



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 XV

APRIL 15, 2020

No. 3

CORONAVIRUS IMPACT

It was inevitable that coronavirus would impact on our Chapter in a most negative way. In normal times we would be planning our traditional Mid Summer Blast luncheon that members enjoy so much. But with restaurants and other food establishments forced to close by order of the authorities, and no real ending date of the restriction, it doesn't seem prudent to make plans that could be cancelled at the last minute. So for this year, the Chapter must take a pass on the Blast. Needless to say we are most disappointed by this turn of events. But in the big picture, foregoing our luncheon, may save the health and even the lives of participants. That is a very small sacrifice with huge potential beyond the event.

On the other hand, the Chapter has reserved the date for our annual Holiday Party. It will be held again at The Chadwick in Wexford on Thursday, December 3. You should mark that date on your calendar to preserve it for the party. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the coronavirus will have run its course by then so that the party can proceed without any problems. Nevertheless, we will be keeping our eyes wide open and will adjust to whatever contingencies we are faced with. Full particulars will be sent closer to the party date.

NO-SHOWS

It is not an exact science at each party paring the number that reserved to the actual number who attends. Typically a couple for each entrée is shaved off the totals, hoping to wind up with the number that attends. There are many reasons for no-shows. At the last Holiday Party I found myself in a physical situation that sent me to the hospital emergency room on party day. My wife Charlotte, who is a member, departed the party after taking care of a few details to join me at the hospital. That development made us both no-shows. But from the record of the party there was an unprecedented number of no-shows. It is likely that some were for real emergency reasons. Others were probably mere oversights or change of plans that did not notify the Chapter in time to reduce the reserved numbers. Some may believe that there is little financial impact to the Chapter when they don't attend.

Member's dues are \$3.00 per month to NATIONAL. From those dues, \$1.80 per member per month is rebated back to the CHAPTER. That is not a lot of resources to conduct our operation, including frequent mailings, other administrative requirements, and the parties. We believe that we run a very tight ship, without waste, to benefit our members. It is distressing, therefore, to see so many no-shows at the last party. Since we must give 'numbers' to the venue a week before the event, for which payment must be made, it is difficult to see so many meals that were intended for members who didn't show up at the party. No doubt some of the no-shows had real emergencies that prevented attendance similar to my case. There is no argument for those absences. However, for those that just decided to blow the party off are a different category. If you reserve a place for the party, and change your mind, please cancel with the Chapter at an early date so we can adjust.

(over)

BIDEN VS TRUMP

While the final judgment has yet to be determined, unless some kind of catastrophe occurs, it is pretty clear that the presidential election in November will pit former Vice President Joe Biden against President Donald Trump. From our point of view, as Postal retirees, there could not be such a clearer choice where our interest lies.

Joe Biden has served our government in several capacities for his adult life. One of the high points was his service as Vice President to President Barack Obama. In that capacity he was the point man in securing passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or more commonly known as Obama Care, that provided health care coverage to millions of our fellow citizens. That law also ended denying health care for pre-existing conditions that had been a major problem for many. In comparison, Donald Trump has attacked that law since day one of his administration.

It was a dramatic moment in that struggle when war hero Senator John McCain literally left his sick bed to appear in the well of the Senate as Trumps lackeys were poised to repeal that seminal law where he cast the deciding vote in the face of Majority Leader Mitch McConnell that saved the ACA from destruction. There could not be a clearer contrast between these candidates: Joe Biden fought for and won progressive health coverage for millions, while on the other hand Donald Trump tried, and continues to try, to end that coverage.

Having lost in the Congress, Trump has bombarded with a series of law suits that are now in the hands of the Supreme Court that again attempts to gut or eliminate the ACA.

Throughout his lifetime of service Joe Biden has been a straight shooter. Whether one agrees or disagrees with positions he has taken over the years, he always discussed those issues in a straightforward manner, and continues to speak the truth. By contrast, the truth does not abide in Donald Trump! A cottage industry has sprung up to keep track of the lies he utters on a daily basis. He is an embarrassment as our President.

Nothing could demonstrate the incompetence of the Trump administration more than his mishandling of the Coronavirus pandemic. Although briefed by the intelligence agencies about that issue long before our nation was confronted with it, he minimized the threat in his public statements. By the time events had overtaken the Trump rhetoric, we find ourselves in a serious situation of his dithering with thousands infected and the death toll mounting.

As the November election approaches, we as retirees and seniors have much at stake. In addition to his failings described above, we must keep in mind the Trump attempt to take \$millions out of Medicare and also to gut Social Security. Moreover, his administration is floating a plan to change Postal retiree access to our supplemental health insurance. The Trump agenda is anti seniors and Postal retirees. Joe Biden, on the other hand, embraces a progressive agenda that is strongly in favor of issues important to us. These are the things we must keep in mind as the election nears.

It is not too early to keep our eye on the ball. We must monitor Trump's antics. His agenda is to destroy the ACA, Medicare, and Social Security as we know it. Our survival is at stake!

SHUT-IN LIST ~ Norbert Conway, Jeanne McCarthy, 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