



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 XIII

JANUARY 1, 2018

No. 1

HOLIDAY PARTY REPORT

The Chapter Holiday Party held on November 30 at the Chadwick in Wexford was the largest gathering of members and guests in our history! More than 142 had reservations, and all but a couple attended, augmented by four member gate crashers, who were accommodated. There was a huge Christmas tree in the corner, and the table center pieces and settings were gorgeous, and complimented the holiday motif. There were many favorable compliments about the arrangements from the attendees.

After going through the registration process, the next step was the hors d'oeuvres table. Hot hors d'oeuvres of Swedish meatballs and breaded mushrooms were served. Two gala cakes with appropriate holiday icing messages, including one with the message, "WELCOME JUDY AND NANCY", were displayed to be later served as dessert. Several awards won by the Chapter were also displayed on the cake table. Vice President/Treasurer Vaughn Fry gave the blessing before the salad course and the entrées of bistro steak medallions w/roasted garlic demi, roasted cod w/grilled lemon dill cream, and asiago crusted chicken w/balsamic drizzle were served table side.

Recognizing that the Postal Service is one of the largest employer of military veterans, those in attendance were recognized by the applause of the diners. Also, members and guests that have attended Staples demonstrations over the years were also recognized by the applause of the diners. The recent PERF fundraising drive was noted with the promise of posting an Honor Roll of donators after the party.

Honored guests in attendance, APWU Legislative/Political Director Judy Beard and APWU Retiree Director Nancy Olumekor, Branch 84 NALC President Ted Lee, John Doe (Pittsburgh Metro activist), Pittsburgh Metro Financial Secretary Bob Montana, Vice President/Treasurer Vaughn Fry, Recording Secretary Betty Koch, Trustee Rege Davis, former Vice President/Treasurer Joe Anthony, and helpers Charlotte Richards and Barbara Capo, were recognized. The guests in attendance shared brief remarks with the party.

After the meal a short Membership Meeting was held. The financial Report was given by Vice President/Treasurer Vaughn Fry and it was unanimously adopted.

PRIZES PRIZES PRIZES

Following the meal and the meeting were drawings for a variety of prizes. Gift cards for \$25.00 at several restaurants were won by members, Rich Thornhill, Len Spagnolo, Valerie Golphin and Jacqueline Hucks. For those that presented **CHAPTER** Membership Cards, a \$50.00 gift card to the Outback Steak House was won by Rich Thornhill. Chocolate samplers from the Sarris Candy Company were won by the following: Guests ~ Anna Mae Singer, Rich Passante, Nancy Phillips, Katherine Hill, Verlyn DiCaprio, Janet Wimbish, Robert Palmer, Helen Wheaton, Tammy Yokel, Bill Angel, Joe Radovich, June Coleman, Peggy Tengowski, and Sally Gettings.

MORE PRIZES.....

Members who won Sarris samplers ~ Lorraine Augustine, Sandra Kowalewski, Andrew Moury, Carole Funaro, Lee Kusajtys, Thomas Schidlmeier, Ernie Coleman, Betty Koch, Betty Glass, Tony Sarazen, Donald Steines, Vaughn Fry, Maureen McCamey, and Cheryl Porter.

The iconic Leg Lamp authentic reproduction Special Award from the movie A CHRISTMAS STORY was won by Tony Sarazen. The Chapter has been presenting this award over the last several years. All **members** in attendance are eligible for the prize.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Helen Wheaton. The winners share was \$292.00. The Chapter's share of \$292.00 was donated to the Postal Employees Relief Fund, or PERF.

COMMENT ~ As we close the book on 2017 and look forward to the New Year, reflecting on the Chapter's accomplishments is warranted. Our membership rose to the occasion week after week for nearly three years by demonstrating at Staples stores throughout the Western Pennsylvania area. It is undisputed that our members were the glue that held the effort together. Officers and rank and file from the other Post Office Unions were equal partners, joined by scores of 'other' Union activists from the area. We were a significant factor that brought Staples to their knees forcing them to capitulate by withdrawing from the so-called pilot program. Sweet Victory!

More recently was Chapter participation in the PERF special fund raising drive. The drive was conducted by The Western PA Postal Workers Solidarity Committee. Our members were fully engaged by responding to our call for support of that effort. You can and should take pride in your response. An Honor Roll of contributors was published in the previous issue of this publication, and may be posted on Post Office bulletin boards throughout the area.

Looking ahead, antics of the Trump administration and the rubber stamp Congress will test us in areas of importance to retirees. It is being reported that the so-called tax cut that likely will be adopted as this is being written is a back door ploy to ultimately gut Medicare and Social Security. Needless to say, these are benefits earned by years of dedicated service that are vital to maintaining retirement as we know it. We must be on our guard to combat whatever sneaky methods that may be tried to achieve those nefarious goals.

Separate and apart from those concerns is legislation currently under consideration by Congress to drastically alter and force access to Medicare Part B by retirees who have previously opted out. This legislation is supported by Post Office national Unions, while being opposed by NARFE and others, including this writer. We must keep our eyes firmly fixed on The Congress to protect our interests.

YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD WISHES THAT YOU WILL HAVE A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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/DUPLICATED