

News and Views



Volume 40
Issue 9

News & Views is published bi-monthly - by the Auxiliary for the Auxiliary,
224 38th Street West Des Moines IA 50265

We are a proud member of the APWU Postal Press Association

Color editions of News and Views may be viewed on the Auxiliary Website:
www.apwuauxiliary.org

November-December 2025

Why Should You Be Active in the Auxiliary?

By: Trisa Mannion-President



Why Should You Be Active in the Auxiliary? The following are a few benefits available to your family that you will learn about by being an active member.

Voluntary Benefits offers an array of plans, including dental for the APWU member and family. <https://voluntarybenefitsplan.com/>. There

are a few plans that you can purchase or apply for if you are not the spouse of an APWU member.

The Accident Benefit Association also offers several family plans. <https://apw-aba.org/>. Check out the benefits for you and your family.

The APWU Health Plan is offered to families, including surviving spouses. Open Season is November 10 through December 8 this year. For more information about this comprehensive plan, visit APWUHP.com or OPM.gov to compare the plans we offer through PSHP.

The intangible benefits of belonging to the Auxiliary to the American Postal Workers Union are priceless in most people's lives. You can never have too many friends who are working toward the same goals, and that is something we offer without effort. You will meet people and make friends to share the fun with. Chances are, they are people that you would never meet without belonging to the Auxiliary. We offer projects for you to work on together and get to know members from all over the country. You can meet them during our Zipline (ZOOM) meetings, at conventions, and at rallies.

Our Human Relations projects offer you a chance to help other people in all walks of life. This is a very rewarding experience that helps make the world a better place. You will be fulfilled and enjoy the friendships all at the same time. Does this sound too good to be true? Come find out! Do you have hidden skills? We love to give you the opportunity to use them to help others. We always want our members to excel at things they do best. Do you want to learn new skills? This is the group to join and be active in because we share

cont. on page 5



Inside this issue:

All-Craft Conference 2025	2
All-Craft Pictures	3
My Husband the Veteran A Note from the Treasurer	4
Bridgebuilder Guidelines Why Should you be Active in the Auxiliary? Zipline Notice	5
Bridgebuilder Nomination Form	6
APWU Health Plan	7
Human Relations Project CASA/GAL	8

All-Craft Conference 2025

By: Janice Gillespie-Legislative Aide-Editor

The All-Craft Conference, held in Las Vegas, Nevada, was an educational, inspiring, and unifying event, with Auxiliary members present throughout.

We had Auxiliary officers in the three-day Secretary-Treasurer training class and the Legislative classes, soaking up information to pass along to our members.

Volunteers and officers staffed the registration tables and kiosks, acted as guides for those in need, sold raffle tickets, and collected memberships in the Auxiliary booth. One industrious member, Kelly Macho, modeled the Auxiliary aprons throughout the exhibit halls and sold them all.

A class focusing on the “Fish Philosophy” was held on the last two mornings of the conference. This class, led by President Trisa Mannion, centered around the four principles demonstrated by employees of the Seattle Fish Market. The principles are “Be There”, “Play”, “Make Someone’s Day”, and last but not least “Choose Your Attitude”. The class discussed ways to incorporate the core values of



Karen Wolver, Cheryl Cote,
Roxanne Heckman, Barb Maciejewski

the fish sellers into our Auxiliary meetings, when recruiting new members, encouraging current members, and even in our day-to-day lives. We plan to share this class via Zipline to all attendees in the near future.

We had several National APWU Officers join our class to offer their thanks and appreciation for all the help that our members provide. What we do matters and is noticed.

We must continue to fight for the issues facing the future of the Postal Service, as that future affects us all. Keep making the phone calls and encourage others to do the same. Continue to be educators; we are the experts when it comes to the Postal Service. Spread that knowledge around.

Take the proclamations printed in the last issue of the “News and Views” to your local government agencies. Get them adopted and signed. For more information and a copy of the proclamation and guidelines, please visit: [APWU.org/250](https://www.apwu.org/250).



Kelly Macho, Rebecca Kingsley



Trisa Mannion, Hannah Decker, Carol Griffin, Arline Holmes



THANK YOU
Volunteers!
We couldn't do it without you

Thank You to all who volunteered at the All-Craft Conference. The registration tables and the Auxiliary booth were always well-staffed and your professionalism, enthusiasm, and hard work was much appreciated.

“A selfless action is a source of strength”-Mahatma Gandhi

All-Craft Pictures



Barb Maciejewski and Janeil Payne
presenting \$500 to Jackson Brown



Janeil Payne presenting \$50 to LaSharn Williams the
winner of the membership drawing



Roseanna Conlin, Shelly Willard



Karen Wolver, Lisa Beer, Janice Gillespie and in the poster is
Past Auxiliary President Doris Poland



A.J. Jones addressing the class



Auxiliary Booth

My Husband, the Veteran

By: Arline Holmes-District 6 Coordinator

My husband and I met shortly after he separated from the military. At that time, he was in the process of adjusting to civilian life. He shared many stories about his military friendships, life overseas, and various experiences. As you can imagine, I felt as if I had lived through those moments with him.

Following his military service, he worked as a postal worker for over forty years. During his time there, he became a member of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), first serving as a steward and later as the local president.

One year, he organized our local participation in the Richmond Veterans' Day parade. My husband is a strong supporter of his fellow veterans and deeply respects what they have endured. Additionally, we have attended a complimentary breakfast on Veterans' Day to honor those who have served.



A Note from the Treasurer

By: Janeil Payne-National Treasurer

It is the beginning of the new year again, and with that comes the year of the National Convention. Keeping the membership list up to date for the Auxiliary is essential for all of you, so you will know how many members you can credential for the conventions. I need the following information from you each time you receive a membership and are sending it to me:

1. A legible, complete first and last name.
2. A legible address, phone number, and email address.
3. The name of the local is spelled out completely and legibly.
4. The front of the envelope provides an exact record of the amount inside.

If you are sending a list of members, please list them:

1. By the full local name first
2. By the members' names, last name first, in alphabetical order under the proper local.
3. The number of years for which the member is paying.

If you are a state Treasurer, please keep the amounts for any locals and send the money directly to that local, keep your share of the dues that go to your state organization, and send a check for the national portion to me:

Janeil Payne-Treasurer 4678 Duke Ct NE Salem, OR 97301-2025.



Left-Trisa Mannion-
President

Right-Executive Board
missing-
Debra Stewart
Kath Walker



Bridgebuilder Award Guidelines

The Bridge Builders Award was designed to recognize those members of either the Auxiliary or the APWU who have shown support for the Auxiliary. Those who are honored with this award are active in one or more of the following areas:

1. Assisting the Union/Auxiliary
2. Human Relations
3. Legislation
4. Political Action
5. Public Relations
6. Organizing/ Recruiting



This award is given only once a year and to one person per state. The letter of nomination must be from an **Auxiliary Member** and list the areas in which the person is active. The person may receive the award only once. We encourage all Auxiliary members, in good standing, to submit a letter of nomination for a member Local or State Auxiliary or APWU. That person may be someone that no one really sees. It may be the member who sells all those entire rolls of raffle tickets to help raise funds, or the member who lugs all the boxes and helps set up. That member may have written countless letters to their representatives or helped during a campaign. The list goes on and on.

Those members are out there, and they deserve recognition and reward. Please take a few minutes to tell us about that member.

The deadline is **January 1, 2026**.

Be sure to include the name, city, and state, and local name, and tell us about the accomplishments they have made in the areas above. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper and attach it to the nomination form, see page

Please use black ink to fill out the nomination form.

You may email the completed form and optional nomination letter to: **Lisa Beer at lbeer@apwuauxiliary.org** or send the form and optional letter by mail to: **Lisa Beer, 3006 N 5th Ave, Whitehall, PA 18052-7404.**

There are members out there who deserve this award. Take a minute to read the guidelines, and if you have someone like that in your local or state, nominate them for the award.

cont. from page 1

our knowledge, teach each other new things, and help each other succeed.

We love to have fun and work to accomplish things that are very rewarding and worth the time spent. You can give us two hours or hundreds of hours. We are thankful for them all.

We make a difference in the world with a lot of fun friends. Are you a member but not active yet? Feel free to join our next Zipline. We will have a theme for this Zipline. Watch for the News Flash with the details. Normally, we have training, special guests, or something exciting to share. This one will be our yearly celebration of all that was accomplished this year. If you do not receive the News Flash via email, please send it to me at **tmannion@apwuauxiliary.org**.

Time to Celebrate another Great Year in the Auxiliary!

Drawing for a \$50 gift card

Zipline-December 2, 2025 8:00 p.m. ET

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: ***https://zoom.us/j/368309307***

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16699006833,368309307# or +16465588656,368309307#

Or Telephone:

Dial: (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 646 558 865



Bridge Builders Award Nomination Form

Please Send (via U.S. Mail or email) completed form of nomination to:
Lisa Beer 3006 N 5th Ave Whitehall, PA 18052 lbeer@apwuauxiliary.org



PLEASE USE BLACK INK TO FILL OUT FORM
THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR NOMINATION

1. Name of person being nominated:

2. City and State that nominee is from:

3. Which of the following has the nominee been active in? (Check all that apply)

- a. Assisting the Union/Auxiliary ☐
- b. Legislation/Political Action ☐
- c. Public Relations ☐
- d. Human Relations ☐
- e. Organizing/Recruiting ☐
- f. Other (Please Specify) ☐

4. Has the nominee been or is an Officer in the APWU or Auxiliary to the APWU? APWU ☐ AUXILIARY ☐

5. Offices held and at what level?

_____ State _____ Local _____

6. How many years has this person been a member (if known)

7. Is their family member involved? (Brief description)

8. Did they chair any committees for their local or State? Yes ☐ please give details

9. Did they implement any new programs at the State or local level? yes ☐ please give details

10. Please tell us about any community service they are or have been involved in:

11. Name, address, and local of the person submitting this nomination:

Date Submitted _____

Submitted by (name and local) -----

****FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 1st, 2026****



2026 BENEFITS & PREMIUMS

★ CONSUMER DRIVEN OPTION ★

What's new for 2026

- ★ Up to \$200 for custom orthotics from any podiatrist
- ★ \$25 wellness incentive for a colonoscopy or Cologuard
- ★ 100% in-network coverage for male sterilization, after deductible is met

Your cost (in-network)

- No upfront deductible, coinsurance or copay until you exhaust your PCA
- Receive a discount on prescriptions when you use OptumRx® Home Delivery

★ HIGH OPTION ★

What's new for 2026

- ★ Up to \$200 for custom orthotics from any podiatrist
- ★ 100% coverage for male sterilization

Your cost (in-network)

- \$10 for a virtual visit (\$0 for first 2 visits)
- \$25 for office visits, including specialists
- \$30 for urgent care
- \$10 for retail non-specialty Tier 1 drugs

CONSUMER DRIVEN OPTION

Monthly rates

Self

PSHB enrollment code 23D
\$197.39

Self Plus One

PSHB enrollment code 23F
\$429.01

Self & Family

PSHB enrollment code 23E
\$468.02

★ Special biweekly rates for career APWU bargaining unit employees enrolled in PSHB for more than one year ★

Self

PSHB enrollment code 23D

Less than
1 year & PSE
\$91.10

★★★★★
More than
1 year
\$18.22

Self Plus One

PSHB enrollment code 23F

Less than
1 year & PSE
\$198.00

★★★★★
More than
1 year
\$39.60

Self & Family

PSHB enrollment code 23E

Less than
1 year & PSE
\$216.01

★★★★★
More than
1 year
\$43.20

HIGH OPTION

Self

PSHB enrollment code 23A

Biweekly
\$107.15

Monthly/Retiree
\$232.16

Self Plus One

PSHB enrollment code 23C

Biweekly
\$216.18

Monthly/Retiree
\$468.38

Self & Family

PSHB enrollment code 23B

Biweekly
\$275.94

Monthly/Retiree
\$597.87

Medicare Advantage

- \$0 copays for covered services
- \$60 quarterly over-the-counter item allowance
- \$100 monthly Part B premium subsidy
- Vision eyewear allowance benefit

**Human Relations Project
Court Appointed Special Advocates
Guardians ad Litem**

By: Brooke Schilling-Human Relations Chair



At the National Auxiliary to the American Postal Workers' Convention in Detroit this past July, we selected CASA/GAL (Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardians ad Litem) as our two-year human relations project. Over the past year, our members have shown tremendous dedication in supporting CASA's important mission to

advocate for vulnerable children within the foster care and juvenile justice systems.

CASA volunteers serve as the voice for children in court, ensuring their best interests are represented during challenging legal proceedings. By supporting CASA, our Auxiliary helps provide a consistent, caring advocate for children who might otherwise go unheard.

Throughout the year, the Auxiliary has actively raised funds at state conventions and Auxiliary meetings, and reached out to the 500 largest APWU locals for donations. Many individuals and locals also contributed directly to their own local CASA programs. A great example of this is Southern Oregon Area Local 342, which generously donated \$500 to the Jackson/Josephine County CASA program, directly benefiting children in their area.

Late last year, National CASA faced an unexpected challenge when several critical grants were terminated. This resulted in the temporary closure of National CASA's national offices as they pursued an appeal. Due to this uncertainty, the National Auxiliary Executive Board made the careful decision to pause fundraising until the organization's future was secure. We felt it was important to ensure that all donations would directly support a functioning CASA program.

Fortunately, National CASA successfully won its appeal, and funding was reinstated, allowing them to resume their vital work. With this positive outcome, the National Auxiliary is excited to resume and expand our fundraising efforts. We have already raised over \$800 at the recent All Craft Conference and look forward to presenting increased donations to CASA at our next National Auxiliary Convention in Los Angeles, August 2025.

We encourage all APWU locals and members to continue supporting CASA/GAL through donations, fundraising activities, and community outreach. Together, we can help ensure that children across the country receive the advocacy and support they deserve.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this project so far. Your generosity is making a meaningful difference in the lives of children, and we are eager to build on this momentum in the coming year.

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