



NEWS & VIEWS

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Resolving 2015 to be a Happy New Year

By Kathy Danek President



As I write this article we have just finished celebrating the birth of 2015, a new year full of anticipation and anxiety. There is a new Congress, with larger Republican majorities. They control both the Senate and the House. Many of us are very anxious about their plans for the USPS—the livelihood of thousands of families nationwide. But for us, the Auxiliary to the APWU that anxiety is personal. We have been the target of a USPS hell-bent on privatizing our jobs, lowering our wages, and reversing our standard of living. We have plant closures, job reversions, changing mail standards, and a USPS that is less than transparent mapping out changes to our futures. One would sense that we are in a dire situation.

But the USPS is an integral part of the fabric of our national communication network. It is the envy of the world, and operates on revenues received from the sale of postal products. If it were not for the health care prepayment for future USPS (75 years into the future) we'd probably be enjoying a financial windfall instead of deficit. We must engage our communities and really talk to them about the changes looming before us. It is truly up to us.

So here are a few resolutions to guide us:

- 1) Sharpen your communication skills; make sure you include not just your supporters, but the countless citizens who have little or no knowledge of the impending USPS proposals.
- 2) Get to know the members of the House and Senate representing your district and state. Don't be afraid to ask them point blank about the USPS and the APWU—and that onerous prefunding obligation. Hold them accountable.
- 3) Make sure you are active in your state and local Auxiliaries. Go to your meetings and share your expertise
- 4) Volunteer in your local community. Make sure you identify yourself as a member of the Auxiliary to the APWU. Help them to see that the USPS isn't some organization in Washington DC, but rather your friends and neighbors. What happens to us affects our neighborhoods, communities and states as well as our nation.
- 5) Help grow our Auxiliary. If every member signs up one additional member in the Auxiliary, we double our impact and our voice.
- 6) Grow the activity of your local Auxiliary.

By working together, we can and will make 2015 a very productive and HAPPY NEW YEAR.



Inside this issue:	
Auxiliary in Action	2
Welcome Aboard—Changes to the Executive Board that will ring in the new year.	3
A Little Bit of Labor Ed Let Freedom Ring— Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Day i	4–5
Ask Clara About the Health Plan	6
Not Just for Kids—a little bit of fun	7

Auxiliary in Action

Santa's Middleman

Marie Clark



Auxiliary to the
Portland OR Area
Local APWU

Sometimes it is great
to be the middleman.
That was the
experience of the
Portland Oregon

Auxiliary when they got to help Santa with his Christmas deliveries.

For several years the Northwest Priority Credit Union here in Portland Oregon has collected toys for kids. To be asked to be an effective 'middleman' is not only awesome but a great spirit-of-the-season activity!

Who to reach out to? Since there are several large toy drives here in our area our goal is to reach kids and families who slip through the cracks.

We never know just how many toys until the last minute, so on Dec. 18th as we fill a **large car, a station wagon and two SUVs** we know that once again we will be able to reach lots of families.

Our Auxiliary already has chosen an 'abuse shelter' to support regularly, so they were our # 1 choice. (Since they are a small but very effective organization we didn't 'use up' many of the toys.)

Our next choice was Labor's Community Services that reaches out to union families that are either out of work or under-employed. They were able to find homes for many of the toys. (The car and station wagon were both emptied here.)

We also found a low income apartment that houses many families that have been, or are close to, being homeless. (One of the SUVs completed this task).

Again, we found we had not exhausted our supply of toys so we reached out to SW Washington, Skamania County to help: their shelter for victims of domestic violence and the Dept. of Health and Social Services for foster children.

And the remaining stuffed animals went to Providence Hospital in Hood River.

All of the recipients were so very glad to see us and our treasure trove of toys.

What a treat it is to be the 'middleman' for this activity.

Auxiliaries Spreading Cheer to their Members and Their Communities.

Hosting a holiday party might seem like old hat to many, but Auxiliaries all over this country assisted in sharing the spirit of the season. Santa Claus made a visit to many of these events—and in several cases, we discovered that Santa carries a union card. They were gatherings of families and friends of the APWU.

In Des Moines IA, children and their parents assembled and decorated foam gingerbread houses, were entertained by a magician, a visit from Santa, enjoyed refreshments and fellowship.

Omaha Nebraska hosted their event at the Durham Museum, collected 422 pounds of food and \$100 for the local food bank, served pizza, cupcakes & beverages—and had Santa bags for every child.

In Lincoln, NE—their holiday party had a visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus, entertainment from a local high school music group, created ornaments with the children and a visit from Petunia the Clown. Petunia is loved for her many balloon creations. Additionally, they celebrated the success of their annual *Operation Warming a Child's Heart Coat project*. In 2014, 537 coats warmed the hearts and bodies of children throughout the city. In 10 years, the local APWU

and Auxiliary has worked to raise funds to buy new coats and give them to children who need a coat. Funds were raised via donations, a raffle, and the holiday gift. It's a very heartwarming project and continues to grow each year. It would not be possible without the generosity of the members of the local APWU and the Auxiliary.

We are certain that celebrations happened all over this country where we enjoy fellowship and the joy of giving.



Welcome Aboard—Changes to the Executive Board ring in the new year.



Bonnie Sevre takes over as Legislative Aide Editor

— -Barbara Maciejewski resigns after 90 day leave of absence.

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of this Auxiliary, President Kathy Danek appointed two new members to the National Auxiliary Executive Board. Bonnie Sevre of Minneapolis, MN to take over the duties of the Legislative Aide Editor following the resignation of Barbara Maciejewski.

Sevre has served as District Coordinator in the late 1990's and was appointed in 2012 to fill the vacant district 3 position. She was reelected in August, 2014. She will step down from the District 3 position to take over as Legislative Aide Editor.

Sevre is a member of the Minneapolis Minnesota local Auxiliary, and has a long history of service to our organization. Sevre has also served the Auxiliary in several positions as a local and state officer. Her husband Don currently serves as the President of the Minnesota Auxiliary.

Maciejewski had been on a leave of absence since September 1, 2014 and was unable to resume the duties of her office. She tendered her resignation December 9, 2014, due to a health condition that would not allow her to return to her position. The Auxiliary extends our wishes for a full recovery and thanks Barbara for her years of service to our organization.

Introducing— Karen See District 5 Coordinator

NEW DISTRICT 5 COORDINATOR

Karen See of Greenwich OH has been appointed to the vacant position of District 5 Coordinator. See retired from the APWU and has been a member of the Auxiliary for many years. She was married to Assistant Director of the Maintenance Division Greg See, who passed away in November.

Since her retirement from the APWU, she had been employed as the membership coordinator for the Coalition of Labor Union Women since 2007. She will leave that post in January of 2015. In her post, she was tasked with recruitment of new members and assisting them in organizing new local chapters. Those skills will serve her well in her new position as District 5 Coordinator.

District 5 is made up of seven states Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Ms. Sevre and Ms. See will assume their responsibilities at the Executive Board Meeting in January 2015. On behalf of the Auxiliary, we would like to welcome both officers to the Executive Board and look forward to years of dedicated service.





Proud to be an American

What did that label say???

It's a little bit of Labor Ed

By Kathy Danek President



As I watched my friends waving the American Flag - I felt proud to be an American. We were celebrating the end of two wars and an improving

economy. They were wearing NIKE shoes and Guess jeans -and driving down the street I saw many of my friends and neighbors laid off from their jobs at Goodyear because a factory in Mexico was opened to make the belts that were being manufactured here in the USA. I filled my car with gasoline - much of it imported from the Middle East. And decided to go shopping.



I was going to do my part to boost the American Economy. I walked into the mall - and started to lay my purchases on the counter. Made in Taiwan. Made in Bangladesh, Made in Sri Lanka, Made in China, Made in Singapore - MADE EVERYWHERE but the USA. The cry of patriotism struck deep in my heart - **WHO** was I really helping with this influx of dollars. My friends were still out of work. Layoffs were again rising. Companies were in the hunt for "cheap" labor - so much so that they would bring in their own illegal immigrants to man the workstations. Factories closed down and subcontracted their labor in countries like Vietnam and China, where there was little or no regard to a decent standard of living - let alone a living wage. What on earth was I thinking? So I put all the clothing back and continued my mission

I decided to leave the clothing department and go buy some toys - you know to make my kids happy. Again, it was a soccer ball made by children in Pakistan, Barbie Dolls made in China,

Closed moving to Mexico



bicycles imported from Europe and Asia. I know - maybe I could put a few rugs in the house - A beautiful rug - hand tied by children in India - the little knots must have taken hours to tie. How about some

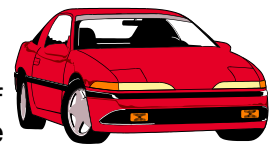
jewelry - Diamonds - imported from South Africa where workers toil long hours in the mines for a pittance - to have a meager existence. What was I to do? I still couldn't find a way to "spend" those American Dollars to boost my patriotic feelings.



Supporting the nation's economy is a responsibility that belongs to all of us. We can no longer close our eyes to the disgusting working conditions in third world nations. Basic human rights come with a price - and we must all be willing to share in the cost. Every time a factory closes it's doors in the United States only to open up in a third world nation - with the sole motivation of paying "cheap labor" - there is a trickle down effect on our country. We lose jobs - we lose income - we lose spending capital - money to improve our economy. If Americans do not have decent jobs with decent wages then it doesn't matter how cheaply an item was produced - because we wouldn't be able to buy them anyway. Start looking for that MADE in the USA/ UNION Label on your purchases. It truly is the Patriotic thing to do.



Oh - about that patriotic purchase -- I finally settled on buying a car - one made in Detroit by United Auto Workers. No, I can't guarantee that all of the parts were made in the



USA - but at least I have the satisfaction of knowing that a United States - union wage earner took home a paycheck thanks to my purchase. At least that money stayed in the USA.

Now, does anybody know where I can get USA gasoline to power the vehicle?

I HAVE A DREAM

By Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; one day right down in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith that I will go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day, this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring!" And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

- ▮ And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire.
- ▮ Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.
- ▮ Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania.
- ▮ Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado.
- ▮ Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that.
- ▮ Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia.
- ▮ Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee.
- ▮ Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi, from every mountainside, let freedom ring!

And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at

**January 19
Honoring a
Leader of
Civil Rights
and
freedom for
all Americans.**

"...this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, ...



New research warns parents that buying an older car for their teens may put their young lives at risk. Nearly half of teen drivers killed in the United States between 2008 and 2012 were driving cars that were at least 11 years old and often lacked important safety features that are available on newer cars, the study found. Eighty-two percent of teen drivers killed in crashes were in cars at least six years old, 34 percent were in cars six to 10 years old, 31 percent were in cars 11 to 15 years old, and 17 percent were in cars at least 16 years old.

Teen drivers killed in crashes were nearly twice as likely as middle-aged drivers to be in a car that was 11 to 15 years old, 20 percent vs. 12 percent, according to the study published online Dec. 18 in the journal *Injury Prevention*. The findings are from an analysis of more than 2,000 teen (ages 15-17) driver deaths and almost 19,000 middle-aged (ages 35-50) driver deaths. Only about one in 10 of the vehicles driven by fatally injured teens had electronic stability control. This feature is particularly useful when a driver loses control, a relatively common problem among newly licensed young drivers, the researchers noted. They said electronic stability control can reduce the risk of death in single-vehicle crashes by about half and by about 20 percent in multivehicle crashes.



Only 36 percent of vehicles driven by teen and middle-aged drivers had optional or standard air bags, but those driven by adults were slightly more likely to have air bags as standard equipment. The study authors also looked at the types of vehicles in fatal crashes and found that 29 percent were in a mini or small car, 35 percent were in a midsize or large car, 17 percent were in pickups and 17 percent were in SUVs. Teens who died in crashes were more likely than middle-aged drivers to be in a mini or small car (29 percent vs. 20 percent) or a midsize car (23 percent vs. 16 percent), and less likely to be in a large pickup (10 percent vs. 16 percent). Because teens are more likely to get into crashes than older drivers, it's important for parents to consider safety as well as cost when choosing a vehicle for their children, the researchers said. Newer vehicles are "more likely to have better crash test ratings and important safety features such as [electronic stability control] and side air bags," they noted, adding: "Parents may benefit from consumer information about vehicle choices that are both safe and economical."

More information

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more about teen drivers.

—Robert Preidt

SOURCE: *Injury Prevention*, news release, Dec. 18, 2014

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(800) 222.2798

Not Just for Kids



Brain Teasers—

Can you decode these common phrases ?

BIRD

i o h n s

ICE³

\$0 all all all all

millio1n

ban ana

easy
iiiiiiiiiiiiiiii

___it

MEREPEAT

RIGHT RIGHT

VA DERS

can can

XQQQME

land time

issue issue issue issue
issue issue issue issue
issue issue

- Answers: from left to right,
top to bottom
- Two can (2 can)
 - Repeat after me
 - Space invaders
 - Excuse me
 - Ice cube
 - One in a million
 - Easy on the eyes
 - Equal rights
 - Lad before time
 - Big Bird
 - Long Johns
 - Free for all
 - Banana split
 - Blanket
 - Tennis shoe (10)

Congress and the Legislative Process



The United States has a participatory form of government. Though Congress is the lawmaking body of government, all residents have an opportunity to voice their opinion on issues. Find terms relating to the legislative process in the puzzle below. Words may be forward, backward, vertical, horizontal, or diagonal. **Reveal the hidden message** from unused letters. Taken from <http://bensguide.gpo.gov>

- BILL
- CAPITOL
- CAUCUSES
- CLERK OF THE HOUSE
- COMMITTEE
- CONFERENCE
- DEBATE
- DISTRICT
- ENROLLED
- FILIBUSTER
- GPO ACCESS
- HEARINGHOPPER
- HOUSE
- JOURNAL
- MAJORITY
- MARKUP

- PRESIDENT
- PUBLIC LAW
- PUBLIC OPINION-QUORUM
- REFERRED
- REPORT
- REPRESENTATIVE
- ROLL CALL
- SENATE SENATOR
- SIGNATURE
- SPEAKER
- STATUTE
- VETO
- VICE PRESIDENT
- VOTE
- WHIP

G	P	O	A	C	C	E	S	S	P	F	S	V	L	E	E	C	P
W	R	I	T	E	Y	O	I	U	I	E	I	L	N	S	Y	A	I
M	A	R	K	U	P	G	B	L	N	C	A	R	U	G	T	U	H
P	U	R	C	O	N	L	I	A	E	C	O	O	N	N	I	C	W
G	U	R	E	A	I	B	T	P	L	L	H	I	S	S	R	U	P
E	R	B	T	C	U	O	R	L	L	E	R	S	R	O	O	S	E
N	M	U	L	S	R	E	O	E	H	A	M	E	E	M	J	E	E
D	R	A	T	I	S	R	D	T	E	L	S	R	K	G	A	S	T
E	W	E	A	I	C	M	F	H	L	L	I	B	A	D	M	M	T
D	R	R	D	H	U	O	T	N	E	D	I	S	E	R	P	D	I
I	Q	E	N	R	K	N	P	T	J	Q	V	R	P	S	O	O	M
S	N	U	O	R	H	D	U	I	I	O	R	T	S	A	T	U	M
T	B	U	E	V	I	T	A	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	E	R	O
R	Q	L	E	T	A	B	E	D	F	I	R	T	S	O	V	X	C
I	C	R	W	T	Z	E	U	E	H	W	O	A	V	U	P	K	U
C	N	V	S	L	A	N	R	U	O	J	W	N	J	O	O	E	S
T	C	A	P	I	T	O	L	H	O	P	P	E	R	I	T	H	R
C	O	N	F	E	R	E	N	C	E	C	T	S	V	V	M	E	D

HIDDEN MESSAGE



January 2015

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Check the "Dues Expired" date on your envelope label. If your dues are not current, please send a check for \$5.00 per year for National dues. Mail them to:
Treasurer Trisa Mannion at
3038 Cloverdale Court, Grand Junction, CO 81506
- State and Local dues should be paid to your state and local treasurers.
- Welcome to Karen See as our new District 5 Coordinator
- Congratulations to Bonnie Sevre who was appointed to the position of Legislative Aide Editor.
- If you live in District 3 (ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO) and would like to be considered for the position of District 3 Coordinator, please contact President Kathy Danek



The U.S. Mail is NOT for Sale

Staples and the U.S. Postal Service have cut a deal that jeopardizes your mail service and your local post office. In fact, post offices across the country are at risk – along with thousands of good jobs.

The Staples deal will replace full-service U.S. Post Offices with knock-off post offices in Staples stores that are not staffed with U.S. Postal Service employees.

You have a right to post offices staffed by workers who are accountable to you and the American people. You have a right to postal services provided by highly trained, uniformed Postal Service employees, who are sworn to safeguard your mail – whether it's at the Post Office or Staples.

The Staples deal is bad for consumers like you who will pay the same for less service. And if Staples and the USPS move forward with this deal, it could lead to the end of the Postal Service as we know it.

In the meantime, the Staples deal is replacing living-wage jobs that our community depends on with low-wage jobs that hurt our economy.



STOP STAPLES
The U.S. Mail is Not for Sale!
Get the whole story at StopStaples.com

Auxiliary News and Views

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