

APWU

Philly PARCEL

Official Publication of the Philadelphia Bulk Mail Center Local 7048, American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
Volume XXXI Number I February 2014
"One Workforce - One Struggle - One Union"

REPORT ON DELEGATION TO STAPLES STORES PHILADELPHIA BMC LOCAL 7048

ON WED. 1/15/14, MEMBERS OF OUR LOCAL VISITED THREE STAPLES STORES IN THE IMMEDIATE GEOGRAPHIC AREA. OUR DELEGATION CONSISTED OF SIX MEMBERS: VINCE TARDUCCI, (*Local 7048 President*); MIKE GALLAGHER, (*APWU Eastern Region Coordinator*); WILLIAM LA SALLE, (*APWU Eastern Region Maint. NBA*); JOE MC GUGAN, (*Local 7048 Vice President*); JOE QUINLAN, (*Local 7048 Political Director*); AND WARREN MCLENDON, (*Local 308 Mailhandler & assoc. APWU Member*). WE VISITED THE FOLLOWING STORES:

9906 E. Roosevelt Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19115
General Manager: Andrew De Angelo

93 E. Street Road, Feasterville Trevose, PA 19053
General Manager: Tracey Samuels

Kohls Shopping Center
2329 Street Rd, Bensalem, PA 19020
Assistant Manager: John Parsons

DE ANGELO AND PARSONS LISTENED ATTENTIVELY WHILE MIKE EXPLAINED THE PURPOSE OF OUR VISIT. THEY READILY AGREED TO FORWARD OUR LETTER TO DISTRICT MANAGEMENT. SAMUELS WAS UNFRIENDLY AND DEFENSIVE. SHE REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE LETTER, TELLING US TO MAIL IT TO CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS. VINCE ASSURED HER THAT WE WEREN'T THERE TO "BULLY" OR "INTIMIDATE" ANYBODY. SAMUELS THEN TOOK THE LETTER AND AGREED TO FORWARD IT. SHE ADAMANTLY REFUSED TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED, THOUGH.

IN SOLIDARITY,
JOE QUINLAN, POLITICAL DIRECTOR

American Postal Worker's Union
Philadelphia Bulk Mail Center
Local # 7048

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Joseph Lockrey	Secretary/Treasurer
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Robert J. Kovalik	Dir., Maintenance Craft
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Benson Stephens	Trustee
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Vice President Charles "Bob" Pitchalonis
Secretary/Treasurer Mike Boyne
Trustee Bill Macklin
Social and Recreational Director Steve Resling

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Joint Labor Management Safety and
Health Committee**

Joseph McGugan – Clerk	<u>Alternate Members:</u> Chuck Camp - Clerk
Robert Kovalik - Maint.	Bill Schweiker– Maint.
Vince Tarducci - MVS	Ron Leavesley - MVS

**Representatives from the APWU on the
SOCIAL & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Ron Leavesley - Clerk	<u>Alternate Members:</u> Chuck Camp - Clerk
Barbara Jackson - Maint.	Vince Tarducci - Maint.
Christine Tarducci - MVS	Kathy Finnegan – MVS

**Representatives on the Phila. BMC Local #7048
ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE**

Joe Lockrey	Vince Tarducci
Chris Tarducci	Pete Villa

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The **Philly** PARCEL
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Local #7048

American Postal Worker's Union, AFL-CIO

The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the Local. All members of the Bulk Mail Center community are invited to submit articles for publication.

If you are aware of the death of the parent, spouse or child of a Local member, please contact the Union Office so that an appropriate acknowledgment can be sent.

.....
Ray Pavel, Editor
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The President's View



PRESIDENT'S VIEW

2014 is upon us and winter has hit us very hard in our region and throughout the country. Hope by the time you read this, spring will soon be in our grips. We had our first general membership meeting on January 17th in which a great turnout was had. Great to see many of our PSE members come out and learn their rights and get a better understanding on issues that involve them.

The meeting started around 2:15 AM and was scheduled to benefit our members from mail processing. Every local union officer was there, along with many of the shop stewards. The meeting ended around 5:00 AM. Thanks to

Candidate for Congress in Strouse, (pictured above), to the members during the meeting. As previously reported, by the end of the membership at a union meeting, the members are running for the Democratic nomination in the primary set for Tuesday, May 20, 2014. Hopefully all our members are registered to vote and will exercise their right.

At the meeting we had several prizes awarded. The winner of the COPA drawing for the \$50.00 awarded at each union meeting was Maintenance member Benson Stephens. In order to be eligible you must have contributed to COPA through postal ease.

MIKE PIEKIELSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The 2014 local scholarship fund named after long time officer and shop steward Mike Piekieski will be available for the fourth consecutive year. Information will soon be available as the deadline is usually June 1st. The drawing is expected to take place at the June GMM. **Please mark Saturday night May 3rd for the annual Phillies night out as Mike's family has been doing this since 2011 in his memory. Details to follow.**

NATIONAL PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE

I will be attending the NPC to be held in Plymouth, MA the weekend of March 29-31st. As I have reported on many times, these



take our business elsewhere. There certainly is more to come on these protests. President Dimondstein has drawn a line in the sand by stating enough is enough which through the support of the National Executive Board has spearheaded this fight. **Please go to www.apwu.org for more information.**

NATIONAL AND STATE CONVENTIONS

With the even year brings both the PA Postal Workers Union State Convention to be held in Pocono Manor as well as the National Biennial Convention set for Chicago, IL July 21-25th. There will be 8 delegates attending the State Convention in addition to Benson Stephens who is a PA State officer and will be made a delegate. Prior to the convention there will be an Educational conference made available so the local union can take advantage of and be more educated when it comes to representing the membership. I have also appointed a committee to discuss resolutions to be submitted and discussed at our March membership

meeting. Resolutions are expected to involve proposed state and national constitutional changes as well as contract changes. The current CBA expires May 2015 and negotiations are scheduled to start sometime in February 2015.

DIRECTED TO WRITE A STATEMENT (REPEAT)

Just to reiterate once again, we have a settlement at Step 2 at the Philadelphia NDC that reads as follows: **Management will cease and desist from directing any employee to provide a written statement related to a postal investigation.** Please read the sentence closely. All postal employees are required to cooperate in all postal investigations. Management many times directs employees that they must write a statement. If they want you to cooperate they should ask you questions and do their own investigation. You should ask for a steward especially if you believe what you say may lead to discipline. In my opinion for the other offices under our jurisdiction, I believe the above also applies to you. Don't write a statement, but insist you will cooperate in their postal investigation.

ASSOCIATE OFFICES

We continue to represent the two AOs under our jurisdiction. Levittown and Fairless Hills located in Bucks County became members of Local 7048 back in October 2000. There have been activity in both those offices recently that have resulted in some grievance settlements. We expect to meet with the members in these offices sometime in May as we have done over the past decade.

S. 1486

I have posted the most recent legislative information as the Senate Committee did not do the members we represent any good with their committee passage surprisingly of 9-1. There were 4 other no votes by proxy, but these votes were not recorded. Please read this disastrous bill information on **page 11** of the PARCEL. Also read the most recent Postal Service Reform Proposal submitted by Sen. Sanders (I-Vt.) and Rep. DeFazio (D-Ore.).

In closing, I am reaching out to all the members and am asking to try and take a more active role in your Union. That's right, it is your UNION. Find a way you can get involved in whatever way possible. We are a stronger membership when this occurs. I know it is easier to complain than get involved, but nothing gets accomplished that way constructively.

Remember with Unionism, There is No Favoritism,
Vince Tarducci, President

NON-MEMBERS LOCAL 7048

The following represents the list of employees who are not members of this local union. They freely give up any rights to a voice or vote, which ultimately gives them absolutely no say whatsoever in how the local union is run. Though this may be his or her right, there is much confusion as to why anyone throws away such a RIGHT. We make this list available for the sole purpose of informing the membership.

This is as of February 18, 2014.

PHILADELPHIA BMC/NDC

Shuss, Betsy, Data Tech Clerk,
Noon-8:30 pm
Howard, Tyrone, Clerk FSS T-3
Raymond, Thomas, Clerk Tour-3
McKenzie, James –Maint Support T-1

A member who signs one of these individuals to join the APWU is eligible to receive a \$100.00 incentive.



I happened to come across my postal pay stubs from 1980, the year I was hired. Below are my first two as a PTF at the Philadelphia BMC. I noticed my union dues were not yet processed so it probably took a while back then as the APWU had not yet taken over the task of handling the 1187 process. The pay rate back then was \$8.10 an hour for a Parcel Post Distribution Machine Clerk. Back then it was a level 5 and thanks to the APWU became a Level 6 years later. Now the hourly wage for a top step level 6 is \$26.71 once again thanks to the APWU. Later that year I received a Cost Of Living Increase (COLA) thanks to the Union. When I was hired in April 1980, Moe Biller and Bill Burrus were yet to be our top two National Officers as they were elected later that year. It certainly paid and still pays to belong!!!

745		41-6545		V A TARDECCI		[REDACTED]		11 80		97143573	
PAYLOC		FINANCE NO.		EMPLOYEE NAME		SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		PAY PERIOD		SERIAL NUMBER	
EARNINGS STATEMENT											
PB FORM 1283-A, JUNE 1977											
DETAIL EARNINGS											
WK	RSC/LEV	RATE	CODE	TYP	HOURS	PAY	GROSS TO NET		YEAR-TO-DATE		LEAVE STATUS
2	P 05	810	410	M	3600	29160	GROSS PAY	62229	75189	FROM PREV YR	
1	P 05	810	410	M	3498	28444	FED TAX	50	12533	13660	ANNUAL LEAVE
1	P 05	810	410	P	200	2355	ST P	50	1369	1654	EARNED THIS YR
1	P 05	810	410	S	800	1570	RETIRE/FICA	3724	4552	400	BAL
										USED YR	400
										THIS PP	
										BALANCE	400
										SICK LEAVE	
										FROM PREV YR	
										EARNED THIS YR	400
										USED YR	
										THIS PP	
										BALANCE	400
										LEAVE WITHOUT PAY	
										THIS PP	
										CUMULATIVE	3000
										BOND DATA	
										UNAPPL BAL	
										NO ISSUED	
										USPS RETIREMENT	
						NET PAY	44603				

745		41-6545		V A TARDECCI		[REDACTED]		10 80		96955525	
PAYLOC		FINANCE NO.		EMPLOYEE NAME		SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		PAY PERIOD		SERIAL NUMBER	
EARNINGS STATEMENT											
PB FORM 1283-A, JUNE 1977											
DETAIL EARNINGS											
WK	RSC/LEV	RATE	CODE	TYP	HOURS	PAY	GROSS TO NET		YEAR-TO-DATE		LEAVE STATUS
2	P 05	810	410	M	1600	12960	GROSS PAY	12960	12960	FROM PREV YR	
							FED TAX	50	1127	1127	ANNUAL LEAVE
							ST P	50	285	285	EARNED THIS YR
							RETIRE/FICA	828	828	400	BAL
										USED YR	400
										THIS PP	
										BALANCE	400
										SICK LEAVE	
										FROM PREV YR	
										EARNED THIS YR	400
										USED YR	
										THIS PP	
										BALANCE	400
										LEAVE WITHOUT PAY	
										THIS PP	
										CUMULATIVE	3000
										BOND DATA	
										UNAPPL BAL	
										NO ISSUED	
										USPS RETIREMENT	
						NET PAY	10720				

PROTECT OUR WORK TO SECURE YOUR JOB



On a daily basis machinable parcels are again being processed by non-clerk craft employees on the LCUS NMO Sorter. Grievances have been filed and settled in the past when this has been done. We have already won this issue in ABITRATION. Processing machinable parcels is CLERK CRAFT WORK!

Any member who witnesses machinable parcels being worked in any area by non-clerks is asked to write a statement so that we can continue to document these violations and file the appropriate grievances. As soon as you witness one of the violations tell your supervisor that you need to speak to a steward. We will need for you to write a statement about what you saw and you will be helping your Union to fight to protect your job.

The Plant Manager Terry Morrow informed the Local on the 13th of January that he plans on reassigning 23 PSE clerks sometime in the future, management has been reverting clerk jobs in the secondary and their reason is "The workload does not support the number of assignments in the work area". We must protect OUR work and save YOUR jobs, but we need the members help in doing so.

Currently violations are occurring on both Tour Three and on Tour Two in which our mail is being diverted to other, less efficient machines (LCUS NMO Sorter), and is worked by other crafts. This is wrong for our members, the USPS, and its customers. The secondary breaks these machinable parcels down in a five-digit sort before it leaves the building, the LCUS does not.

We have been assured in the past, by higher level management, that machinable parcels will be worked in the secondary. Now it is up to each of us to be vigilant in making sure that our work remains in our craft. Fight for your job security daily!!!

NEW CHANGE OF SCHEDULE FORMS

The Postal Service has implemented a new **PS form 3189 (Change of Schedule)** though it might look different but it serves the same purpose. The old 3189s are now obsolete, so if you submit a COS form, please use the new ones.

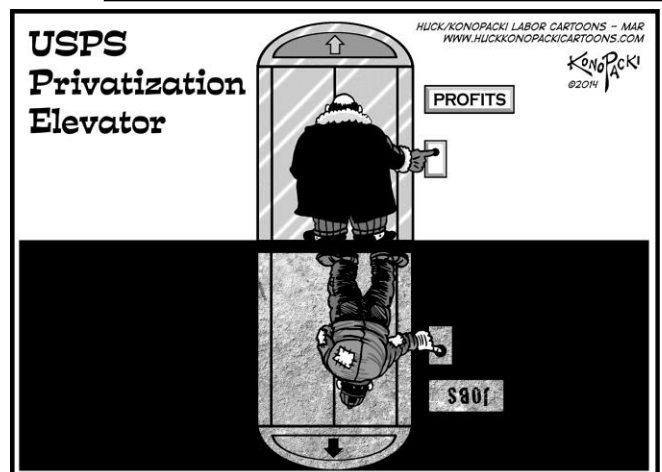
Bill Schweiker, Clerk Craft Director

Did you know every postal employee can access their pay stubs at any time just by going to

www.liteblue.usps.gov

All you need is your 8 digit Employee Identification Number (EIN) and 4 digit personal PIN #.

Once you are on the site, just click on My HR and



More Pictures From Our January 2014 General Membership Meeting



Starting above and proceeding around are scenes from our January 17th GMM which took place at 2:15 AM. A Democratic Candidate for US Eight Congressional District, Kevin Strouse, is shown addressing our Meeting. On the right, Kevin is pictured with APWU Eastern Region Coordinator and former Local 7048 multi-positions Officer, Mike Gallagher at Kevin's fund raiser.



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USPS fortune-teller and PRC Chairman Goldway listed in Senator Coburn's annual report Wastebook

U.S. Senator Tom Coburn, M.D. (R-OK), ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and co-author of the Postal Reform Act of 2013 released his annual oversight report ["Wastebook 2013"](#) highlighting 100 examples of wasteful and low-priority spending totaling nearly \$30 billion. Coburn listed the Postal Service's contract with self-styled futurist "Faith Popcorn's Brain Reserve" at number #47 and Postal Regulatory Commission Chairman Ruth Goldway at #54:

47. Postal Service pays "Futurist" Faith Popcorn for advice on stamps – (USPS) \$566,000

Hoping to divine the future for stamps and how to keep "relevant, interesting and integral," the Postal Service contracted with "Faith Popcorn's Brain Reserve." Faith Popcorn is a futurist perhaps best known for her outlandish business predictions in her 1992 book, "The Popcorn Report." The Library Journal panned the novel in 1991, "While at times she exhibits a woeful ignorance of business history (e.g. Popcorn anchors the roots of consumerism belatedly in the 1970s), her thoughtful book is guaranteed to stimulate creative thinking." To assess the future of stamps, Faith Popcorn's Brain Reserve planned to hold several internal "BrainJams" as well as call in outside experts.

Ms. Popcorn herself, the "Creative Director," expected to bill 62.5 hours of work at the rate of \$836/hour. Her firm is also doing other work for the Postal Service: "Innovation: A daily in-home visitation service for the elderly and ill." In this service, mail carriers would offer to ensure people are taking their prescriptions or need any help. Ms. Popcorn's firm is also studying whether the mail carriers should offer a "daily personal visit and brief chat" for a fee. Apparently, she has predicted the future of the USPS to be a health care provider.

54. Globetrotting Postal Regulator – (PRC) \$19,000

Ruth Goldway, the Chair of the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), has been flying high on the taxpayer dime. Since 1970, the PRC has overseen important facets of the U.S. Postal Service's operations. The 2013 calendar year has been a particularly busy for the regulator given the complex challenges facing the Postal Service as mail volume declines. Despite these responsibilities, Goldway took six trips totaling \$19,000 this year. Compared to 2012, her travel costs have increased by \$4,000.

Goldway's travel costs are rising despite coming under fire for excessive international travel in the past.

In February 2012, Senator Tom Carper, requested detailed justifications and itineraries for all official trips taken by Goldway and those of her past two predecessors.⁵⁶⁵

Nevertheless, Goldway's travel costs increased this year, despite such pleas, and the majority of costs were incurred from international trips. The other reason this raises concerns is that, under law, the State Department is the de facto lead of international postal matters.⁵⁶⁸ Despite this, Goldway's international travel persisted and outpaced that of other PRC commissioners. In 2013, only one commissioner reported any travel – a solitary trip, totaling \$3,100, to San Francisco for the National Postal Forum.⁵⁶⁹

Documentation of Goldway's travels also reveals a habit of adding personal days to PRC trips. While personal days are paid for with her private funds, documentation detailing Goldway's trips raise questions about the business importance of the trips.

For example, during Chairman Goldway's April 2013 trip to Bern, Switzerland, she was gone for 11 days to attend a technical meeting of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) for which two PRC staff would also be in attendance. However, for this trip, more time was spent on personal days and travel than in an official capacity. What's more, the UPU was conducting business on the 17, 18 and 19th when Goldway was on travel and personal time.

April 17, Travel to Zurich, No Meetings
April 18, Personal Day
April 19, Personal Day
April 20, Personal Day
April 21, Travel to Bern, No Meetings
April 22, PRC Staff Meeting, meeting from 3-6
April 23, Conference Meetings and Diplomatic Dinner
April 24, Conference Meetings and Diplomatic Dinner
April 25, Plenary
April 26, "prepared notes on plenary," Diplomatic Dinner
April 27, Travel home, No meetings

Goldway's questionable use of PRC funds extends beyond travel and to conference sponsorships. Under Goldway's leadership as Chair, the PRC has sponsored \$30,000 worth of international postal conferences since June of 2010.

REPRINTED FROM: The PostalReporter News Blog.

APWU LOCAL #7048 STEWARD ROSTER

» **Step 2 Designees Denoted with Bold, Cap, Underline**

SPECIAL DESIGNATION: Step 2 Designee, All Crafts, All Facilities: **CHARLES “BOB” PITCHALONIS**

**** All Stewards listed are authorized as Alternates for all tours and crafts. ****

BMC TOUR 1

Clerk Craft – Regulars: **JOE LOCKREY**

Alternates: Kenyatte Temple **VINCE TARДУCCI**, **ROBERT KOVALIK**, Ron Dever, Joe Lukomski, Benson Stephens, Michelle Petrillo, Ron Leavesley, **BILL SCHWEIKER**

Maintenance Craft – Regulars: **ROBERT KOVALIK** Benson Stephens

Alternates: **JOE LOCKREY**, **JOE QUINLAN**, **VINCE TARДУCCI**,

Joe Lukomski, **RON LEAVESLEY**, Nicole Nicholson, Fred Standaert, Madonna Duffy

Motor Vehicle Craft – Regulars: Joe Lukomski,

Alternates: **JOE LOCKREY**, Robert Kovalik, Benson Stephens, Vince Tarducci, Ron Dever, Ron Leavesley, **JOE MCGUGAN**, **JOE QUINLAN**

BMC TOUR 2

Clerk Craft – Regulars: **CHUCK CAMP**, **JOE QUINLAN**, **BILL SCHWEIKER**

Alternates: **VINCE TARДУCCI**, **JOE MCGUGAN**, **WALT SHERMAN**, Pete Villa, Christine Tarducci, John Upchurch, Lauren Johnson,

Maintenance Craft – Regulars: **VINCE TARДУCCI**, **RON LEAVESLEY**

Alternates: **WALT SHERMAN**, **ROBERT KOVALIK**, **BILL SCHWEIKER**, **JOE QUINLAN** Chuck Camp, Benson Stephens

Motor Vehicle Craft – Regulars: **JOE MCGUGAN**

Alternates: **WALT SHERMAN**, **VINCE TARДУCCI**, **CHUCK CAMP**, **JOE QUINLAN**, **PETE VILLA**, Bill Schweiker

BMC TOUR 3

Clerk Craft – Regulars: **JOE LOCKREY**, Ron Dever, Joe Lukomski

Alternates: **VINCE TARДУCCI**, **ROBERT KOVALIK**, **CHUCK CAMP**, **JOE QUINLAN**, **BILL SCHWEIKER**, **JOE MCGUGAN**, **WALT SHERMAN**, Pete Villa, Christine Tarducci, Lauren Johnson, Benson Stephens, Michelle Petrillo, Kenyatte Temple

Maintenance Craft – Regulars: Benson Stephens

Alternates: **ROBERT KOVALIK**, **VINCE TARДУCCI**, **JOE QUINLAN**, **WALT SHERMAN**, **BILL SCHWEIKER**, Ron Dever, Joe Lukomski, **RON LEAVESLEY**

Motor Vehicle Craft – Regulars: Joe Lukomski

Alternates: Ron Dever, **VINCE TARДУCCI**, **JOE LOCKREY**, **JOE QUINLAN**, **JOE MCGUGAN**

LEVITTOWN POST OFFICE, ALL TOURS

Clerk Craft – Regulars:

Alternates: Ron Dion, **ROBERT KOVALIK**, **VINCE TARДУCCI**, **CHUCK CAMP**, **JOE MCGUGAN**, **JOE QUINLAN**, **BILL SCHWEIKER**

Maintenance Craft – Regulars: **FRANK BOLLINGER**,

Alternates: Ron Dion, **ROBERT KOVALIK**, **VINCE TARДУCCI**, **JOE MCGUGAN**, **JOE QUINLAN**

FAIRLESS HILLS POST OFFICE, ALL TOURS

All Crafts – Regulars: Sue Coyle

Alternates: **JOE QUINLAN**, **VINCE TARДУCCI**, **CHUCK CAMP**

SENATE PANEL APPROVES ‘DISASTROUS’ POSTAL BILL

Unions Promise Fierce Opposition

APWU Web News Article #023-14, Feb. 6, 2014

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs approved an amended version of a postal bill (S. 1486) that faces vehement opposition from the four postal unions. The committee with oversight responsibility for the Postal Service passed the measure by a vote of 9-1 on Feb. 6.

“This was a bad bill that was made worse by the ‘substitute’ version that was introduced last week,” said APWU Legislative and Political Director John Marcotte. “Today the committee amended the bill around the edges but gave no relief to workers and no long-term assurances to the American people about their mail service.”

The bill, which was introduced by Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) and Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK), would:

- Threaten 100,000 full- and part-time postal jobs;
- Lead to pension cuts;
- Weaken workers’ position in upcoming contract negotiations;
- Require the USPS to pre-fund workers’ compensation by \$17 billion, further strangling USPS finances;
- Permit the USPS to close and consolidate mail processing facilities after two years;
- Allow the Postal Service to further reduce service and delivery standards;
- Eliminate Saturday delivery after 2017;
- Eliminate door-to-door mail delivery for new businesses and households, and
- Expose injured workers to impoverishment once they reach retirement age.

Voting in favor of the bill were: Sen. Carper, Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI), Sen. Mark Pryor (D-AR), Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Sen. Mark Begich (D-AK), Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Sen. Coburn, Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY) and Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH). Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) voted in favor of the bill by proxy, but proxy votes were not recorded.

Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) was the lone recorded no vote.

Others who voted **no** by proxy were: Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY). **Proxy votes were not recorded.**

Amendments adopted on Feb. 6 would:

- Allow firearms in postal parking lots, provided there is no conflict with state and local regulations. Permit the Postal Regulatory

Commission to overturn plant closures, and Postpone plant closures and changes to service standards until one year after the Comptroller General issues a report on USPS compliance with service standards.

“This disastrous bill would severely damage service to the people; weaken the USPS and make it ripe for privatization, and destroy good jobs throughout the country,” said APWU President Mark Dimondstein.

“The APWU urges senators to vote against the bill if and when it is brought to the Senate floor for consideration.

And Now Our “Counter-punch” Proposal

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 – Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) today introduced legislation to modernize the U.S. Postal Service, save Saturday mail and repeal a crippling law responsible for 80 percent of the mail system’s funding woes.

The Senate bill is cosponsored by Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Al Franken (D-Minn.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio).

Under the legislation, proposed cuts to Saturday delivery would be prevented.

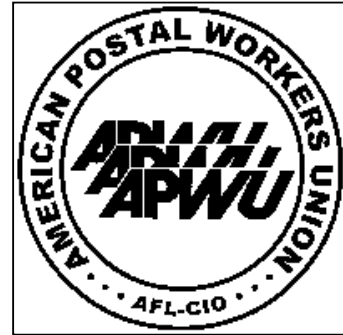
The measure would let the Postal Service look for innovative new ways to make money by lifting legal bans on services such as notarizing documents, issuing hunting and fishing licenses and allowing shipments of wine and beer. It also would clear the way for the Postal Service to help customers take advantage of email and Internet services. Moreover, a commission would be created composed of successful business innovators and representatives from small business and labor to make recommendations on other ways the Postal Service could generate new revenue and thrive in the 21st century.

Arguably the most critical financial reform proposed by Sanders and DeFazio would be to rescind an onerous 2006 law pushed through a Republican-controlled House at the behest of President George W. Bush. Unlike any private business or other government agency, the law makes the post office pre-fund 75 years of future health care benefits for retirees over the course of 10 years. The \$5 billion annual payments have been piling up in a fund that experts say already has more than enough in reserve. Since 2007, the pre-funding mandate is responsible for \$4 out of every \$5 in Postal Service debts.

The bill also would reinstate overnight delivery standards to speed mail delivery and prevent shutdowns of mail sorting centers. Safeguards also would be put in place to protect rural post offices.

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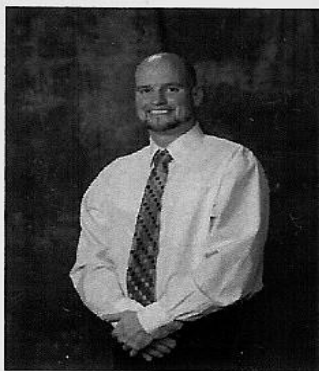


NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Wednesday, March 19, 2014
3:45 PM

CANCEL YOUR LEAVE IN ADVANCE

If you have pre-approved annual leave in the book and know you no longer need it, please cancel it so that your fellow sister or brother union member who was disapproved can take their annual leave. On some occasions employees who have 8 hours approved for a given day, show up to work their tour and the person who was disapproved for 8 hours is told if they want it they can leave. By this time the employee already traveled to work and it is too late for them to make arrangements. Suggestion is to ask for a steward when your annual leave is disapproved so a steward can check the leave book. Sometimes it is learned that an employee may have canceled their leave at the last minute.



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