



# 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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## ORGANIZING

Organizing, or convincing retired or retiring APWU members of the Pittsburgh Area Local to join the Retiree Department, thus also becoming members of our Retiree Chapter, is an ongoing vital effort. The Chapter could not continue to support our relationship within the labor movement and our social activities without a robust membership. In this day and age, increased cost for supplies and services is limited by the size of the membership and the income that that generates,

As you are aware, dues to the Retiree Department, not the Chapter, are \$3.00 per month. National rebates to the Chapter \$1.80 per member per month. (We have tried to have Retiree Department dues increased by \$1.00 per month at Conventions, to be rebated to Chapters. But the National executive officers were against it, which doomed the effort. We then requested from the Secretary/Treasurer to advise us how to raise dues ourselves. She did not answer the letter.)

The facts are that office supplies, service contracts, like our non-profit contract with the Postal Service and their mailing rates, increase every year, as does the cost of the Chapter social program. We are able to provide service at this level because we have a membership of 550. But due to advancing age of our membership, that number is constantly in flux. We are appealing to you to help increase that number.

When Local members retire, national is notified. They send an organizing package to those retiring members. Also, on a very irregular basis, the Local office lets the Chapter know when members retire. When that occurs, the Chapter reaches out via the mails to them in an attempt to organize them. In those cases the results are also irregular. Retiring members who have the APWU Health Plan are required to join the Retiree Department to continue with that plan. The Local does steer those members to the Chapter, where we process them as members and forward the application to national. We get a handful of members that way.

We believe that our current members may be acquainted with other retirees who have not joined. Some of those may be unaware of the Retiree Department and our Chapter. So much paperwork flows at the time of retirement that is overwhelming and items not related to monetary issues can be overlooked or set aside to be forgotten later. We communicate frequently with our members to keep you informed of our activities. We also provide a social program unmatched anywhere. You know what the Chapter stands for.

That's why we feel comfortable asking you to reach out to other retirees you know to determine if they are members of the Chapter. If they are not, we do not ask that you pressure them in any way to join. But we do ask that you request a telephone number from them, and call it into the Chapter at 724 947 9374 and we will follow up and describe what the Chapter is all about and offer to organize them into the Chapter and the Retiree Department.

(Vice President/Treasurer Joe Radovich contributed to this article.)

## C O P A

My wife Charlotte, who is also a retiree and member of the Chapter, and I, received our 2022 membership cards in the mail a few days ago. It is likely that the rest of the Chapter membership also received your cards. If you didn't get yours let us know by calling the Chapter at 724 947 9374 and we will make national aware.

Included with the card was an application to contribute to APWU COPA. We hope that it got your attention and you responded by completing the form and sent it back in the enclosed envelope. The suggested level of contribution was very modest. If you misplaced the form and do desire to chip in, call the Chapter at the above number and we will see that a duplicate is sent to you.

You may ask, "Why the emphasis on COPA?", at this time. That's a fair question. Here is the answer: The next two national elections may well chart the country's course for the next millennium. It is no secret that there are forces at work to suppress certain blocs of voters and they also passed laws that will allow the majority vote to be ignored to be replaced by their preference. Coupled with this is the shameful gerrymandering in those areas intended to dilute these same blocs of voters to achieve unfair advantage.

COPA contributes to candidates who opposes these nefarious schemes. They can only contribute the resources at hand. That's where we come in. Retirees have always been significant contributors to COPA. While we retirees have a much lower income than active APWU members, yet on a per capita basis, we contribute at an enviable level. It is our belief that is because of the seasoning of many years experience, and coming from an earlier generation that was tested by WWII and also being children or grandchildren of the Great Depression, we have a clearer understanding of political realities and how government impacts our lives. And we are willing to pitch in a few bucks to support our friends. Even a buck or more helps. Nuff said!

## CONOR LAMB

Our Chapter and the APWU have been supportive of Lamb since he won the seat vacated by disgraced Rep. Tim Murphy who resigned under a cloud of abortion scandal. That was a heavily Republican district. Under Court Order, his 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District was gerrymandered into the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, thus abolishing Lamb's office! We supported Lamb again when he ran in that gerrymandered district, another heavily Republican area. He won that seat despite heavy opposition where outside money was used against him. He was reelected under the same pressures.

When US Sen. Pat Toomey retired, Lamb became a candidate for that vacancy. US Senate seats cannot be gerrymandered! If they could, you can bet they would! There is a crowded field for that office already, which includes Lamb's previous opponent for the 18<sup>th</sup> District. He dropped out of the race over a domestic relations scandal. It is still a crowded field. The point is how easily our friends can be eliminated by a stroke of the pen. That is exactly what we are faced with in the red states that are organizing against us. We can and must fight against this with all our might! One way is to support COPA to arm the Union with a weapon. If we all do our share we can make an impact. Let's get it done.

**SHUT-IN LIST** ~ Robert Gesk, Norbert Conway, 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**