

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*

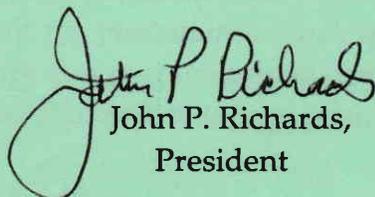
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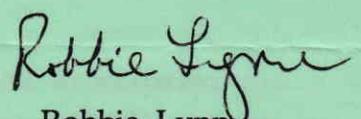
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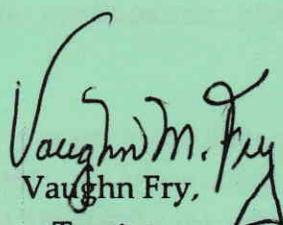
AT THIS
TIME OF
THE YEAR
WHEN WE
COUNT OUR
BLESSINGS, WE
HAVE SO MUCH
TO BE THANKFUL
FOR. WE HAVE LIFE,
FAMILY, AND A SECURE
RETIREMENT THANKS TO
OUR POST OFFICE CAREERS.
ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS
OF OUR RETIREE CHAPTER, WE
TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PAUSE
AND REFLECT ON OUR GOOD FORTUNE
AND GIVE THANKS FOR ALL OUR BLESSINGS
AND WISH
YOU AND
YOURS A
HAPPY
HOLIDAY


John P. Richards,
President

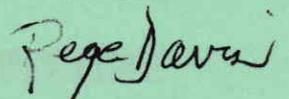

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Trustee



(over)

OUR CHAPTER WISHES YOU A BELATED HOLIDAY GREETING

There has been a lot of speculation about the reason for the failure of the Chapter to send our usual holiday newsletter, which can be seen on the reverse. That page is typically set at our annual holiday party, which was scheduled for December 5. After months of planning, the party was set to go.

Coincidentally, in the lead up to the party, I experienced a nagging problem, read pain, in my left ankle. Several visits to the Presbyterian Hospital emergency room where doctors there gave no relief, and in fact the pain increased. Later I learned that they had misdiagnosed the problem, and in the course of treatment prescribed prescriptions that exacerbated the problem.

On the date of the party, which typically is a little busy with last minute details, I found to my dismay that I could not walk due to tremendous pain. So while my wife Charlotte, {also a member}, took over managing the last minute party details, I was taken by ambulance to Presbyterian Hospital. (More about the party later.) From there I wound up at my PCP, who had me admitted to Washington Hospital.

Thus began a journey through finding the correct diagnosis, which was cellulitis and Mrsa infections in the left ankle. The situation was rather serious requiring a month of intensive intervention which by that time also posed serious breathing problems. I was treated with a device that completely covered my face to deal with the breathing problem while the ankle was opened and drained. I was in that hospital for about a month until recovered enough to be transferred to the McKeesport long term acute care Hospital for further treatment. I was finally transferred from there to a skilled nursing home/rehab center in Washington. Altogether, my total time in hospitals was about two and a half months. When I was finally discharged my physical condition was such that I now require visiting nurses and physical and occupational rehab. According to their opinions, it will be long haul to achieve a condition similar to that before this all began.

During this period I received many cards and calls from those members who were aware of the situation. I can't thank you enough for your kindness. It really brightens your day when the mail is delivered.

WHAT ABOUT THE PARTY?

From the reports about the party, our Executive Board and former officers did an incredible job taking control of the situation, providing a smooth transition, not skipping a beat. Without any advance notice that I could not attend, Vice President/Treasurer Joe Radovich, assisted by volunteers who stepped up to help, did an excellent job "managing" the party from beginning to end. There has been numerous comments from members to me describing the way Joe took control and stepped into my shoes to provide a seamless transition. I cannot adequately express my gratitude to Joe, the Executive Board, and all who assisted in one way or another. You have proven once again that our Chapter stands head and shoulders above others within the Retiree Department that can get the job done, no matter what that job is. We are so proud of you, as you should be proud of your accomplishment.

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