

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 to consider the "bigger" picture. We obviously have to stand together as we are being confronted, read bombarded, with never ending management schemes to destroy the Postal Service.

As dangerous as this is, we are in a new equally dangerous era of hostility by the government. Issues created by the worker be damned Trump administration and a Republican Congress hell bent on further erosion of the Postal Service backing a Postal Service management determined to destroy the Post Office as we have known it, exacerbated by a give back contract a couple years ago, have created a landscape fraught with peril for all Post Office Union workers.

FACING THE CHALLENGE

Confronted by this 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 was our founding Chairman. Mike was a very effective leader. He has recently returned to full time duty as a Letter Carrier. (Currently actions are underway to choose a successor.) We meet a couple times a month or whenever conditions warrant to develop strategy to combat the forces that would do us harm.

GETTING THE JOB DONE

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR, SAVE THE DATE!

OUR HOLIDAY PARTY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2017, AT THE CHADWICK IN WEXFORD - THE SAME PLACE AS LAST YEARS PARTY. MAKE A NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR TO PRESERVE THE DATE. IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO SAVE THE DATE. AS WE GROW OLDER TIME SEEMS TO SIMPLY VANISH!

SHUT-IN LIST~ Norbert Conway, Jeanne McCarthy, Laverne Heil, George Skrbins, 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/DUPPLICATED