

February 26, 2020

Brother and Sisters,

I am writing to inform you I will be retiring from the position of APWU Human Relations Director on Saturday, February 29 after giving nearly 32 years of service to our great union. The APWU membership has been very good to me and my family and I truly appreciate the love and support that has been demonstrated to us over the years.

I certainly did not foresee retirement on my horizon but given recent events and other contributing factors I find retiring a necessary decision. Aside from raising 3 bright, strong, independent daughters, being a union leader has been my life's passion and my greatest accomplishment. I am certainly going to miss it and all of you but I take comfort in knowing my contributions have positively impacted tens-of-thousands of injured workers, veterans, postal families devastated by disasters, and members struggling with mental health and work-life issues. I am proud that my work was meaningful, and that together, we had a hand in making a difference to so many.

It's been one hell of a ride. I count myself among the most fortunate for it. I want to thank everyone who entrusted, believed and stood by me throughout the years. I am, and always will be eternally grateful for having had the blessing and opportunity to have served.

I think each of you know how much this union means to me; how much I care about the Human Relations Department, and the lengths I will go to fight for our members - so I am guessing it will come as no surprise that I have an opinion about my successor, although I respectfully recognize I have no constitutional standing to make a recommendation.

Nevertheless, I hope my many years of experience; more than 18 as Human Relations Director, coupled with my subject-matter expertise will weigh more heavily than political favor and optics in the selection of our next director.

It is my very strong opinion that Bob Romanowski, NBA Clerk Craft and Kathleen Kaplan, Manasota Area Local are each uniquely equipped and quite frankly - simply the best qualified. Either would be an excellent choice. Both are extremely knowledgeable, seasoned OWCP practitioners; capable of navigating its many intricacies and adept at helping our members sidestep its landmines. In my view, this is not a department that can merely be administrated. OWCP missteps can cause irreparable harm, making it essential for the director to know the subject matter inside and out, no matter the staff or the number of advocates that may be placed at their disposal.

OWCP cannot be mastered with a few intense workshops or in a few months. It takes years of consistent hands-on application to attain the high-level of proficiency possessed by Bob and Kathleen. Brother Romanowski and Sister Kaplan are also well-versed in other valued components of the department. They are extraordinary, proven instructors and I have every confidence either will serve our members well if appointed to the position.

With that, I wish APWU continued success. Accept nothing less than dignity and respect. Big hugs and much love to all of you.

In solidarity forever and always -
Sue Carney