



# 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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## ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY CANCELLED

It is with the deepest regret that we must report that the annual Holiday Party scheduled for December 3 has been cancelled by the Chapter. This was a very tough decision. We have watched developments that have occurred throughout the state and the nation around this horrible corona virus. Taking everything into consideration, we really didn't have a choice except to cancel.

The alarming growing numbers of people who have contracted the virus, along with the rocketing numbers hospitalized, coupled with the staggering numbers who have succumbed, really gave no other choice. Moreover, Dr. Fauci, and other national and local medical authorities, have predicted that the problem will drastically increase going through the Autumn. By the time December rolls around, if the predictions are accurate, the pandemic should be worse than it was early this year.

Our senior membership is in the danger zone due to our age and pre-existing conditions. Without going into all the details, it is likely that all or nearly all of us have enough wrong with us to place us in the most dangerous group with the highest likelihood of dying if we get caught by the virus. Isolation is one of the tactics strongly recommended by the medical experts. Gathering @130 or so seniors in close proximity is just too dangerous.

Several pharmaceutical companies are testing various vaccinations for the virus, but those field tests should carry through until early next year. If all goes well in the testing, we will be well into 2021 before any significant number of inoculations can be done. We are in for a long, difficult haul.

## A YEAR OF CANCELLATIONS

Who would ever believe it? The list of cancellations is staggering. The Chapter Mid-Summer Blast ~ GONE! The Chapter Holiday Party ~ GONE! The APWU National Convention ~ GONE! The APWU All Craft Conference ~ GONE! The United Labor Day Parade ~ GONE! Kennywood and Cedar Point amusement parks ~ LIMITED OPENING! The schools ~ TOTALLY UNCERTAIN! Scholastic athletics ~ TOTALLY UNCERTAIN! Professional sports ~ COMPLETELY UP IN THE AIR AND UNCERTAIN! ETC, ETC!

This is just the beginning. We are only in about six or seven months of this virus that is controlling our lives, with much more to come. Too many of our fellow citizens still aren't taking the pandemic seriously enough. Just the issue of wearing protective masks while in proximity situations is resisted or ignored by many. Fist fights have occurred in grocery stores over refusal to wear the masks. On the rare occasions that I am out and about I can't believe the number of people without masks. Businesses that have the required posted instructions are in too many cases ignored. To those folks, I say, "GET REAL, PEOPLE". Every deviation has the potential to kill me or someone like me. STOP IT! WEAR THE MASK!

(over)

## **POST OFFICE GOING, GOING, GONE?**

A word to the wise, if you need to do business at your local Post Office, beware! You may find the door locked and chained shut. The Trump hatchet man recently installed as Postmaster General has hit the ground running with the Trump mandate to destroy the Postal Service. And he is making no bones about it.

According to reports, the early indication that his wrecking ball is swinging is the tone of the daily management/supervisor telecons. First and foremost, he no longer permits the use of the term, "Postal Service". His replacement is, "Postal Business!" By Postal Business he means that when you go to the Post Office, you may find the door locked. Major cuts in window operations are under way. Hours at the service windows are being cut in all sizes of Post Offices. Some hours are being reduced to a few hours each day. At some of the busiest offices, closing for lunch may be the plan. Saturday service at the windows is on the way out. Letter Carriers, who have been squeezed under the previous administration, will be squeezed a little harder. That's what the new regime means by operating as a **BUSINESS**, not a **SERVICE**. Ben Franklin, who created our universal **SERVICE** must be spinning in his grave!

We expect that there will be a stampede as over stressed career workers will head for retirement if they are able to. They will be replaced by low paid temporary replacements. Service will decline even further. One can almost hear the death bell tolling in the distance. After all, the Trump administration goal of destroying the ability to vote by mail has a short time span before the November election, so they must expedite destruction of the Post Office.

**THIS IS DESTRUCTION OF OUR POST OFFICE AND OUR CONSTITUTION. SO SAD.**

**PENNSYLVANIA PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM** This is a reminder that the state rebate program is still in effect. Here's how it works: Depending on the income level of the household, including a partial offset if Social Security is part of the income, a refund for part of the tax can be rebated. Each individual case is dependent on that level of income and the matrix established for that purpose. Full particulars can be found at: <https://www.revenue.pa.gov/GeneralTaxinformation/PropertyTaxRentRebateProgram/Pages/Request-an-Application.aspx> or at telephone number 888 222 9190. The deadline for filing is December 31, 2020.

### **RE-PRINTED FROM THE LAKE-GEAUGA AREA LOCAL "THE NEWSROOM"** **{APRIL AND MAY/2020 ISSUE}**

A recent USA Today article by John Fritze, found that the postcards mailed to every household this past March which had corona virus guidelines on it, have not been paid for. The cost on this postage due bill is \$28 million.

The card, with the President's name prominently featured, had guidelines listed that he himself hasn't always followed. In addition, he bashes the Postal Service, used the service to get this information out, and then wants to stick it to the Post Office. Three months have gone by and yet the Postal Service is still negotiating with the administration to get a settlement on the postage and printing costs. No surprise there.

**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**