



# 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

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## GALA HOLIDAY PARTY REPORT

The annual gala Holiday Party held on December 5 at The Chadwick in Wexford was the largest gathering of members and guests in our history! Almost 150 made reservations, and all but a couple attended. There was a huge Christmas Tree in the corner, and the table center pieces and settings complimented the holiday motif. Favors at each place provided by Nancy Olumeker, APWU Retiree Director, were appreciated and a big hit with the diners. Many thanks Nancy. There were many favorable compliments about all the arrangements from the attendees.

After going through the registration process, which was efficiently handled by Vice President/Treasurer Vaughn Fry, Recording Secretary Betty Koch, and volunteer staff Charlotte Richards, who managed the 50/50, and Barbara Capo, who obtained signatures on the shut-in get well cards, the next step was the hors d'oeuvres table.

Hot hors d'oeuvres of honey garlic glazed meatballs and pretzel wrapped cocktail franks with mustard dip were served. Two gala cakes with appropriate holiday icing messages were displayed to be served later as dessert. Several awards won by the Chapter were also displayed on the cake table. One of the diners volunteered and gave the blessing before the salad course and the entrees of roasted pork loin with whole grain mustard sauce, roasted cod with grilled lemon dill cream, and rosemary chicken with roasted red pepper cream, were served.

## RECOGNITION WAS GIVEN

After the meal was completed, as has been our tradition, several groups in attendance were recognized. The Postal Service is one of the largest employers of military veterans. Those in attendance were recognized by the applause of the diners. Also, members and guests that attended Staples demonstrations over the years during that successful boycott, were also recognized by the applause of the diners. Last, but not least, those that participated in the Great Post Office Strike of 1970 stood to the enthusiastic applause of the diners. But Father Time is taking a toll on that courageous group, as evidenced by the few members that are still with us. While their numbers may be dwindling, the legacy we left will always be one of the most significant events in Post Office History.

We had invited Cong. Conor Lamb as a special guest. Since Congress was in session on the 5<sup>th</sup>, he could not attend. He sent Reenie Kuhlman, his Communications Director, to substitute for him. More on that later. We also invited Joe Radovich, Pittsburgh Metro Local activist, who was a leader of the Staples boycott. We had previously referred to him as John Doe to protect him from retribution by the bosses. Joe has just retired, so he is no longer in peril. Vice President/Treasurer Vaughn Fry, Recording Secretary Betty Koch, Trustee Rege Davis, former Vice President/Treasurer Joe Anthony, and volunteer staff Charlotte Richards and Barbara Capo, were also recognized.

## SPECIAL GUESTS

In recognition of Ms. Kuhlman's schedule that may have required her early departure from the party, the Membership Meeting was delayed to provide her the opportunity to address the assemblage.

Our Chapter and the APWU were very active in support of Conor Lamb. In my introduction of Ms. Kuhlman, I described Lamb as Jack The Giant Killer, since he defeated a Republican machine politician for the vacant 18<sup>th</sup> Cong. District, then almost immediately defeated an incumbent Republican to the de-gerrymandered 17<sup>th</sup> Cong. District. During these campaigns we were active in providing financial resources and boots on the ground for both campaigns.

Speaking in place of Cong. Lamb, Ms. Kuhlman confirmed that he is a friend of retirees in the areas of retirement annuities and health care. We strongly supported him in those campaigns because he made it crystal clear where he stands on retiree issues and continuation of the Postal Service without privatization. It was a real treat to have Reenie break bread with us and share her remarks with us.

We were then addressed by Joe Radovich. Joe was the heart and soul of the Staples Boycott and the glue that held it together through fair weather and foul. Over the course of that three year effort we had always referred to Joe as John Doe so that management would not target him for revenge since we held management's feet to the fire throughout that activity. Since Joe retired two days before the party, now the story can be told. In Joe's remarks, he thanked those in attendance that had participated in the boycott. FYI, Joe has already submitted an application to join the Retiree Department and our Chapter, and has been provided with his Chapter Membership Card.

## ON TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND

A short Membership Meeting was held. The Financial Report was given by Vice President/Treasurer Vaughn Fry. It was unanimously adopted.

Drawings were held for a variety of prizes: Gift Cards for several restaurants were won by members Kathy Batty; Paul Malloy; Blanche Plummer-Jones; and Cindy Kunsak. The drawing for those that presented CHAPTER membership cards for a gift card to the Outback Steak House was won by Bill McGraw. Samplers from the Sarris Candy Company were won by Guests: Annie Marbury; Shirley Keller; Donna Schidlmeier; Linda Ranallo; Nancy Phillips; Michael Tully; Henrietta McConnell; June Coleman; Linda Cannon; Jada Thompson; Helen Wheaton; Dave Vodarick; Terri Peiritsh, and Joe Radovich. Members: David Singer; Gary Cannon; Martin Kowalewski; Ron Coultas; Eugene Dziurzynski; David Yura; Sandra Kowalewski; Sue Zmuda; Iris Palmer; Lorraine Augustine; Paul Malloy; George Figas; Thomas Schidlmeier; Duane Schulte; Robert Hucko; Carole Funaro; and Martha Kress.

The iconic Leg Lamp Major Award from the movie A CHRISTMAS STORY was won by Joe Leto.

The 50/50 drawing was won by guest Jane Bakos. Her share was \$335.00.

**SHUT-IN LIST** ~ Norbert Conway, Jeanne McCarthy, Laverne Heil, 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**