



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*

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MID SUMMER BLAST/ELECTION OF OFFICERS SET

The date and place where the Midsummer Blast and Chapter Election Of Officers will be held is set. We will gather at the Chadwick event center in Wexford on Friday, June 24, at 11:00 AM. This is the venue where we have held Chapter Holiday Parties for several years. The last Mid Summer Blast was held there in 2019. The Covid pandemic prevented holding these social events until things loosened up recently. This early advance notice is given so that you can reserve the date and mark it on your calendar to save it for the Blast. This is usually the largest meeting of Chapter members. The April Retiree Record will include a reservation form for the event.

Official notification of the nominations and election of officers will be given at the appropriate time in accordance with requirements of the US Department Of Labor. It has been Chapter practice to hold both nominations and elections at the Mid Summer Blast because that is usually one of the largest meeting of members. Moreover, the election is held in this manner due to economic considerations as well as the attendance at that meeting.

ABOUT THE ELECTION...

The election will be held about a month earlier than usual, because the APWU event schedule, including the Convention, is more crowded later in the Summer. As a result, the Chapter calendar will follow suit and we have made our schedule to accommodate.

Offices to be elected are: President; Vice President/Treasurer; Recording Secretary; and three Trustees. We encourage the membership to give serious consideration to the election and the offices to be filled. The duties and requirements of these officers is neither arduous nor time consuming, but they are necessary for the Chapter's orderly administration. There is ample time to give your full consideration about standing for an office. In that regard, if you are leaning in that direction but have concerns about what that activity might require, please feel free to contact the Chapter at 724 947 9374 to inquire. A face to face meeting can be arranged to have an in-depth discussion.

On a personal note, we have been in continuous Postal union activity since the glory days of the National Postal Union that preceded the APWU, going on about 64+ years. It has been a rich, rewarding, life experience. Nevertheless, as time has marched along, so has the age of some of your officers, and time takes a toll on all of us. While none of our members are spring chickens, there is an age difference between "younger" and more "senior" members of about 30 years! There is a lot of room within that range for some of the "younger" members to become a little more involved. We encourage you to take the plunge while some of the "senior" heads are available to mentor and provide guidance.

Serving fellow members in a Union atmosphere is one of the most satisfying experiences you could ever have. We look forward to your most serious consideration.

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RETIREE ISSUES

The Retiree Department provides five delegates to the National Convention, to be elected, one from each Region when APWU elections are held. These delegates are independent. They may speak on the Convention floor and may also cast their votes according to their position on the issue(s). The Retiree Director also has these same privileges. That brings a total of six votes that are available for the Retiree Department. At recent Conventions, retiree rank and file who were in attendance as observers have been permitted to sit with the delegates but without voice or vote on pending issues. In conjunction with Conventions the Retiree Department meets where positions are taken on issues of importance to retirees and strategy is developed to pursue those issues.

At the upcoming Convention a sizeable bloc of delegates to the Retiree Department meeting that will precede the Convention will propose and advance to the Convention a proposed Constitutional amendment to establish representation to the Convention similar as the active rank and file, except at a lower percentage. They have been discussing this concept for several years.

When our Chapter was formed, Retiree Department dues were \$2.00 per member per month, with \$0.80 per member per month rebated back to the Chapter. With that "income" not much activity was possible. Several years ago we proposed raising the dues by \$1.00 per month, with that dollar rebated to the chapters. Since the Local supported our mailing program at that time, the increase enabled the Chapter to conduct outreach activities with other Unions. A time came where the Local withdrew all support from the Chapter. Since that time we have produced the newsletter "in house". Also, by aggressively organizing, we increased the size of the Chapter to more than 550 members. Income from that number provides a basis for our programs. (Your officers serve pro bono. We do not accept a salary or ask for reimbursement for personal expenses in the conducting of Chapter business.)

The last time we attempted to amend the Constitution, we encountered a solid wall of opposition led by President Dimondstein and Secretary Treasurer Powell and scores of various Locals and State groups. We expect there will be similar opposition to the attempt to increase retiree representation at the Convention.

Regardless of the outcome of that effort, our Chapter will continue our activity at the current level. In conjunction with the NALC and the Mail Handlers locals, with communication support from the Local, we mounted an unprecedented nearly three year boycott every other Sunday of Staple's stores throughout Western Pennsylvania. That activity alone saw hundreds of retired and active members manning the demonstration lines. That kind of Union activity did not require more representation at Conventions. Moreover, our active support of steel worker strikers throughout this end of the state, and active support of nursing home workers, and involvement with Central Labor Councils in the area and an active Union group in northern Pennsylvania, does not rely on retiree delegates to the Convention.

It is our intent to continue our level of activity regardless of whatever action or inaction on the attempt to increase representation at conventions is taken.

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