



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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2020 ~ THE YEAR THAT WASN'T!

This year may well be remembered as the year that wasn't! Why? Because there has been so much disruption causing so many cancellations and orders for "elders" to remain in our homes under quarantine, all because of the pandemic that coronavirus has caused. As this is written some cancellations are: the Chapter's Mid-Summer Blast; the APWU Convention that has been scheduled for August in Los Angeles; the Three Rivers Art Festival, which will be held 'on line' this year; numerous Fourth Of July parades and celebrations, (my wife Charlotte and I watched the famous Canonsburg Parade for many years); all the school districts in this area; etc. Since the beginning of the next school year coincides with the United Labor Day Parade, both of those events are uncertain at this time. Even if the Labor Day Parade goes on as scheduled, our membership, because of our age and physical condition, must think long and hard about participating.

According to predictions by various medical sources, the current situation may go on until a vaccination is developed, date uncertain. The pandemic could continue through late 2021, or longer. This is having an enormous effect on our members who are in the cross hairs of the virus due to age and medical issues. On a personal note, including continuous time in hospitals and rehab nursing homes since last December, I have only left my home a few times, and those were for medical appointments. More recently even medical appointments do not require a face to face. Appointment are now handled via video telecons.

Recent predictions of a virus flare-up later this year have our wary eye on the approaching date in December for our Holiday Party. If conditions dictate nearing that time, we will reluctantly but without hesitation cancel that event.

RETURN TO NORMALCY???

With so much of our country at a virtual standstill, except for primarily medical and hospital operations, it is understandable that there is a strong minority push to get businesses open in some form again. As this is written several states have taken that route. The big negative for that course of action is there is no treatment or cure for the virus, therefore, instead of merely moving toward resuming business activity, the fact is hundreds of thousands lives have been placed in jeopardy by those irresponsible actions!

We as seniors who are most likely to be first in line for infection with the virus have the most to lose by these provocative actions. Yet one cannot ignore the fact that vocal supporters of opening businesses without testing or vaccination are clearly willing to trade our lives for their access to an opening economy. In my 60+ years of Union and political activity, having lived through World War II as a child, and Korea as a US Air Force serviceman, I never thought I would see the day where American citizens were not merely willing but instead are anxious to sacrifice us for their pleasure. It makes my blood run cold realizing that this is the nature of so many of our fellow citizens. We must be aware of this and fight against it.

(over)

FOR SOME RECENT RETIREES AN ANNUITY RAISE

As a result of the recently settled current Collective Bargaining Agreement, a number of recently retired annuitants will see an increase in their pensions. This came to light as a result of correspondence to national and the reply. Both communications are reprinted below in abridged format due to space considerations:

March 15, 2020

Mark Dimondstein, President
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
1300 L Street NW
Washington DC 20005

Dear Mark,

Our Chapter has several members who retired late last year in November. They have seen the Arbitration Award that highlights retroactive COLA provisions. These members were therefore on the rolls as active workers during some of the retroactive time frames. They have posed the following questions:

..... Are they eligible to receive those portions of the retroactive payments that covers their active employment?

..... If so, how do they go about collecting those amounts?

..... Is this an issue that continues to be under the jurisdiction of the National Union, and if so, will you pursue whatever is necessary to achieve a conclusion?

Your immediate attention is requested.

With every good wish, I am, Sincerely and fraternally, John P. Richards, President

VIA E MAIL
April 23, 2020

John, Good Evening,

The impacted retirees will eventually receive a retroactive pay raise and check from the USPS as well as an adjustment to their high 3 salary by OPM.

Normally, the salary and adjustments take time to process. In light of the crisis we all are faced with the timeline will be longer than normal.

The USPS will process the retroactive pay raise for impacted retirees then forward that corrected information to OPM so that OPM can make adjustments to the impacted retirees annuity payment.

OPM should send each impacted retiree an Annuity Adjustment Statement and a revised Retirement Benefits booklet.

APWU will post the timeline for retroactive payments on the APWU website.

In Solidarity, Nancy Olumeker, Director, APWU Retirees Department

SHUT-IN LIST ~ Norbert Conway, Jeanne McCarthy, and Veronica Bujdos and 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