

The RETIREE RECORD

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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*

SPECIAL EDITION

THE REST OF THE STORY...

(The article reprinted below was published in the spring edition of the postal publication Eastern Area Update. The article highlighted the 45 year postal career of my wife Charlotte. But there is much more to the "Charlotte Story". This report is intended to partially fill in the blanks.)

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

45 years and counting

Charlotte Richards began her career in 1972, right after she graduated high school, as a PTF clerk in her hometown of Slovan, PA.

"It was nice when I was young. I could walk to work," recalled Richards. "I was only working four hours a day on a split — two in the morning and another two in the afternoon. It was nice when you were young but when

they started cutting hours, I saw the writing on the wall and knew I needed to do something to get more hours."

Things really changed for Richards in September, 1976. "Oh it was great for the paycheck," she laughed. "Lots and lots of hours and no time to spend the money."

UPS employees had gone on strike and the Postal Service was bringing in clerks from around the surrounding

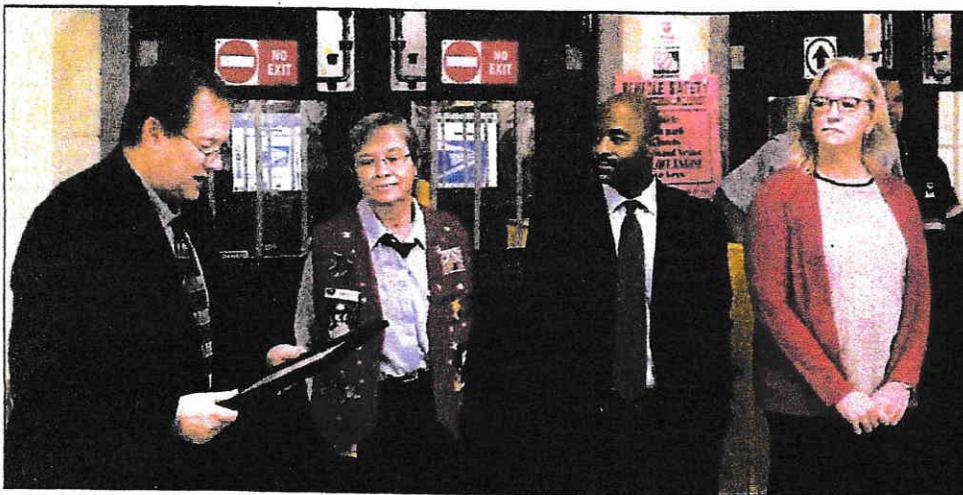
area to help with the dramatic increase in parcels. Richards was brought into Pittsburgh to work overnights in the plant. She says she went from working only 2-4 hours per day, six days a week to suddenly working up to 11 hours per day, 7 days per week.

"It was nice to meet so many people. They took me under their wing and I learned a lot," she said. "They showed me how to look for the job postings and how to become full-time."

In 1977, she was able to transfer to Canonsburg about 17 miles away. She has stayed there ever since. She has lived her entire life in the same house in Slovan but says she also really likes Canonsburg. "It's an old town, people are still doing things the old way. They like to keep it that way."

She and her husband, a former APWU president, have traveled around the world. She still enjoys weekends out on their boat. Although her husband has retired, Richards says she has no immediate plans to stop working just yet.

"I really like serving the public. I think it is a great service we provide," said Richards. "I've already traveled a lot, so I'm happy working. When it's time, it will be time. It's been a good career."



Western Pennsylvania District Manager Troy Seanor, Canonsburg Postmaster Peggy Bednar and Post Office Operations Manager Curtis Williams presented Retail Associate Charlotte Richards with a framed letter in front of her coworkers commemorating 45 years of service.

In addition to her postal career, Charlotte has had a full and responsible Union career as a long time Executive Board officer dating back through the 1970's. During that tenure she served as trustee, recording secretary, shop steward, Chief Grievance Officer, and arbitration advocate for the Pittsburgh Metro Area APWU Local. In conjunction with a few other activists, she was the glue that kept Staples demonstrations on track over the nearly three year boycott action. In addition to and in concurrence with those responsibilities, Charlotte has been 'unpaid staff' assisting with all elements of administration and publications of this Retiree Chapter. The above is a fuller picture of what Charlotte is about.