



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

JULY 22, 2020

No. 8

HOLIDAY PARTY UPDATE

Having to cancel our Mid Summer Blast Party this year because of the corona virus was a major disappointment for all concerned. The facts are that the venue we were going to use, The Chadwick in Wexford (as well as all other banquet facilities suitable for the party), were closed down by order of the government. Despite keeping in contact with The Chadwick at that time and contemporarily, things were pretty grim until recently. They were completely shut down. But when the government permitted food service venues to re-open recently, The Chadwick was permitted to and did re-open, but with certain restrictions. Those restrictions are: Distance seating is required; and no food may be served buffet style.

If the restrictions continue and if we follow through with the Holiday Party as scheduled for December 3, certain adjustments would be required: Even though we always schedule eight persons per table, the distancing requirement would now demand more space between diners. To achieve this, a larger room has been reserved that can have more tables but with fewer persons per table. Another restriction about how food can be provided eliminates the hors d'oeuvres table with diners self-serving. This would be accomplished by having diners served hors d'oeuvres individually with them plated and served by the food servers.

So far these are the only major adjustments necessary to be in compliance with government restrictions currently in place. By December this could change. It is expected that diners would enter the room wearing masks as they are now required for most dining facilities.

When we book this event a minimum of reservations that provide at least 100 diners is required. While the event is far over the horizon, and decisions don't have to be made now, this heads up is given for our members to alert you of the adjustments that would be required if the status quo continues as currently required.

When we get more information timely to the event appropriate reservation forms will be sent in sufficient time for determination if necessary numbers will have been achieved to meet the minimums required to complete the arrangements.

It is obvious that most seniors are masked when observed in markets, restaurants, and other places. If that is the most serious adjustment that would be imposed for the party, we expect that those attending would make the transition with little problem since that has become the norm when we are out and about. Since wearing masks protects others that we come in contact with rather than ourselves, our many years of service has prepared us to take that easy step to be in compliance.

We are keeping our eye on the situation along with the staff at The Chadwick. They have been very helpful in making up-to-date adjustments and revisions to our plans. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we can avoid cancellation. Watch this space for any other changes that may be required.

(over)

A SERIOUS UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE

For the last few holiday periods, the Postal Service and the Union agreed to a controversial procedure that permits some recently retired Clerks to be re-employed in select Post Office operations. The result for the retired Clerks was to earn a little extra money to help out for the holidays. We have had at least one member that we are aware of that has taken advantage of the procedure. That experience prompts this report.

Retirees that have done this are under the jurisdiction of the Office Of Personnel Management (OPM) for their retirement annuity and management of Retiree Department dues. But when they go back-on-the-clock as employees, OPM either can't or won't maintain the retiree status, and therefore drops them from paying the retiree dues. (It is unknown if our member is now carried as a 'regular' member, since we don't have access to those records.) With a deduction of only \$3.00 per month, most in this situation, if there are others in the same situation, either don't notice the adjustment, or if aware, expects the matter to be automatically resolved by OPM or the Union when work at the Post Office ends.

For the case at hand, the member ended Post Office service in December last year. When the discrepancy of the Retiree Department dues was noticed shortly thereafter, inquiries about reinstatement were begun. When the member wasn't getting any where through direct involvement, the Chapter was notified, seeking assistance.

We have personally intervened on behalf of the member many times with the national office. Despite laying out the facts multiple times, the member finds that six months later nothing has been resolved.

The Chapter continues to follow up with this, without success. We are left with a member(?) to whom we provide full service but without receiving any dues for six months and counting. From the \$3.00 national dues, the Chapter is entitled to \$1.40 monthly. As far as we know, there is no way to recover our loss, and the member is left in limbo. With such meager resources we carefully track every penny.

It is not too much to expect that the parties, in establishing the procedure, should have tied up any loose ends such as those about dues and status. While the member accepted the procedure in good faith, the end result is finding being in a questionable status with the Retiree Department and our Retiree Chapter. An unintended consequence? It is and it is a dozy!

LATE BREAKING DEVELOPMENTS: Our member has just received notice from OPM that the retiree dues deduction will resume in July. According to the member there is no indication that dues for the months that were missed will be caught up. The notice only indicates that dues will be deducted going forward. To review, dues deduction stopped in December and was reinstated in July, six months later. So the Post Office got assistance for several days and the Retiree Department and our Chapter got screwed out of @ six month dues! Moreover, it would be instructive to audit all who took advantage of the controversial procedure to determine the scope of the problem. As stated above, it is a dozy!

SHUT-IN LIST ~ Robert Gesk, 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