



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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CHAPTER ACTIVITY

Our Chapter is affiliated with the Northwestern Pennsylvania Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, or NWPA ALF. It is comprised of labor activists from labor unions from the nineteen counties in northwest PA stretching from Erie County south to Beaver and southeast to Westmoreland Counties. We interact with NWPA ALF through Westmoreland and Beaver Counties Central Labor Councils. The Chapter would have also been affiliated with the Allegheny County Labor Council, but they don't accept membership by retirees if the host Local is a member, according to President Kelly.

On April 29, the NWPA ALF sponsored a demonstration at the Johnstown office of Sen. Pat Toomey, seeking his support for the Pro Act, which levels the playing field for Union organizing, now working its way through the Congress. The Westmoreland CLC organized a caravan from Greensburg to Johnstown, where it was joined by scores of Union activists from all over their jurisdiction, and Rick Bloomingdale, President of the PA AFL-CIO. From our Chapter, Ex. Vice President/Treasurer Joe Radovich, Sister Charlotte Richards, and Brother Joe Anthony, participated in the caravan and the demonstration. The round trip to Johnstown was a long day for these dedicated activists. The Chapter recognizes the dedication and effort demonstrated by our members and salutes with a "TIP OF THE HAT" for their participation.

(Next year, 2022, will be a watershed year for retirees and the working public, including Post Office workers. Opportunities for direct Chapter involvement such as that described above may present themselves from time to time. It is incumbent on us to be personally involved as much as possible. Under the Biden administration the current slim majority in Congress makes it difficult, but not impossible, to achieve progress. If that slim majority is not built upon, or if there is a swing away from the narrow majorities in the Congress, we will lose progressive momentum, and may not reacquire it again in our lifetime. We must do all we can to achieve continuation or advancement of that majority. Therefore, if you are willing to personally assist by participation on short notice, we invite you to register that information and your name by calling the Chapter at 724 947 9374. Moreover, recent shenanigans at the Harrisburg Legislature may also warrant our involvement there. We will compile a roster and will contact you if and when personal assistance is needed. Remember, later regrets count for nothing.)

APWU COPA

This is the final reminder about the Chapter's fund raising drive for COPA. If you haven't addressed this issue, it is not too late to participate. If the solicitation mailing has been misplaced, a replacement can be provided by calling the Chapter at 724 947 9374. An Honor Roll of contributors is compiled with the names who we are aware pitched in. As of the date this is being written, National has not responded to our request that the check-off list be made available so that a complete list can be published. Nevertheless, the Honor Roll will be published regardless of whether we receive data from National. Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important Chapter activity.

(over)

DANGER---DANGER---DANGER

(An Editorial)

Our nation will be in greater danger for the next three or four years that hasn't been seen since The Civil War. This was painfully demonstrated on January 6 when a seditious mob sent by then President Trump to the nation's Capitol with murder on their minds to overturn the recent election and punish the legislators who were certifying the results of that election. But that event was not where the problem originated.

Long before the balloting began, Trump broadcast near and far that the only way he could possibly lose the election would be because widespread fraud and cheating by Democrats would "steal" the election from him. He broadcast that lie for many months before the election. Most Republican legislators bought in to the lie. Most of them have college educations, some from the most prestigious universities in the country. Some attended the most prestigious law schools in the country, where the search for truth and ethics are taught. Those principles were quickly discarded in the rush to placate Trump. When he lost the election, he behaved as if he had won. He refused to attend President Joe Biden's inauguration. It was shortly before that event he ranted from a podium sending the dangerous mob to the Capitol.

Voter turnout in the election was unprecedented. Republicans now believe they cannot win elections when there is heavy voter turnout. A new strategy was developed. That strategy is aimed at seniors, blue collar workers, poor people, and minorities to suppress the vote. Having received that message loud and clear, Trump's sycophants in states with a Republican majority state legislators have in lock step and with indecent speed passed legislation to suppress the vote by making it difficult to vote. They believe that this will keep Democrat voters away. It is their belief that this strategy will result in Republican wins.

The stakes are huge. If those tactics succeed not only will the result will be convoluted election results, but since that base thinks that it is OK to attack a Constitutional mandate of counting Electoral College votes, there is will be no hesitation by that camp to reverse bone-fide elections and shred the Constitution.

This abomination can be reversed by a Bill to clean up elections nation wide wending its way through the legislative process. Due to the archaic Senate rule of the filibuster and Republican opposition, the outcome is uncertain. If that effort fails, we must confront the voter suppression reality and turn out the vote to thwart the anti-democracy forces lined up against us.

Four years of the Trump presidency have shown us how bad things can be. Four more years of him, or Republican control of the Congress instead, would be a disaster for retirees and working Americans. As things move along we must be alert to and willing to participate in activities and events to protect our interests, including get-out-the-vote drives at the appropriate time.

The mid-term election next year will be critical, followed two years later by the presidential election. The Trumpers who were willing to destroy the Post Office and overturn an election by attacking the Congress would no doubt have little hesitation to destroy the Constitution if that was seen as a way to power. Democracy is at stake. We must fight to save it.

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 DUPLICATED/PASSED AROUND