



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

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UNITED LABOR DAY PARADE CANCELLED

Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald has confirmed that the annual Labor Day Parade will be cancelled this year. Danger created by the corona virus amid the thousands of marchers was cited as the reason for the cancellation. The county has seen a major spike in the numbers infected, hospitalized, and sadly, have died from the virus. It is a trend seen in many parts of the country.

We are especially saddened by the cancellation since we were part of a small group of "Young Turks" delegates to the Allegheny County Labor Council (ALC) back 'in the day' that overrode objections by the establishment to revive the dormant Labor Day Parade that wasn't seen for many years. Parade guru Pat Landy, also a delegate, rose to the occasion and the challenge from starting from ground zero to put together one of the largest Labor Day Parades in the country.

One of the features that made the Landy parades stand out was the decision we made and insisted on to have Unions and their members only as participants. If politicians or religious figures were invited to march, they had to be invited and march with the Union that invited them. There were no limousines or open convertibles with dignitaries prominently leading the parade. In those days we thought it was important that Labor was highlighted by focusing on Unions and the rank and file rather than having 'outsiders' be in prominent display and emphasis.

Having the parade cancelled coming on the heels of the Chapter forced to cancel the Mid Summer Blast was a heavy blow indeed. The prospect of being forced to cancel the Chapter's Holiday Party in early December is a possibility that must also be faced if conditions don't improve by then.

As previously reported, we are keeping our eye on the situation along with the staff at The Chadwick in Wexford, where the party is scheduled. 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.

THE PANDEMIC

While on the one hand we are utterly disappointed by these cancellations, on the other hand we are gratified to see that the effects of this pandemic seems to be finally taken more seriously. When restrictions were first relaxed, too many thought the danger was over. Their behavior, in too many cases, was nothing short of outrageous. This has resulted in spikes of infections that are especially problematic for seniors. Those with pre-existing conditions, which are most seniors, are at a much greater risk of dying if the virus is contracted. We therefore must be ever vigilant about conditions and situations that place us in jeopardy, and avoid them as much as possible. We urge you to be careful and be well.

(over)

UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

{During our term as President of the Pittsburgh Metro Area Local, the membership meetings were usually a welcomed Q and A, with the questions coming from the floor. One of the rank and file, identified here as Sam S, who has long gone to his rest, frequently queried about various provisions of the Local's Constitution. His method was to 'read into' nuances to support whatever was on his mind. This is typical of the responses we gave many times over the years: **A constitution that is vague or poorly written on a particular point will serve the members well if the administration of that constitution is done honestly, morally, and ethically. On the other hand, the finest written constitution administered by immoral, unethical, and dishonest leadership, cannot give protection to the members or the institution.**}

The US Constitution was created during turbulent times by some of the finest minds available in the Colonies. Ultimately, along with the Bill Of Rights, the final documents served the new nation well. In their foresight, the creators produced a living document that, with amendments, continues to serve us well.

One of the concerns during the framing seemed to be that future presidents, if unethical, immoral or dishonest, might govern in a manner not intended that would make a mockery of the Constitution to the detriment of the original intent.

One simply cannot view the behavior and actions of President Trump weighed against the backdrop of the expectations implicit in the Constitution and the framers without alarm: **Honesty:** There cannot be any doubt that a hallmark of Trump's administration is that it is built on documented thousands of lies. Whenever he speaks or tweets fact checkers point out the lies or distortions. It has become a feature whenever he communicates. **Immoral:** The infamous comment Trump made about 'grabbing women's' tells it all. **Unethical:** For years he has stated that he wants to produce his tax returns. Then he asked the Supreme Court to prevent The Congress and law enforcement from having access to them.

His treatment of undocumented children, separating them from parents was horrible, scarring those children for life. He claims to be bringing manufacturing jobs back to the country. Where are they? Purchase a furnace, it will be made off shore. Other major appliances are also made off shore. When are those plants returning to the USA? General Motors, Chrysler and Ford have huge plants off shore. US Steel and J&L Steel and others are gone. Where are their replacements? Off shore. Have they come back? No! Trump promises (lies), but can't deliver. One of the biggest Trump failures and lies is the mishandling of the corona virus. He said it would be gone in one day. That was a whopper that we all live with to this day. It may be with us for years to come. All in all, Trump fails the honesty, morality, and ethical test! **IT IS AN OPEN QUESTION WHETHER OUR DEMOCRACY AS WE KNOW IT AND VALUE IT CAN SURVIVE TRUMP AND HIS SENATE ENABLERS.**

BREAKING NEWS ~ In a previous Retiree Record we reported about the loss of dues due to a Retiree Chapter member working at the Post Office last December. That member, without any suggestion, made a generous unsolicited donation to the Chapter that more than covered our loss. Thank you Joe R for that donation.

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