



# 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

NOVEMBER 1, 2020

No. 15

*Disclaimer ~ This report is intended as a final reminder about getting out the vote. It will be deposited in the mail stream intended to arrive a day or two before election day. However, since PMG Delay was appointed our mail service has become very spotty. Whereas previously we could depend and plan on timely service, that is no longer the case. It is a shame if not criminal what is happening to mail service.*

**THIS IS THE FINAL REMINDER. IF YOU HAVEN'T VOTED VIA  
MAIL-IN BALLOT, WE URGE IN THE STRONGEST TERMS  
THAT YOU VOTE AT THE POLLS FOR THE  
BIDEN-HARRIS TEAM.  
VOTE AS IF YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT, BECAUSE IT DOES.**

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

There have been several significant developments since we last reported about the virus. First and foremost is the infection, hospitalization, and after effects of Trump, **the most protected individual in the world!** If he can become infected, our chances of also becoming infected are clear, and dangerous. The number of those infected keeps rising. According to Dr. Fauci, Trump was a super spreader since so many of those he came into contact with have also contracted the disease. This resulted as a major spike in the Washington DC area.

The number who have passed as a result of the disease is also rising. Bear in mind that prominent medical authorities predicted that this would occur in the Autumn into Winter. Coupled with this making matters even more dire is the onset of the flu season. We hope that you responded to our previous communication that included a notice about getting the flu vaccine. Unless prevented by firm medical advice to the contrary, all seniors should get the flu shot if you haven't already done so. (My wife Charlotte and I always get ours as soon as it is available at our local pharmacy.)

On a personal note, I believe that I had the virus before it was understood and recognized for what it is. All together I was in various hospitals and care homes for more than three months. During the course of treatment twice I was on my way to hospices, and once scheduled for intubation, only saved from those fates by last second rallies. Half the time I was out of my head. According to the nursing staff I was a terror on the night shift because of that. Believe me, that was not an experience you want to have.

Therefore, we hope and pray our members will follow the protocols of isolation, masking, and distancing. Some folks think sitting unprotected at a bar or sporting event or Trump rallies that puts us in danger is more important than citizen responsibility. This is a pandemic. It should be recognized and treated as such. Saving a life balanced against having a beer or cheering at a game is a no brainer. Be careful even if others are not.

(over)

## VIRUS CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR THE UNION

The Union is not unscathed as a result of the virus! The Union Convention and All Craft Conference for 2020 were cancelled and rescheduled for October, 2021. Depending on what condition the pandemic is at that time will be the deciding factor as to whether that schedule will hold. A significant factor is the role of the US Department Of Labor (DOL), which has jurisdiction over conduct of labor unions. The DOL demands that Union meetings continue to be held and all other DOL regulations and policies be enforced. The Union has adopted the computerized ZOOM technique as a method to comply with the DOL demands.

Daily APWU operations in Washington DC have taken a major disruptive blow. The Union headquarters remains closed as are many private office operations in the District. National officers and staff have been working from their homes removed from headquarter facilities. Nevertheless, the Union continues to function. Local involvement by National including our Chapter is also conducted by the ZOOM method. As for Chapter operations, we have already cancelled the 2020 Mid Summer Blast and Holiday parties. We will likely tentatively schedule our 2021 Holiday Party for next year. Completing arrangements at that time will depend on progress of the virus vaccine and inoculation of our members. These tentative plans are made against the uncertainty of this viscous pandemic that is controlling. We are publishing more frequently to keep our membership informed. A big plus is that our "office" operation is in our bedroom, therefore proximity and access are no problem!



*Cartoon courtesy of grandson Nick G via Scott F.*

*Correction - In the previous issue of The Retiree Record the projected date of belly up for Social Security was incorrectly stated as 2013. The correct date is 2023. Sorry about that.*

**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**