



NEWS & VIEWS

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New Year...New Members

By: Trisa Mannion - President

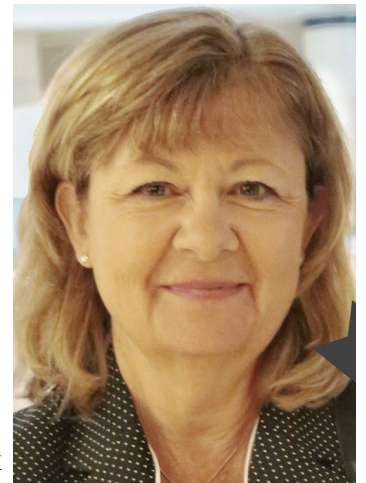
The beginning of a new year is the time to reflect on the things of the past and build on them for the future. We are doing that in the Auxiliary too. Let's take a few minutes within each of the locals and states to set goals and decide exactly what we are going to accomplish this year.

I am sure you would all like to attract more active members. When we stop to plan this process keep in mind that the best way to get a new member is to personally invite them, followed closely by a phone call, then a personal letter and then a broad appeal in a newsletter or publication. In fact, using all of them at some point is a good idea.

When you have attracted the new members, they will want to do something in the organization. Decide what projects you want to promote, such as the Fisher House, working on the postal issues, and local issues that promote community support for the APWU. Ask your new friends for a few hours to make that project a

success. Have something specific in mind when you invite them to be a part of the organization. Remember that most people join an organization to help others, learn a new skill, use their skills, all at the same time they are feeling empowered within themselves. Helping others is very cathartic for your own well-being.

Always make it fun to be a part of your organization and keep things positive. Let's have some fun while we make things better in this world. We want to build this organization by starting at the local level, state level and finally at the national level. We need each of you to reach out and ask a person to join and be a



part of this wonderful organization we call the Auxiliary to the American Postal Workers Union. We are personally inviting you to be a part of the growth and fun. Come join us!

Our next Zipline meeting is February 5 at 8:00 pm EST. <https://zoom.us/j/368309307> or call for more information.

Wishing you success and happiness in this New Year.



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Make It Personal

by Janice Gillespie -Editor-Legislative Aide

It was a dark day on April 12th, 2018. That was the day the Task Force on the United States Postal Service lead by executive order was created. Its directive was to evaluate the operations and finance of the USPS and report back to the President.

The Task Force consisted of the directors of the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, Mick Mulvaney, and the United States Office of Personnel Management, OPM, Jeff T H Pon, and chairperson Secretary Treasury, Steven Terner Mnuchen. They issued their findings on December 4th. An even darker day.

The findings of their investigation on this mandated report is not good for postal employees, their families, retirees, customers, or communities. It threatens our unions, postal salaries and benefits and will hinder service for individuals and businesses. It lays the groundwork for privatization which is opposed by members of congress on both sides of the aisle.

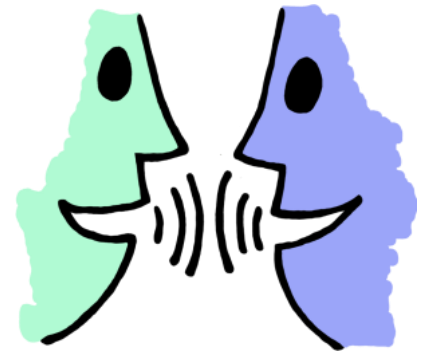
This report suggests selling access to mailboxes to other delivery companies and removes cost caps on mail and package delivery. It recommends re-defining the USPS Universal Service Obligation. The USO is what ensures service to everyone no matter where they live. These are obvious steps toward privatization. The Task Force also supports removing compensation for collective bargaining, or, in other

words, busting our unions. Reforming the federal government pension system by raising employee contributions and continuing the mandate for pre-funding retiree health benefits are also included in the plan.

We have to do what we can to put a stop to this. We need to keep calling and writing our representatives and senators, continue and increase our donations to COPA which supports our lobbyists, and talk, talk, talk. Talk

to your families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances, business owners, anyone who will listen. Make it personal. Tell everyone who will listen just how privatization of the post office will directly affect them. Lay it all out about the effects it would have on their pocketbooks, on their local economies, the ability to reach all corners of the world through the mail. How actually adding services, such as postal banking, could improve their lives. Encourage them to reach out to congress.

We as a whole, the unions, postal employees and retirees, auxiliary members, and customers fought and defeated Staples. Together we can make a difference.



We have partnered with the Postal Employees Relief Fund and encourage each family to donate to this fund that provides for postal families in time of great need. To donate anytime of the year visit www.postalrelief.com \$5.00 per month can make a big difference to our friends in need.



Impasse

by Janice Gillespie -Editor-Legislative Aide



Negotiations are at an impasse. The contract between the APWU and the USPS expired on September 20, 2018. There have been four extensions since talks started in July, but to no avail. The next step is Interest Arbitration. Its scary to think about a third party helping to decide matters concerning employee salaries and benefits, but President Mark Dimondstein and the APWU are ready to present a strong case to protect what has already been earned and to defend our further demands. He has stated that it may be necessary to invoke the Federal Mediation Conciliation Service as Interest Arbitration is a slow lengthy process. He urges all of us to stay strong and keep those Contract Action Teams going. Auxiliary members can help by staying informed and continuing to get community support. The current contract is still in effect until an agreement is reached and a new contract is ratified. Many of us have been through this before. We have to hang in there and keep fighting.



Most member's dues expire January 1. That means several states and locals will begin sending their dues to the treasurer very soon. We have a few requests that will insure they are credited correctly and with a lot less guessing.

When possible, type the list. Spreadsheets work great, if, the font is large enough to read without a magnifying glass. Try printing the sheet landscape if you need the space.

Sorting the members by local, then last name and first name is a huge help. We have a few states that have members with exactly the same name but a different address. It can become a guessing game when we try to credit the member. We don't know if the member moved or if they are a new member. Please do not sort your state membership by alphabetizing their last name.

We need to know how much each member submitted, if it is the same for each member, it does not need to be notated. Locals and states that have a set dues year (i.e.: January to January or May to May) please, note that for us. We will do our best to comply with your request.

Membership lists can be obtained from the treasurer upon request.



NOTICE

All checks by the National Auxiliary must be cashed prior to 02/01/2019. The previous account will be closed and the checks will no longer be negotiable.

My husband has been involved with the APWU since 1993, first as a union steward and then as a Local President. This allowed me in many ways to be associated with the union. One tends to learn a lot vicariously.

I joined the Auxiliary to the APWU to become more involved and to help wherever I could, such as, contributing to the hungry through our local organization, Feedmore, and our national campaign, Fisher House, which serves veterans families.

When I became the Local Auxiliary President, I prioritized the need to grow our membership. It has grown and continues to do so. This is an ongoing process.

Now, I am very happy to continue my association with the Auxiliary by becoming District Coordinator 6. Over the years Clara Hill has been to me, an outstanding inspiration, mentor and friend. I aspire to walk in her footsteps. I look forward to serving with the same fervor.

I want to thank all of you who participated by nominating someone for the Bridge Builders award. Giving flowers while we are alive is one of the greatest gifts.

My husband and I are members of Growth Unlimited Investments, Inc. Every Christmas we give to a deserving group. This year I asked that we contribute to Fisher House. We will be giving \$150.00.

Arline Holmes



WELCOME

I am honored to take over the position of Editor/Legislative Aide for our National Auxiliary. I retired from the USPS in 2015 after almost 39 years' service and joined our local auxiliary shortly after. My husband is still a postal employee and is both clerk craft director and a steward for our local union.

Bonnie Sevre has done a great job with the "News and Views" and I plan to do my best to emulate her work. I will also keep you updated on legislative issues concerning the post office and share our plans of action. My first thought after I took the oath of office was what have I done? And that was before I was fully aware of all this job pertained. Bonnie went from my mentor to my hero. Thank goodness for the members of our executive board. They have helped, and guided and advised and corrected and praised and encouraged me. We are a team. We are a family. We are here for all of you.

If you have questions or concerns do not hesitate to ask anyone on the board. That is what we are here for. Thanks to everyone for trusting me with this position. I will give it my all.



Hi to all my APWU Auxiliary friends. My name is Karen Wolver. Just wanting to introduce myself in case we haven't met yet.

I was elected as District 3 Coordinator at the 2018 National Convention and have hit the ground running.

I retired this March from USPS after 31 years. My last 20 had been spent in the VMF as a General Clerk and Storekeeper.

I feel blessed to be a part of this organization and look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

I live in Des Moines, Iowa and have been married for 37 years. We have one daughter, one son, 5 grandkids and 3 grand dogs. I'm very blessed to still have my mom who lives close by.

If you need help with anything, please don't hesitate to call or email me. I look forward to meeting you and working with you. We will have a lot to work for soon and it will take each and everyone of us to make us stronger than ever. You can find my contact information on the back page.



New Executive Board Members



Hello everyone. My name is Dorlisa Elerby. I am the APWU Auxiliary District 5 Coordinator. I began this position in August 2018. I have 25 years of service with the USPS and active union membership.

As the District 5 coordinator I am charged with overseeing 6 mid-western states that include Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Indiana. My goals are to reach out and expand the message of the APWU Auxiliary and gather more members. As auxiliary members we reach out to friends, family, neighbors, and people in our communities and offer volunteer time for charities, fund raising, and most important- building relationships. I believe that it takes grass roots efforts to ensure and support the union's vitality.

I encourage everyone to visit our webpage to stay up to date with news and events, www.apwuauxiliary.org. You can also email me directly at delerby@apwuauxiliary.org. I am excited and enthusiastic about this opportunity to play a vital role in support of the APWU and it's objectives. I believe in unions and will do my part to uplift the APWU Auxiliary as District 5 coordinator

Ask John? *About the Health Plan*

Let Us Help

John Marcotte -National Health Plan Director

As another year is about to pass us by, I wanted to make you aware that the APWU Health Plan may be able to assist you in some of your New Year resolutions. I will personally try to lose some of the weight I put on this past year and exercise on a more regular basis. A lot of research came out this year about how effective walking is to anyone's overall health and wellbeing, regardless of age. Brisk walking has tremendous health benefits without the risk of injury or joint pain associated with other exercises. As with any fitness program, talk your goals and fitness plan over with your doctor and work out what is best for you.

Below I have listed the programs that may help you with your new year's resolution. I wish each and every one of you a wonderful New Year filled with friends and family.

APWU High Option:

Savings on gym memberships, tobacco cessation, weight reduction, and more. Members would need to register with Healthy Rewards (MyCareAllies) <https://www.apwuhp.com/members/high-option/my-tools/> or call 1-800-582-1314, and select option 5



Weight Management Program <https://www.apwuhp.com/members/high-option/health-management-programs/weight/>

Visits with dietician/nutritionists.

Decreased risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes.

Calls with a wellness coach based on your need.

1-800-582-1314. Press 5 for weight management.

APWU Consumer Driven Option

Tobacco Cessation Program, enroll at no cost by contacting 1-800-718-1299.

WWW.APWUHP.COM

(800) 222-2798

**TOGETHER.
BETTER HEALTH.**

Get comprehensive health benefits at an affordable price.

APWU
HEALTH PLAN

New District 7 Coordinator

Lisa Beer District 7 Coordinator

Greetings from Pennsylvania... Many of you may already know me, but for those who do not, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Lisa Beer and I am honored to have been appointed as your new District 7 Coordinator. Joyce Tanguay has left some big shoes for me to fill and I am excited to get to work. Recently, I sent a letter to each APWU State President and will soon be sending one out to each Auxiliary president in my district. If you do not receive a letter, feel free to reach out to me and I will update the contact information I have for you. If you see me at a convention or even a NPC, please introduce yourself. Feel free to crack a joke about my last name. I have heard them all, (just for the record none of my children are named Bud, Michelob or Light). I love meeting new people, both APWU members and Auxiliary members. I work closely with Lehigh Valley Local 0268 of Pennsylvania and you can find me wherever they are. If you need help with anything, all you have to do is ask. I can't promise I will have answers for you right away, but I will get back to you. These are trying times for the APWU, so we must be diligent in our support and work as one. I hope everyone has a very joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year.



How would you like to zip line without leaving home?

Join Us for a Zip Line Meeting

WHEN: February 5, 2019

TIME: 8:00 Eastern Time

This is the perfect way to become more involved in your **APWU Auxiliary** and you get to cross zip lining off your bucket list.

(We won't tell anyone that you did it from your sofa)



2018-2020 Human Relations Project

By: Karen Wolver - Human Relations Chair

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

By now we have (or haven't) survived the Holiday Season. I hope you all have had a great Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you need any heartwarming, inspiring stories, I encourage you to log onto the Fisher House web page (www.fisherhouse.org) to see and hear all the great things this organization is doing for our Veteran's and their families.

This past November they have broken ground for a 16-bedroom Fisher House facility in New Mexico. This has been in the making for the last 10 years, and it is finally starting to happen!

There are so many ways that we can help with the Fisher House. Do you like to read, or know someone who does? If you purchase this World War II novel, "Shattered Sky" by Paul Byers, 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Fisher House. If you use Suave products and find their products with the "Suave Supports Military Families" logo on the package, Suave will donate \$1.00 to the Fisher House for each item purchased. Even if you don't use Suave products, they can be purchased and given to homeless or women's shelters. It's an easy win-win opportunity.

These are just a few ways we can help the Fisher House. I encourage you to let me know what you have done for them in the past and what you are doing now to help us raise much needed funds for them.

Please call or email me if there is anything, I can do to help you make this be an award-winning year for our Human Relations Project.



