over)

SOLD OUT?

The retiree establishment within the Union is abuzz over the administration's embracing and supporting HR 756, known as the Postal Service Reform Act. This law, if enacted in its current draft, will drastically change our health 'insurance' delivery system. Several of many provisions within the proffer that we find onerous are as follows:

..... Postal retirees, current and future, would be withdrawn from the Federal group to be created in a Postal retirees only smaller group. Group size determines rate structure.

..... Current retirees (20%) who opted to decline Part B Medicare when they reached age 65, would be **forced** into Part B and Part D. This is required to be able to access the FEHBA supplemental insurance. The reason explained for access to Part D is unconvincing.

..... As NARFE speculated, any tampering with our health coverage will be the beginning of the end of OPM management of our health benefits throughout the Federal Service as well as the Postal Service as we know it.

Rumbles are being heard from progressive APWU retiree activists that the proposal is a sell out that must be opposed. We agree.

STAPLES BOYCOTT REVISITED

(Richard Shelley is an APWU staff operative. He was responsible for coordinating the recent campaign including providing t-shirts, banners, hand outs, signage, etc., used in the campaign. He was responsible nationwide for the various locations targeted by the Union for activity. It was a daunting task. When the total victory was announced to the field leaders via telecon, he was reduced to tears when the magnitude of the victory was explained and understood. To recap, the campaign ran for more than three years. In this area, the Western PA Postal Workers Solidarity Committee, of which our Chapter is in a leadership role, demonstrated at Staples stores every other Sunday for that period. We were probably the most active group for the boycott. We have reported about our progress from time to time throughout that period. Brother Shelly recently sent an email. It is reprinted below. As you can see, the legacy of the boycott lives on in other venues. We thought it would be appropriate to share the email with our members.)

Yesterday I gave a presentation on the Stop Staples campaign to an AFGE task force planning their strategy to defend the Veterans Administration from the Trump regime. Their president, J. David Cox was there with about 70 union officials and staff. They were thrilled to hear about the campaign and were definitely inspired and encouraged by it. AFGE stood solidly with us and of course we will stand solidly with them. Today I have been gathering material on the campaign requested by the AFL-CIO for their convention. While watching some of the many the videos from the campaign I couldn't help but get emotional. Together we accomplished something not many thought we could and you and your fellow team members deserve a boatload of the credit for our victory. I hope we all get to work together again! Something tells me we will. Please share this email with all of the sisters and brothers that were out there on the front lines with you.

SHUT-IN LIST ~ Norbert Conway, Veronica Bujdos, Jeanne McCarthy, George Skrbin, and Laverne Heil, 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