

News and Views



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September-October 2021

Labor Day – Then and Now

By: Trisa Mannion - President



Do you know? Labor Day was first proposed in 1882. The Haymarket Square union gathering bombing that killed 11 on May 4, 1886, affected the date selected for the holiday. A parade in New York City inspired other states to start having parades. By 1887, Oregon,

Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Colorado made Labor Day a state holiday.

President Grover Cleveland signed an act in 1894 establishing the federal holiday; most states had already passed laws establishing a Labor Day holiday by that point. Sen. James Henderson Kyle of South Dakota introduced S.730 to make Labor Day a federal legal holiday on the first Monday of September. It was approved on June 28, 1894. Cleveland wanted to recognize but not celebrate workers and their contributions to the country.

Large urban areas still have events to recognize workers. The entire country now pauses to enjoy a three-day weekend and remember the past and present contributions.

I am asking you to pause this year to remember the American Postal Workers Union (plus the NALC, LIUNA, and NRLCA postal unions) for their contribution to the country's success.

Many decades ago, the employees were prohibited from lobbying Congress for a raise. Instead, auxiliary members lobbied on their behalf; it was referred to as collective begging. We continue the practice of contacting Congress for favorable legislation.

The APWU is currently in contract negotiations and fighting for a fair and reasonable contract for its membership. This affects each and every one of us, in the Auxiliary too. We rely on health insurance, life insurance, wages, job security, and leave benefits that are negotiated. Annuitant benefits that allow the surviving spouse to receive health care and retirement funds are extremely important to the family left behind.

We need to help them win a fair and equitable contract. We

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A Shift in Power

By: Janice Gillespie - Legislative Aide-Editor

One purpose of the Auxiliary is to support the APWU in its endeavors to better its members and their families and, in extension, other union and non-union individuals and families. A way for us to be more successful is to learn as much as we can about the policies and bills that our union endorses. The more a person understands and knows about a topic, the easier it is to educate others and encourage them to join us.

The PRO Act, what is it, who does it benefit, what are the obstacles?

If passed, the "protecting the right to organize act" (PRO Act) would eliminate the current "right to work" laws. The right to work? Shouldn't we all have the right to work? As in many other bills and policies the name, "right to work" is meant to mislead. More adequately called "the right to work for less," laws allow workers to choose whether to join a union and pay dues. If they opt not to pay, they will still receive all the benefits and protection from that union that paying members have earned. The "PRO Act," if passed, would significantly increase worker's rights, allow private-sector employees to organize and bargain, strike, and offer protection from retaliating employers.

This bill would also strengthen labor laws that prohibit employers from holding captive audiences. This part of the PRO Act bans management from union-bashing during mandatory meetings. Recently, Amazon used anti-union tactics to squash the union in Bessemer, Alabama, successfully. A federal hearing officer has recommended a revote due to Amazon's illegal tactics. The National Labor Review Board would also have to approve a ruling for a new election. There are currently no deterrents for a business that violates the Federal Labor Laws. The PRO Act includes provisions to instill stiff financial penalties for interferences

by business owners that violate the law. As a further disincentive, a union would not have to go through reelection but be directly certified when employers have interfered with the voting procedure.

The PRO Act is a big deal. It benefits all workers and would help level the playing field. Unions not only increase the pay, benefits, and safety of their members, but they set the standards for all employees. Better wages decrease the need for public assistance and increase tax revenue. That is a win-win for all. This pandemic has been brutal on everyone, everyone that is, except the U.S. billionaires who increased their wealth by 1.1 trillion dollars during the pandemic. Inequality is rapidly rising while union membership is declining. COVID-19 has been the cause of millions of lost jobs. The PRO Act strengthens the rights of workers of all races, genders, and backgrounds. We need to shift the power from big business to the working people.

What stands in the way of the PRO Act? Big business. They control much of congress. The House passed H.R. 842, Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2021, on March 9, no surprise, as they passed the PRO Act last year. The Senate now has the ball. They let it drop in 2020, and expectations are low that they will pass S 420, the first significant labor legislation since the 1930s. That's right. There have been no major labor laws since the depression era. We have the support of forty-seven Democratic Senators, with three hold-outs and no Republicans. The odds are against us, but we can surpass them. We have to use our voices. Increase our volume. Enlist others to help. Write letters and emails, call your Senators and join or organize campaigns that include informational pickets and phone banking. Let's make sure the Auxiliary to the APWU is seen and heard by this year's congress.



Postal Reform

H.R. 3076 and S. 1720

Repeal of the Pre-Funding Mandate

Medicare Integration

USPS Transparency

Six-Day Delivery

A Personal Favorite

By: Janice Gillespie, Legislative Aide-Editor

I have always made it known that the biennial PPA conference is one of my personal favorites. The classes the PPA offers are superb. Unfortunately, as with so many other meetings, conferences, and conventions, the PPA had to cancel the in-person conference for 2021. The leaders did, however, put together a series of online classes via zoom. The instructors were from the Iowa Labor Center located within Iowa University in Iowa City. The classes all consisted of lessons on improving communication. We can all use those skills in every aspect of our lives. I wanted to sign up for all of them, as always but chose my allotted four.

The workshops were on: writing for the union communicator, using social media, developing and

improving websites, public speaking, planning protests, and creating podcasts. The PPA organizers tried to balance the duration of the classes between having enough time to get their agendas across and keeping to a minimum the length of screen time for the participants. As always, the time in each class went by too fast.



Several Auxiliary board members attended different workshops and will be happy to share their gained information. The zipline meetings are perfect venues for sharing some of the pointers and tips that we have learned, and we are in the process of making that happen.

The next PPA conference will be in 2023.

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can participate in rallies and remind the member to wear union gear on the specified day. Engage your friends and family in positive conversations about the effects this contract will have on the community. Good wages help buy homes, cars, and goods. Remind the people you do business with that this money is possible because it is a good union job. It can be as simple as using a sticker on the bills stating paid with union wages. You can also write that in the memo

field of the checks you send.

Labor Day signaled the end of Summer then and now. The reason to recognize the day is relevant today. Union families still fight for the benefits and wages that are earned. We are still recognized for our contributions to this country and our communities. Be a part of the celebration by supporting the APWU members in their fight for a good contract. Contact your representatives regarding current legislation.



PPA Journalism Awards



Tiffanie Schultz, Vice-President of the Missouri APWU Auxiliary, received Honorable Mention in the Best News Story category for her article “The effects of the Global Pandemic.” and

Bridget Yurachek, Secretary-Treasurer, Saint Charles Auxiliary, won first place in the Best Community Service category for her article “What we can do for each other.” A

big shout-out to the new editor of the Auxiliary Spirit, Michelle Hewett, who ran both of these articles.

The Auxiliary News and Views won honorary mention for Best Non-Professional.

Congratulations to all of the winners and all of the contributors to Auxiliary publications.



Auxiliary Dues

The date that your National Auxiliary dues are to be paid is located to the left of your name on the address label.



Constitutions

Does the National have a copy of your local and state constitutions? If not, please send a copy to President Trisa Mannion, 3038 Cloverdale Ct, Grand Junction CO 81506-1960

Auxiliary History

By: Doris Poland-Historian

How long has the Auxiliary been in existence? This question should matter to us because if we do not know where we came from, we cannot understand and move our organization forward.

The history of the Auxiliary to the United Federation of Post Office Clerks:

The year was 1917, in Memphis, Tennessee; the day was Labor Day 1917. On that day, the Woman's Auxiliary to the National Federation of Post office Clerks was organized. Through the efforts of a small group of dedicated woman relatives of post office clerks representing three local Auxiliaries from Chicago, Memphis, and San Francisco, this National Organization was organized. Mr. Thomas Flaherty, Secretary /Treasurer of the union, assisted in this effort. The union was holding its convention at that time

With almost unbearable working conditions in the postal service and the ever-increasing cost of living, these women realized that if things were to be done to secure improvements, they needed to stand up using their influence and economic power. They stood side by side with their husbands, fathers, and brothers to obtain these rights.

This is just one small part of our past. I will give you more of the history of our organization and the influence of our power in the next issue. We are stronger when we join and work together.



Auxiliary in Action



Marching with Nurses
Portland, Maine



Dump DeJoy Rally
New Hartford, Iowa



Backpack Roundup for School Supplies
Fort Worth Local



Is it a Bill or a Resolution?

What is the difference between a bill and a resolution in debate?

- ♦ Bill – type of legislation that describes the details of how a policy would be enacted, if voted into law by the assembly.
- ♦ Resolution – expression of conviction, or **value belief of an assembly**, which may urge, request or suggest further action by another decision-making authority.

H.R. 695 and S. 145 USPS Fairness Act—appeal the prefunding mandate

H.Res. 119—restore service standards of 2012

H.Res. 109—ensure door delivery for business and residential customers

H.Res. 114—continuation of 6-day delivery

H.Res. 47— ensure the United States Postal Service remains independent



Beware of callers claiming to be from Medicare. They are asking for Medicare numbers under the ruse of issuing new cards. These people are not who they claim they are. They already have names, addresses, and phone numbers. If contacted, make a note of the phone number. Be sure to file a fraud report with Medicare and the Federal Trade Commission. Representatives will never call and ask you for information. So let us do our part in stopping these perpetrators.

Medicare 1-800-633-4227 Federal Trade Commission 1-877-382-4357



Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO president since 2009, passed away on August 5, 2021. Richard, an attorney, was the president of the United Mine Workers before being elected Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO in 1995. He was a fearless leader who spent his life fighting for the working class. We lost a relentless fighter for human rights and solidarity. He will be greatly missed.



Hats Off to District 4!

By: Debra Stewart, District 4 Coordinator

District 4 consists of five unique states, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas, and I have enjoyed being the district 4 coordinator since 1994. I am looking forward to working on things such as forming new Auxiliaries, gaining new members, and keeping existing members. We need to stay engaged and active as there is a lot of work to be done. I am very proud of the newly organized local Auxiliary in Oklahoma City. The officers in this Auxiliary are very excited and eager to work.

In the past two years, the pandemic has made communication a challenge without in-person points of view. Still, with

Zoom and Zipline meetings, I can communicate with District 4 members and listen to their opinions even during this crisis. Thankfully, the Auxiliary was already using Zoom and Zipline meetings to keep in touch with each other and its members. Meeting virtually helped considerably when we could no longer meet in person. It has been a tremendous learning and growing experience. The Auxiliary is as strong as ever. I will continue to fight for this APWU Auxiliary.

All of the auxiliaries in my district have outstanding members and state presidents. With each of us together, we will make a difference. As each member flaps its wings, it creates a start to a new and uplifting journey for future members to follow. Hats off to district 4!



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Zipline Meeting



Join us for the next Zipline Event!

When: October 5 Time: 8:00 pm ET
<https://zoom.us/j/93199666271>
 Meeting ID: 931 9966 6271

Coping with COVID-19 stress and anxiety

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on our emotional wellbeing. Social distancing can make us feel isolated, while surges in new cases cause stress and anxiety.

Learning how to manage stress can help you face challenges head on and become more resilient.

If you're feeling worried or stressed about COVID-19, call the Optum toll-free help line at 1-866-342-6892. A caring professional will connect you to resources to help you cope with stress in healthier ways.

Find emotional support resources online

Visit the Live and Work Well COVID-19 Support Center (<https://www.liveandworkwell.com/en/public/custom/covid19.html>) to learn how to be mindful and keep your stress in check. You'll find COVID-19 FAQs, resources, articles, coping strategies, tips, and more.

Live and Work Well also provides emotional support resources and information related to relationships, mental health, crisis support, and legal issues.

To access the resources, follow these steps:
Select Browse as a Guest with a company access code

Enter Guest in the access code field and select Enter

Behavioral health resources for APWU Health Plan members

As an APWU Health Plan member, you have access to mental health and substance use services that can help you feel better and more in control of your emotional wellbeing. Cigna Behavioral Health provides services for High Option members

UHC Behavioral Health Solutions provides services for Consumer Driven Option members



TOGETHER.
BETTER HEALTH.
www.apwuhp.com
(800) 222-2798



We have several ways to stay informed about Auxiliary Current events

Website: APWUAuxiliary.org

Please report bugs or out of date pages

Facebook: Auxiliary to the APWU

Like our page and invite other members

Zipline via ZOOM: Virtual meetings

The next one is October 5th, dedicated to officer training

Auxiliary Flash: Quick news releases and reminders of events

Send an email to be included



Report bugs, needed updates, or add me requests to: tmannion@apwuauxiliary.org

Human Relations Project

By: Karen Wolver - Human Relations Chair

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." ~ Winston Churchill



Participation on a committee is one of the hands-on activities at the National Convention. One of the choices is the Human Relations Committee.

The purpose of this committee is to suggest organizations for the Auxiliary to choose from and adopt. Once voted on and accepted, this organization will receive our donations and monies for the following two years.

As you know, Fisher House has been our project for the last four years. An extra two

years due to Covid! Anna Braun brought this great organization to our attention during our convention in Pittsburgh, PA. We are all thankful for the time she took beforehand to investigate what Fisher House offers and stands for. They have been a great organization to raise funds for as they help so many.

It is now time for us all to be thinking of another organization that we can be proud to support. The Auxiliary uses the following considerations to select an organization. They consist of:

1. Does this organization benefit persons in all 50 states or just a select area?
2. Are their administration fees at a low percentage?
3. Will we be able to explain to people what their purpose and goals are?
4. Does this organization help a lot of people, or just a few?
5. Are they indeed a legitimate organization?

Any time you come across an organization that tugs at your heart, please take the time to check them out and send us an email. The more information you can gather, the better we will be prepared at the convention. Believe me, it's not too early to start doing research. For example, Anna Braun has already suggested "Hero Pups" to us! This organization is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(C)(3) organization that provides support dogs to eligible veterans and first responders in the Northeast region. In other words, they place dogs so they can help people! If someone can find a similar organization akin to this that is nationwide, please present it to us.

Now is the time to keep your ears and eyes open and be on the lookout for our next Human Relations Project. There are tremendous needs out there, whether children, veterans, elderly, homeless, drug addiction, or mental health. The list is endless, yet we can only choose one at a time.



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