



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

POST OFFICE BOX 39 ◊ SLOVAN ◊ PENNSYLVANIA ◊ 15078

JOHN P. RICHARDS, *President and Editor*

VOLUME XII

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

No. 8

LABOR DAY PARADE 2017

Weather conditions for the annual Labor Day Parade are unpredictable! But the weather gods were very kind to the marchers this year by providing a pleasant comfortable breeze at the assembly area, and by parade kick-off, a brilliant sunny but not overbearing condition. Throughout the line of march the throngs of onlookers on both sides of the route were also treated to the pleasant day.

The Pittsburgh Metro assembly area at the top of the hill off Centre Avenue near Freedom Corner set up in the shade of a tree line beginning at @ 7:00 AM. More about this later. The Local provided coffee, juice and donuts, along with water for the marchers. After the parade they also treated all who marched with us to a tailgate party near the ball park, and provided tickets to the Pirates game to all that wanted to go. Not only did Metro members and Metro retirees march, we were joined by members of the Mail Handlers Union. By the time we started down the hill, it was impossible to acknowledge all the individuals in our group.

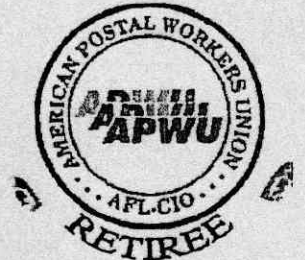
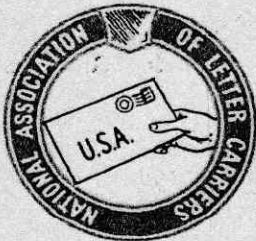
Our Chapter members showed up in respectable numbers considering the length of the parade route and the physical condition of so many of us. The Chapter provided a vehicle to "sweep up" those that were unable to complete the march. By the end of the parade three marchers required that assistance.

The scores of family members and children and others that marched with us in parade t-shirts and hats added to the festive atmosphere. By the time that we entered the line of march our ranks had swollen to a huge contingent. All who marched were invited to the after parade party and ball game! Speaking for the Chapter, we are grateful that the Pittsburgh Metro Local invited us to fully participate in the parade and the events that followed.

Comment...

As positive as the above report is, there were some significant problems. The Chapter and the Local had jointly sent instructions to our members and others about the assembly area and the line of march. Those instructions were the result of the Parade Committee's determination, at our request, that all the Post Office Unions would march together as an indication of the solidarity that has developed over the last few years. We have worked very hard to foster and grow that solidarity and continue to do so. We were all originally to assemble near the site of the old Civic Arena.

After all the plans were set and approved, the instructions mailed to our members and Metro's members, at the eleventh hour the rug was pulled out from under us. There was no opportunity to inform our marchers of the change. The Unions were separated, with the Pittsburgh Metro Local now assigned to assemble far from the original site, and relegated to marching apart from the Letter Carriers near the end of the parade. No reason was given for this. It was an unconscionable act that is unforgivable!



Western PA. Postal Workers Solidarity Committee

August 22, 2017

RICHARDS SELECTED AS CHAIRMAN

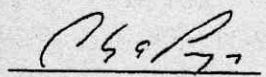
At it's meeting today, APWU Retiree Chapter President John P. Richards accepted the nomination as Chairman for the Western PA Postal Workers Solidarity Committee. Bob Montana, Secretary-Treasurer of the Pittsburgh Metro Area Local, placed Richards name in nomination at the previous meeting on May 23, 2017.

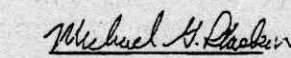
Richards was hired at the Pittsburgh General Post Office in 1958 as a Sub Clerk. He transferred to the Maintenance Craft by 1960, and became active in the National Postal Union shortly thereafter. He held several offices in that Union including Business Agent, an office he held until merger in 1971, continuing as Business Agent until 1974 for the APWU Local, when he became the full time President. He continued in that capacity until he retired in 1994. He also served as the APWU Director of Industrial Relations from 1980 to 1983. He was a founding member of the Retiree Chapter, serving as President since its inception.


Richards was a local leader in the 1970 Great Postal Strike that resulted in the merger with several craft organizations into the APWU.

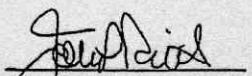
"The Western PA Postal Workers Solidarity Committee has the potential for Post Office Workers and retirees in this area to speak with a strong unified voice to protect our vital interests when threatened, and support improvement and advances to improve our condition," Richards said upon accepting this honor. "These are difficult times for Post Office workers and retirees with threats coming from many quarters, including the President Of The United States. Standing and working together is our best course."

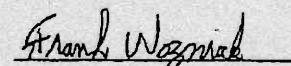
(Richards can be contacted at 724 947 9374, at Post Office Box 39, Slovan PA 15078, and at Jprichards1@verizon.net.)


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
Mail Handlers Union


John P. Richards, President
Pittsburgh Area Retiree
Chapter Of The American
Postal Workers Union


Frank Wozniak, Assistant
District Representative
National Rural Letter
Carriers Association

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

POSTAL BANKING: THE TIME IS NOW

Why Postal Banking?

- To provide affordable, consumer-driven financial services to the nearly 28% of U.S. households underserved by traditional banks. These consumers currently have few options other than expensive and predatory payday lenders and check cashers.
- To promote a non-profit alternative to the big banks that serve Wall Street, not the people.
- To strengthen and protect the U.S. Postal Service - a vibrant, public institution mandated to provide universal, affordable service.

What Would Postal Banking Look Like?

The Postal Service can deliver non-profit financial services ranging from paycheck cashing and bill payment to savings accounts and small dollar loans. For example, each post office could install ATMs, offering convenience to postal customers and offering recipients of public benefits access to funds without paying a fee.



Know the Facts

- Each year, the average underserved household spends \$2,412 – nearly 10% of gross income – in fees and interest for alternative financial services.
- 4.1 million workers are paid with a payroll card. Those without a bank account typically spend \$40-50 per month on ATM fees to access their own pay.
- The USPS has more than 30,000 locations, 59% of which are in zip codes with zero or only one bank branch.
- Worldwide, 1.5 billion people access financial services at their post offices.

Call to Action

The USPS is a well-trusted public institution that currently provides limited financial services such as money orders. The Campaign for Postal Banking calls on the USPS to act now to provide:

- Payroll check cashing;
- Surcharge-free ATMs;
- Bill paying; and
- Expanded and enhanced electronic funds transfers.

For those without access to traditional banks as well as those looking for an alternative to the Big Banks, Postal Banking is a real solution that serves the public, not Wall Street.

Find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @bankpostal, and visit us at CampaignforPostalBanking.org

CAMPAIGN FOR POSTAL BANKING IS A COALITION OF CONSUMER, LABOR, FINANCIAL REFORM, AND COMMUNITY GROUPS.

Alliance for Retired Americans | Americans for Financial Reform | American Postal Workers Union | Campaign for America's Future | Center for Study of Responsive Law | Coalition of Black Trade Unionists | Commonomics USA | Communications Workers of America | Essential Information | Interfaith Worker Justice | National Association of Letter Carriers | National People's Action | National Postal Mail Handlers Union | National Rural Letter Carriers Association | Public Citizen | United for a Fair Economy | USAction

