



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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A PERSONAL LETTER TO CHAPTER MEMBERS

Regardless of your political preferences or who you supported in the recent Biden-Trump election, by any measure, the last four years have been difficult for the Postal Service and for retirees Medicare, retirement annuity, and Social Security umbrellas of our protection. It was only due to the public's outcry that slowed down PMG Delay's destructive policies, which remain in full force and effect. The former administrations budget proposals, which were derailed before taking effect, would have had negative impact on our health coverage including Medicare and medigap FEHBA supplements. We retirees look to the new administration to reject the negative initiatives and rescue the Postal Service.

But therein lies a problem that prompted this message. The Biden administration cannot succeed without support of both houses of Congress. The majority in the House is slim, and the majority in the Senate is razor thin. Therefore, that makes next years elections absolutely critical for us. We will have an open Senate seat and hotly contested House seats in our area.

In several recent elections, we have requested significant resources from the APWU COPA fund in support of progressive candidates who were in tough races in our area. One race in particular, Conor Lamb's races in two different Congressional Districts, got a lot of attention from us. COPA responded without hesitation to our requests for financial help each and every time - - and Lamb and others won those races. Thank you APWU COPA!

The election next year will be extremely critical to maintain and expand the majority in Congress. Financial resources will be a key component of that effort. We will look to COPA again to respond to our requests. That's where we come in, to bolster that fund. I believe that many of our members are regular contributors to COPA. Our household is one. But more will be needed.

We are appealing to you, our members, to join with us in this special effort by making a special contribution. There are two Chapter members in our household. I am happy to report that both have pitched in with \$100.00 donations to this special fund raising drive. We request that our members rise to the occasion by contributing what you can. Pulling together, we can make a significant statement that the Pittsburgh Chapter understands what is at stake and will not stand idly by letting the moment slip from our hands.

Enclosed with this news letter is an envelope addressed to the Chapter where your check or money order can be sent. They should be made out to: APWU COPA. We will forward the contributions to National after making note of the contributors. Thank you for your support.

We have watched with horror the antics of an unfriendly Congress who in the past have tried to unravel our protections that we earned through a lifetime of Post Office labor. Now is the time to do something to protect our interests. We have learned over these many years that later regrets count for nothing. We hope we can depend on your support.

(over)

HOLIDAY PARTY UPDATE

To review, the Chapter's recent 2020 Mid Summer Blast, 2020 Holiday Party, and 2021 Mid Summer Blast, were cancelled due to the covid pandemic. During that time span vaccines were not available. But the situation has been aggressively addressed by the Biden administration. As this is written, prior to publication, more than 50,000,000 vaccinations have been given, and the process of distribution is rapidly ramping up. It is pretty clear that the goal of 100,000,000 inoculations in 100 days will be surpassed. On a personal note, my wife Charlotte, also a Chapter member, and I have received the first shot with the Pfizer vaccine and should have received the second shot before this newsletter is published.

The cancellation notice in the contract we have with The Chadwick in Wexford requires that a 90 day notice before the party is required to cancel without penalty to the Chapter. A "safe last date" to cancel is September 1. Therefore, the critical time frame from the date of this publication to September is about six months.

The earlier parties were scheduled also under contract with the same cancellation clause. We optimistically believed that the pandemic would be under control in ample time to go forward with each of those parties. That sadly was not to be. The Chapter was forced to make the decision to cancel months before the party(s) dates, one after the other.

We are keeping our fingers crossed that when the Holiday Party scheduled for December 3 rolls around those that reserved to attend will have been vaccinated as well as their guests. Proof of the vaccination will not be required, however, the Chapter will rely on your honor to attend only if not a threat to others by being vaccinated.

In discussion with The Chadwick for the earlier parties, the question of social distancing was discussed. If those parties had gone forward every other seat would be kept vacant in line with the protocols. If that would be required in December, and we will seek advice from medical professionals before the date, arrangements will be made. So keep your eyes peeled here for updates that will be given as appropriate.

ABOUT THOSE VACCINATIONS

Getting those vaccinations can be daunting and very frustrating. We registered on-line, but it wasn't easy. For several weeks we daily scoured the internet searching for a source that would take reservations. We targeted each and every source that could provide that precious reservation. One source, for example, had us strung along for more than an hour to end up with the message that there were no reservations available. We repeated the search effort every day for weeks. Both of us are in the over 65 category, so we are in the early group. In the meantime, there were daily news reports about clinics that were being held all around us.

The best advice our experience taught us was to not give up and keep trying. As reported above, we concentrated on-line. For those not computer literate, getting assistance from a younger relative or friend to assist doing the on-line search could be helpful. For those that can't find on-line assistance, various telephone numbers are broadcast to accommodate that situation. We cannot over stress that patience is critical. Just keep trying.

SHUT-IN LIST ~ Robert Gesk, Norbert Conway, Jeanne Mc Carthy, 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