

# News & Views



Volume 30 Issue 5

January, 2014

## January Notes 2014

20th—MLK Day  
31st—Chinese New Year



### BUILDING A COALITION OF FRIENDS *Don't Dismantle or Privatize our Postal Service*

By Kathy Danek, President

Calling Kalispell Montana. Hello Des Moines Iowa. Hey out there in Bossier City, Louisiana.  
Can anyone here me - is there anyone there?

It's time to build a coalition of support - those who would be most affected by Representative Issa & Republican Agenda to dismantle and privatize the United States Postal Service. Whether it is Traverse City Michigan, Bangor Maine, Medford Oregon or Mission Texas we all have something very precious to lose.

Before we build this coalition let's ask ourselves a few very pertinent questions:

- \* *Why does 90% of the American public (that's the people who use the USPS) approve of the U.S. Mail?*
- \* *Why do we have universal service?*
- \* *Why do we have a single cost format for the U.S. Mail - one ounce for 46 cents currently?*
- \* *Why would a president elected by the slimmest of margins try to privatize and dismantle a public service with a 90% approval rating?*
- \* *Who would benefit if the USPS were privatized?*
- \* *Who would be the losers if we privatize the USPS?*

**PROTECT UNIVERSAL SERVICE AT A UNIVERSAL PRICE** Now that we have asked the questions – have you come up with the answers? Privatizing the USPS would benefit the populous sectors of the nation – but would also limit the services now available. True, you might be able to mail a letter across New York City cheaper – but there is a price to pay for that service. To mail a letter to Albany might cost 40 cents. And how about if you wanted to mail a letter to Aunt Minnie in Kalispell Montana – do you really think you could mail it for less than 46 cents if it is privatized? But it goes much deeper than that. It's not just the private correspondence. Even with the increase in usage of email and the Internet the fact is that all people do not now have access to these services. It's just like the telephone – it costs money to use these services. If you currently mail 20 letters a month (that's 20 times you correspond) the cost is \$9.20 to anyplace in the US. Is your email service less than that – and is there a limit to the amount of time you can use it before you have additional cost? How about those long distance telephone calls – they charge by the minute – and sometimes more expensive inside your state than across the nation. There are lots of options for both phone and email service – but none of them are consistent, secure or protected. There is no consistent price – for the service – a “one size fits all” - to every nook and cranny of this great nation. That's the beauty of universal service. It serves everyone – not just a few—and for the same price no matter what, no matter where. (continued on page 2)



Check out our website  
[www.apwuauiliary.org](http://www.apwuauiliary.org)

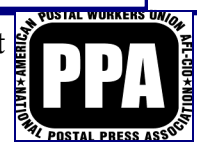
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## Building a Coalition of Friends

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**Security of the Mail** - How do we protect the mail from contamination – and also protect the workers? Obviously it would be almost impossible to trace a biological attack on the mails. If there were forty different companies any half-baked terrorist could drop a contaminated letter in each of the boxes. One service might catch it – maybe even two – but there will always be that one company who puts profit before service. That is a prescription for disaster. The 2002 federalization of the airline security is an example for us all.

**Protecting Our Way of Life** – In rural Nebraska a great many communities rely on the USPS for their business. Every other state in this great nation shares the same situation. Their chamber of commerce members, local businesses, city councils and mayors would be very interested in protecting this communication source in their community. There are mail order catalogs, bank by mail, bill paying, communications, church and civic organizing and much much more. Even now the private delivery package companies do not offer universal service to every community. And don't forget about the thousands of citizens who receive their prescription medications (at a much reduced cost) by mail. Realistically the USPS handles personal correspondence, medical needs, and daily business.

**Ask yourself WHY???** Is it Profit or Public Service? There is a very large group of business mailers who wish to compromise the existence of the US Mail and universal service. There are those who would like to skim the cream – the larger communities – and leave the delivery of the mail to the rural parts of this country to the USPS. That's the more costly part. Why would congressional leaders propose this? The only answer I can see is PROFIT. Why is it bad? – because the USPS operates on a cost for service as a public service. It is prohibited from making a profit and requires service to every address of the United States. We also get mail to our men and women in the Armed Forces – for that same 46 cents- no matter where they serve in the world. Would a private company do that – and for that amount of money? The USPS does a pretty good job and keeps 90% of our citizens happy. We need to send a message to the Congress of the US to prevent further erosion of service from the United States Postal Service. Sure, they can make a few changes – tweak the law if you must – but don't privatize. Protect universal service, and protect the livelihood of the thousands of men and women who dedicate their lives to the daily delivery of mail to their communities.

**What Can You Do?** We need to begin putting together a list of friends, neighbors, business associates and local political entities. We need to build a coalition from the ground up. We need names, addresses, emails, telephone numbers. We need your help.

Begin putting together a contact list in your community and do it today. Please drop me a note, call me or email me as soon as your list is compiled. Thanks for your help and Lets Work Together. The U.S. Postal Service belongs to all of us. The members of the American Postal Workers Union and their Auxiliary want to protect this great public service for today and for generations to come.

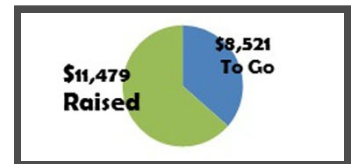
## 2013-2014 Auxiliary Human Relations Project Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team

Joyce Tanguay, District 7 Coordinator

With the hustle and bustle of the holidays behind us and the New Year ahead of us now is the time to move on and see what is in store for all of us. As we contemplate what is ahead, let us take time to reflect and thank all the men and women in the military who put their lives at risk for all of us, everyday. For those of you who have taken the time to read our News & Views (and we hope you all have), or to check out the Auxiliary website, [apwuauxiliary.org](http://apwuauxiliary.org), you already know that the auxiliary is supporting one group of military men and woman who did just that; The Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team (WWAST). For more information on this team go to [wounded-warrioramputeesoftballteam.org](http://wounded-warrioramputeesoftballteam.org). Our goal is to raise \$20,000 by National Convention in Chicago in July of 2014 so that these men and woman may continue to travel and be positive role models by showing others that Life Without A Limb Is Limitless. We are halfway to our goal and want to thank all of you who have already supported this cause and ask those of you who haven't to please consider doing so.

No amount is too small and you may send your checks to the National Treasurer,  
Trisa Mannion  
3038 Cloverdale Ct.,  
Grand Junction, CO 81506.

Thank you and Happy New Year!



Scan QR code to get connected to the Auxiliary Website.



## Pedia-Sure

Expecting moms have many significant decisions to make about their new bundle of joy. One big decision is selecting a pediatrician. Remember, this will be the advisor, guide, and partner in raising a healthy happy child. Over the course of your nine months journey, take some time to consider the needs of your family's care. This is one of the most important relationships you are going to have so you absolutely need to feel comfortable and trust your pediatrician.

### TIP's for finding a Pediatrician

- 1. Know the Network:**  
APWU Health Plan offers comprehensive network options. While, you are always free to seek the services of any provider, worldwide. Selecting an in-network provider would offer you the least out-of-pocket costs. All in-network providers are investigated to ensure that they are properly board certified and in good standing with the state licensing agencies. To view our provider directory, go to [apwuhp.com](http://apwuhp.com) and click on Provider Directory.
- 2. Get a Head Start:**  
Start your search while you are pregnant. Doing the research can take weeks or even months. Talk to family, friends, co-workers, your obstetrician and other health care professionals to get referrals. Narrow it down to the three top choices that meet your criteria.
- 3. See and Feel:**  
Visiting the office/ website, or talking over the phone will give you a feel for personal style. Some pediatricians will agree to an interview. If an interview is scheduled draft a list of questions. You can start with questions about vaccines or breastfeeding to get the conversation going. Determine if there is a connection, as you want to build a relationship as well as have a knowledgeable expert on hand.
- 4. Availability is Key:**  
It is very important to know your doctor's availability for visits and emergencies that come up off hours. If this is a group practice you should also become familiar with the other doctors.
- 5. Location Matters:**  
With a new baby you will be making a number of visits so you want a short commute. You also want to identify the hospital affiliation to ensure their location and standard of care are reputable and meet your requirements.
- 6. Go with your Gut:**  
Evaluate the office environment and pick up on signs. You want this to be a lasting relationship that grows with your child. Ask yourself is this a place that is accommodating for a healthy as well as a sick child and their parents. Trust your instincts to kick in and direct your decision.



## 2014 Nilan Scholarship

Submitted by Mary Lois Clayson—District 2 Coordinator

### **YOU are Eligible-to win our 2014 Nilan Scholarship**

Did you know that as a recipient of this **News and Views**, (a member of the Auxiliary for the past year and this new year), you now are eligible to apply for our **\$750.00 Nilan Adult Continuing Education Scholarship**? Whether you are interested in improving skills you already have in computers, writing, languages, music, etc., or have a wish to learn something completely new, this scholarship is a good way to go. It is **completely free**-no paying back-and will be available to you for the Fall of 2014. So why not set a goal to enter? You could be our next winner!

Applications are available on the Auxiliary to the APWU website. All you need to do is:

Fill out the official application form.

Write an essay on the 2014 topic:

**“Why is buying USA or Union-made products so important?”**

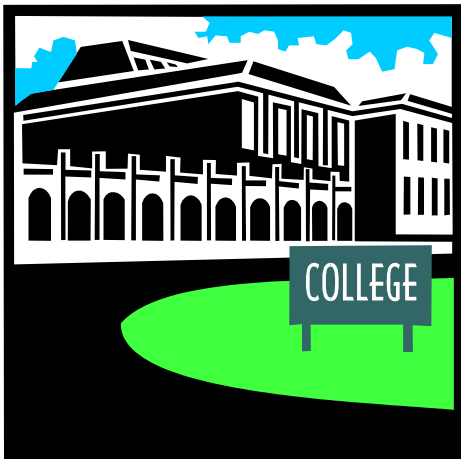
All essays must be typed, double-spaced on white paper and be between 175-250 words.

Send your **application and essay** together in an envelope via Certified Mail, Return Receipt requested, to:

Mary Lois Clayson  
180 W. Apple Blossom Way  
Salem, UT 84653

Entries must be postmarked on or before **July 1, 2014**.

You will be notified by mail whether or not you have won.



# Special Wishes and Remembrances

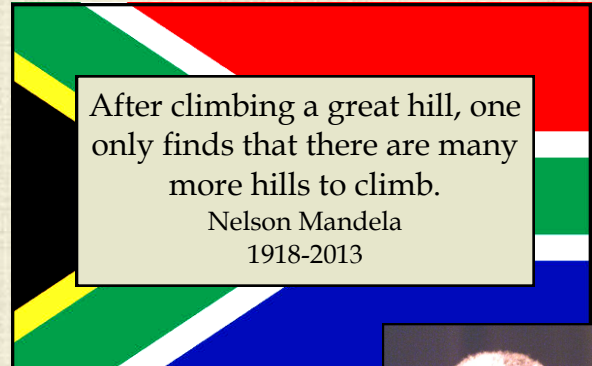
***Mandela helped South Africa break the practice of racial segregation and do away with white minority rule.***

Imprisoned for nearly three decades for his fight against state-sanctioned racial segregation, he was freed in 1990 and quickly set about working to unite the nation through forgiveness and reconciliation.

"As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison," Mandela said.

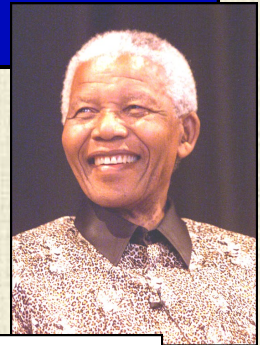
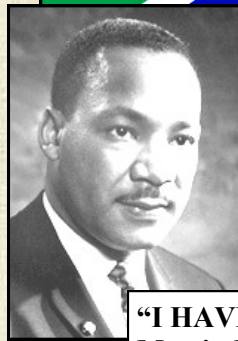
His rejection of vengeance led him to assume roles that led from freedom fighter to prisoner to a world symbol of the struggle against racial oppression.

And, four years after he left prison, he became the nation's first black president, cementing his place in the consciousness of the nation and the world.



After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.

Nelson Mandela  
1918-2013



**"I HAVE A DREAM"**  
**Martin Luther King, Jr.,**  
(January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968)

**Share your Blessings with those in need.**

Collecting Food for the hungry  
Warm Clothes  
Sharing gifts from the heart  
A child's Gift  
A Warm Blanket

**GET WELL!**

Get well wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Ed Brennen.

The Auxiliary would like to wish past District 1 Coordinator, Marie Clark, a speedy recovery.



**Betty Jo "Joey," Ballantini** of the Bloomington Local Auxiliary and the Illinois State Auxiliary served as an officer at the state and local levels for many years. She will be missed and we send our love and sympathy to her husband Bob, family and friends.



We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the Gary and Colette Phillippe family for the loss of Gary's mother, Betty Joy Phillippe.

The auxiliary was deeply saddened by the passing of Rebecca Lothamer, wife of Tom and long term Michigan auxiliary member. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

*A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies. It brings us together again and again.*  
~ Maya Angelou

# COPA

**Happy New Year and greetings from the great white north.** This month finds me thinking of warm weather and missing my flip flops even though I will be wearing my snow shoes and cuddle duds. This is the time of year I also start getting my ideas together about working on COPA fundraisers. I love to brainstorm with different people and see what new and crazy thing we can come up with to get you the APWU member to donate even more money than you already do while making it fun.

During seminars and conventions, one of the hardest things to do is get the members to write their information down on the COPA contribution form. Our legislative department really needs this information for reporting requirements and that you the member know where your donation level is when you attend the national convention. The coordinators sometimes get calls from 1300 L street, when information is needed or sheets aren't turned in. So I am sharing this with you so that you can help them and yourselves out. Remember to write legibly so you get that credit. While I was thinking about more COPA ideas I thought I would look up the regulations that we are governed by and share them with you. You can also find them on the APWU Auxiliary web-site as well as the APWU site. Remember COPA monies are distributed to a candidate that believes in the United States Postal Service regardless of their political affiliation. So here are the rules and stay tuned for fundraising ideas in the next couple of issues of the News and Views.



## SUMMARY OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING COPA SOLICITATIONS

1. Solicitations for contributions to COPA, the APWU Committee on Political Action, may only be sent to people who are part of the APWU family.

This group, called our "**restricted class**" includes:

- ◇ All APWU members and their families;
- ◇ All APWU retiree members and their families; and
- ◇ All APWU executive and administrative employees and their families.

"Solicitations" are broadly defined to include communications that encourage COPA contributions or provide detailed information about how to make them, in addition to outright appeals for donations.

This means that, if you use your local newsletter to solicit contributions, you should not send that issue to people outside our "restricted class." Do not send those solicitations to other unions, public officials, or other people who might be on your mailing list.

This also means that **union bulletin boards and Web pages** that are viewed by people who are not part of our "restricted class" may not be used for COPA solicitations.

It is permissible to:

- ◇ Announce the existence of COPA and explain the legal requirements that apply to its activities;
- ◇ Provide information about how much COPA has raised, the number of contributors, and the number of candidates supported; and
- ◇ Identify federal candidates who have been supported by COPA, as long as the publication does not suggest that support for COPA would help elect or defeat those candidates.

2. The **Hatch Act** prohibits all "political activities" on postal premises. The U.S. Office of Special Counsel, which enforces the Hatch Act, has interpreted this to mean that COPA fundraising activities are not permitted on the workroom floor or in non-work areas, including steward rooms or union offices on postal premises.

# COPA

3. All COPA solicitations, in publications or personal appeals, should be accompanied by a "**disclaimer**" that gives assurances that all contributions are voluntary and that no favor will be bestowed or withheld as a result of a contribution or the failure to make a contribution. The following language, which is on the APWU COPA contribution form, should be reprinted in any publication or correspondence urging COPA contributions:

*This COPA solicitation is paid for by the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, 1300 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. (202) 842-4200; it is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Contributions or gifts to COPA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. COPA will use the contributions it receives for political purposes, including making contributions to candidates for federal, state and local offices, and addressing political issues of public importance. Contributions to COPA are voluntary. More or less than the suggested amount may be given, and the amount given or the refusal to give will not benefit or disadvantage the person being solicited. Federal law requires political action committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.*

4. Contributors should be asked to use the [COPA contribution form \[PDF\]](#). This will assist COPA in meeting its reporting requirements and will automatically provide contributors with the disclaimer language shown above.

5. Local unions, state organizations, and APWU auxiliaries may use treasury funds to urge members to contribute to COPA.

Union treasury fund expenditures should not amount to more than one third of the amount raised for COPA. For example, if a local purchases a prize for a COPA raffle, the cost of the prize may not exceed one-third of the amount raised for COPA. (If it does, COPA must return some of the money to the local.)

6. Fund-raising efforts may include:

- ◊ Personal appeals by union officers and stewards directed to APWU members (such as handing a member a COPA contribution form);
- ◊ Articles in your local newsletter, including a COPA contribution form for use in sending contributions;
- ◊ Direct mail appeals for contributions. (Include a COPA contribution form.)
- ◊ Raffles (must comply with state law).
- ◊ Bake sales, rummage sales, and other similar activities.



An evening with  
*Hillary Rodham Clinton*  
Former Secretary of State and Former U.S. Senator from New York

President Danek and her sister Anne Jensen, along with their spouses, Gene and Terry, with Hillary Rodham Clinton, in Minneapolis.

Spanish: De enero  
Italian: Gennaio  
French: Janvier  
German: Januar  
Polish: Stycznia  
Latin: January

Many cultures celebrate New Years Day on March 21st, the Spring Equinox. The Coptic and Russian Orthodox Churches celebrate Christmas on January 7.

Birthstone: Garnet  
Flower: Carnation  
Capricorn: December 22 - January 19  
Aquarius: January 20 - February 18

January is named after the Roman god Janus, who was always shown as having two heads. He looked back to the last year and forward to the new one. The Roman New Year festival was called the Calends, and people decorated their homes and gave each other gifts.



## January Facts

- January in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to July in the Southern Hemisphere and vice versa.
- According to Facebook users, January is "Change Your Profile Picture To A Muppet" Month
- January 1st, 1776, the first American flag, the "Grand Union" was presented. Betsy Ross later added the stars in place of the Union Jack.
- Leap years exempted, January always begins on the same day as October.
- In leap years, January always begins on the same day as April and July.
- The Chinese floral emblem of January is the plum blossom
- January is National Soup Month in the United States.
- The first SuperBowl was held at the L.A. Coliseum on January
- Jerry Rice has the most touchdowns in a Superbowl (8).



*Historically, the Horse is the symbol of power, so it is only natural that the Year of the Horse has been chosen as one of the symbols of the Chinese Zodiac. Seventh in the cycle of the Zodiac, the Horse years are: 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978,*

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## Save the Date

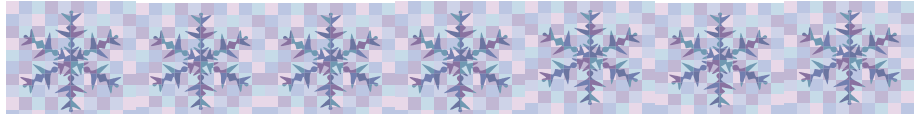
*National Convention to be held  
in Chicago, Illinois  
July 21st-25th, 2014  
Look for preconvention work-  
shop information coming soon.*

**REMEMBER!**

*Get your membership dues  
sent in as soon as possible.*



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