

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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MOVING ON FROM THE STAPLES BOYCOTT

It is undisputed that our Chapter was a key element for the Staples boycott campaign in Western Pennsylvania. But just as we concentrated our energies on that activity, with events planned for every other Sunday throughout the three year plus duration, not much energy was left for non-postal Union activities. With the solid Staples victory behind us, it is now time to turn the page. Throughout the Staples years, our Chapter nevertheless was able to devote some attention and participation in other Union and community activism activities. Joe Anthony was our standard bearer on those occasions. He, usually with a Pittsburgh Metro Local rank and file member, carried the APWU banner multiple times over the three year period at scores of demonstrations.

Whereas with Staples, with a set published schedule that made planning predictable, that is seldom the case with these other demonstrations. We usually are given very short advance notice via email when they are planned, sometimes in just a few days. This will require a rather drastic change in tactics.

In conjunction with the Western PA Postal Workers Solidarity Committee, our Chapter is reaching out to you, our members, in an attempt to create a dedicated number of members who are willing and able to be available on short notice to join these 'outside' demonstrations. To support that effort, we have gleaned every email address currently available from our roster and have formed an email chain to facilitate quick communication. This effort has taken place recently with several test messages to the list. We have found that several members who were the backbone of the Staples demonstrations do not have an email address on file with the Chapter. **We are reaching out to those members, and all members, who do not have an email address on file to provide one. These addresses can be sent via email to me at jprichards1@verizon.net (Not all members are physically able to participate)**

Whenever the Chapter receives notice of these other demonstrations, we will immediately send an email message to our entire list. For those that can and are willing to join those activities, a brief email response would be appreciated. While the pizza parties after Staples demonstrations became a small solidarity 'reward' for your participation, which were underwritten by the Pittsburgh Metro Local, these outside events present a very different situation. Since this will be an agenda item at the next Committee meeting later this month, it is unknown at this time if the Local will cooperate with some kind of similar munch. More on that later.

To summarize, your participation is critical and solicited. Please provide your email address to the Chapter if you have not already done so. (We have not used this method of communication as a matter of policy. We believe in and use the US Mails to communicate. But the times and technology have overtaken us! We will continue to communicate via the mails for normal routine matters.) We had a lot of 'outside' help for Staples. It is our turn to show our appreciation and solidarity by joining our Sisters and Brothers in their quest for dignity and a fair wage, decent health protection, and a safe work place.

(over)

HR 756.....THROW RETIREES UNDER THE BUS

ONE PERSON'S OPINION

This writer has been active in Postal Unions continuously since 1958. During those years I was a member of the Federation, a Clerks organization, the National Postal Union after transferring to the maintenance craft, finally winding up in the APWU after merger occurred in 1970. During those years I held a string of offices up to and including local president for 20 years. In 1980 I was part of the Biller Burrus Richards slate that achieved national office in that election. When we ran in 1980 I am proud to note we were three local presidents with NPU roots.

Throughout those years it was Union credo patterned on the famous Samuel Gompers quote, when asked what did the union want, he said **more!**

Now we are confronted with the world turned upside down. Instead of seeking **more**, by huckstering HR 756, the Union is promoting a law that takes away protections and cash resources from retirees, by seeking **less! FOR RETIREES!** The scheme of that proposal is to "balance the books" on retirees backs. **Outrageous!** The sweet siren song promoted by the APWU administration and most national officers seeking support from the active rank and file downplay the land mine within the proffer for the active members....**they too will fall under the regressive scope of the law when they retire!** Whereas at present a series of options for health plan coverage are available, that will not be the case when they retire. They will be confronted with being forced into Medicare Part B whether they want it or not, at a hefty premium cost. Currently @ 20% who retire take the option to skip Part B.

A number of retiree organizations, including NARFE, have come out in strong opposition to HR 756, arguing that if enacted the law will destroy the fabric of our health insurance as we know it, and may take the entire Federal community along with us. Whereas the members could vote against the Guffey give back, that option does not exist for HR 756. But those officers responsible for and/or who huckstered the law can/should be voted out.

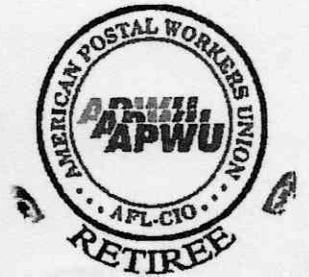
MID SUMMER BLAST

The deadline of June 16 for submission of reservation forms for the Mid Summer Blast is rapidly approaching! Our parties are always open ended, in that there is no limit of the number that can attend. The way we plan for attendance is that we can always add a table or two as the deadline nears so that no one who desires to attend can be turned away due to an arbitrary limit. This flexibility requires a lot of planning to be able to cope with the reservations as they come in. Determining numbers of entrees is a major factor. The restaurant needs sufficient advance notice so that purchases can be made and entrees in the correct number can be prepared. Any questions? Call the Chapter at 724 947 9374.

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, AND WE URGE THAT YOU DO, WE ASK THAT YOU GIVE AS MUCH NOTICE AS POSSIBLE TO EASE THE BURDEN ON OUR STAFF (MEANING ME), AND THE VENUE. PLANS ARE COMING TOGETHER TO MAKE THE EVENT ANOTHER GREAT TIME THAT WILL BE HAD BY ALL! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE FOR AN AFTERNOON OF UNION SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP.

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



Western PA. Postal Workers Solidarity Committee

April 24, 2017

LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE MAY 13

The NALC Annual Food collection will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017. This is **the** 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 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 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 it. While all are not able to give as much 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.

Chuck Pugar, President
Pittsburgh Metro Area Postal
Workers Union

Mike Plaskon, President
Branch 84 National Association
Of Letter Carriers

Kelly Dickey, President
Local 322, National Postal
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