



# 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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## APWU COPA HONOR ROLL ADDENDUM

### DAVID & CAROL VODARICK

(RECEIVED AFTER THE HONOR ROLL WAS PUBLISHED.)

## UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA SETTLES WITH ATI

The Chapter is pleased to report that the Steelworkers have settled the ongoing contract negotiations with ATI! According to reports, their primary issues of health care and wages were resolved favorably in the workers behalf. It had been a vicious strike where management used SCAB replacements where wages and perks were given that are believed to surpass the Union demands. It went so far that it is claimed meals, lodging, and transportation were given to the SCABS in an effort to break the strike. But to no avail, the strikers stood strong and ultimately overcame the Union busting tactics.

In the previous Retiree Record the Chapter chronicled our efforts to support the workers and that struggle by attending rallies that were held at mills in Vandergrift, Latrobe, and Washington. It is a feeling of satisfaction that we may have played a small role toward the successful conclusion of that dispute.

Two of the three sites mentioned above are under the jurisdiction of the Westmoreland County CLC. Washington is under the Washington - Green Counties CLC. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, when the Chapter conducted rallies and demonstrations within those jurisdictions for the Staples boycott, they lent their support and participation.

The concept is simple ~ when labor support is needed, and who knows when that may be, it is vital that a cooperative relationship has existed before the need. It is a tremendous morale boost to see rank and file from other Unions joining the protest or demonstration. This was so evident when Letter Carriers, Mail Handlers, and other 'outside' Unions joined in the Staples action. Our role is a little more difficult in this area since the APWU Local doesn't seem to be engaged in these activities even though it has area jurisdiction where the rallies were held. The Chapter fills in as best we can with an aging membership and much more limited resources.

## VOTER SUPPRESSION

It is painfully obvious that the Republican Party has embarked on an institutional policy of warping voting rights and procedures to make it harder for retirees, poor people, average citizens, and minorities to vote in upcoming elections. They believe that these groups are more likely to support Democrat Party candidates. They reached this conclusion inasmuch as the 2020 election witnessed the largest voter turnout in history, but their candidate for re-election as president lost both the popular and electoral college vote.

(over)

## VOTER SUPPRESSION...CONTINUED

It wasn't much of a leap to the conclusion that to win elections, the Republican Party must lower participation for those groups they conclude are likely to support Democrat candidates. In their minds it doesn't matter that the fabric of our democracy will be shredded if that tactic succeeds, as long as they can return to power. **THIS SHAMELESS POWER GRAB TACTIC MUST NOT SUCCEED!**

Protection against this ploy can be established if the Congress can adopt reform legislation now pending. But surprise, surprise, the Republicans stand in total opposition to this legislation. The overall tactic is obviously led from that level, franchised to the states that have Republican controlled legislatures. A shocking number of states have already passed this legislation, and other states such as Texas are attempting similar legislation. Where those states also have a Republican governor the proposals are quickly signed into law.

On the national scene, with a slim majority in the Senate, the archaic filibuster rule prevents a simple majority, the gold standard for voting, to rule. That outdated rule can be overturned if the Democrat Senators vote together to abolish it. That is a huge 'if'! Enter Senator "Joke" Manchin (D WV). He seems willing to destroy the Biden game plan and voter integrity by refusing to consider abolishing the filibuster due to some convoluted notion that it provides 'protection', which instead gives the minority opposition an easy path to block critical legislation. Manchin has thus elevated his status as the gatekeeper for pending legislation proposed by his party. It is hard to stomach that one or two constituents from the same political party may stand as the roadblock to unhinge the Biden agenda.

COMMENT ~ ~ After I became an eligible voter in the 1950's up until the 2020 election, the pundits have commented about low voter turnout. Every single time. Voting in APWU elections has also followed the pattern of low voter turnout. Until 2020 and the pandemic. In that election innovative procedures were developed. The US Mails were called upon in unprecedented manners to provide mail-in balloting. Many jurisdictions established novel and innovative procedures to encourage voter turnout, and it worked. Different or expanded times of days for in-person voting were adjusted in many cases. Vote drop boxes were expanded to prevent in person contacts. The result was the largest voter turnout in history! While the pundits praised that turnout, the Republican losers saw the danger to their quest for power believing that large turnout favors the Democrats. Thus they have been doing everything they can to restructure voting regulations and policies to **suppress voter turnout**. That behavior is the most anti-democratic constitution-be-damned tactic ever witnessed.

**THE CHAPTER IS UPDATING MEMBER'S E-MAIL ADDRESSES. IF YOU HAVE A CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS, OR YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE SEND YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS TO THE CHAPTER VIA E-MAIL TO [jprichards1@verizon.net](mailto:jprichards1@verizon.net) YOUR COOPERATION WILL BE APPRECIATED.**

**THE HOLIDAY PARTY DATE PUBLISHED IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER WAS IN ERROR. THE CORRECT DATE OF THE PARTY IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3. REPEAT, THE CORRECT DATE OF THE PARTY IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3. PLEASE CORRECT THAT DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR. WE ARE VERY SORRY ABOUT THIS MISPRINT.**

**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**