

News and Views



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How to Build a Local or State Organization

By: Trisa Mannion-President



Whenever we gather members or interested individuals, I get asked this question. So, I decided to write an article with the basics included. The details are in the Organizing Packet and Handbook. To get this information, email or send a letter to Karen Wolver, Secretary, with your request. She will need to know your name, address, local, state, and phone number.

You first need a group of people who want an active organization. You need at least four people to form a local. We can teach you most of what you need to know and help you with the forms and paperwork.

Contact your District Coordinator for guidance. You can also contact the President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Legislative Aide-Editor. We will help you with each step. Our contact information is on the last page of the News & Views. Our website is www.apwuauxiliary.org.

Hold a few gatherings (meetings) to see what direction you want to take. Do you want to assist the local union, work on the national human relations project, help elect candidates who are for the union, work on a legislative change, or whatever you decide works best for your members? You need to have a direction or common goals.

A decision must be made on who will be president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer; this is as simple as

holding an election if several people are vying for the same position. You can also decide on what position you are willing to take until you can have an election. For guidance, talk to your Coordinator or me. Duties for these positions are all in the National Constitution, Handbook, and on the website www.apwuauxiliary.org.

Send the dues for new members to Bonnie Sevre, Treasurer. She will disseminate that information to the officers that need to be informed. The new members will receive the

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“All labor has dignity”

By: Janice Gillespie-Legislative Aide-Editor

“All labor has dignity” are the words Martin Luther King Jr spoke while addressing 10,000 people in support of members of AFSCME Local 1733, striking for better wages and working conditions. 40% of the 1300 black sanitation public works employees qualified for welfare. Sound familiar? Many postal workers were on welfare before the wildcat strike in 1970. King was a civil rights leader, philosopher, and union supporter. He was vocal about the idea that workers needed to fight for fair wages and benefits and the right to organize and be heard.

King was murdered while in Memphis in support of the sanitation workers, just one day after giving his famous “I’ve been to the mountaintop” speech. He died, but his message lives on. AFSCME flourished after King’s passing and became one of the largest unions in the country.

King believed that human rights included labor rights and economic equality. He fought alongside workers because he felt that power does not concede without a fight. He said that poverty in such a wealthy nation was morally wrong. At the Illinois AFL-CIO convention in 1965, he spoke about how the labor movement was necessary to convert “misery and

despair into hope and progress.”

His messages are prophetic and valuable to this day. King did not believe in violence. He encouraged people to unite and join together to be heard. He said, “We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.”

Our nation officially celebrates all Martin Luther King Jr has done for us on the third Monday in January, but his words and legacy influence us daily. His speeches still significantly impact unionizers, civil rights leaders, and everyone who believes in equality and justice. He was a great spokesperson who led by example.



Our National Auxiliary Convention will be held in Detroit Michigan July 15-18, 2024. According to the National Auxiliary Constitution Article V – Representation, Sec. 1: (B) In order to be seated as a delegate and able to vote on any issue during the National Convention, the per capita tax must be received by the National Treasurer at least twenty (20) days prior to the opening of the National Convention. Dues must be paid current through the first day of the month following the National Auxiliary Convention. Please be sure your dues are current!

With the new year upon us states and locals start to send their dues to the Treasurer. Many members’ dues expire on January 1st. To see when your dues expire look at the date to the left of your name on the News and Views envelope.

The following are some suggestions for submitting your dues to be sure they are recorded accurately.

- If possible, type your list. Spreadsheets work great. Just make sure the font is large enough to read without a magnifying glass. Print in landscape if you need the space.
- Sort the members by local. Some locals have members with the same name but a different address. Please help us to make sure we credit the correct member.
- How much dues did each member submit? Dues for one year, two, or five?
- Be sure members names are spelled correctly.

Updated lists can be obtained from the treasurer upon request.

The Evil Twins

By: Janice Gillespie-Legislative Aide-Editor



The Social Security evil twins are the Windfall Elimination Provision, WEP, and the Government Pension Offset, GPO. The Windfall Elimination Provision limits the

amount of Social Security a government retiree can receive if they are under the civil service retirement system. A government employee under civil service does not pay into Social Security and, therefore, does not qualify to receive Social Security retirement benefits when they retire. Many of these same retirees worked at jobs before they started working for the government, held a second job, or worked other places after retirement, and therefore did pay into Social Security. The Windfall Elimination Provision unfairly limits the amount these retirees can receive.

The Government Pension Offset works similarly but limits spousal benefits. The GPO reduces benefits by two-thirds, which could result in zero benefits if the government pension is more than the Social Security benefit.

In both cases, the retiree paid into their civil service pension and Social Security but cannot collect their rightful benefit.

The Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 (H.R. 82 /S.597) would repeal both provisions if passed. This bipartisan legislation has over 300 co-sponsors in the House and 49 co-sponsors in the Senate and is in committee.

A subcommittee in the House Ways of Means recently held a field hearing in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Representatives Garrett Graves (R-LA) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) urged the committee to vote to send H.R.82 to the House floor.

One big issue is money. The cost of passing the Social Security Fairness Act would be \$146 billion over ten years. Social Security cannot afford that. Money, or lack thereof, might be too big of an obstacle to overcome. We have come farther than in previous years, which is promising. It's not over yet. Call your members of Congress. Ask them to support the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023. The number to call through the APWU is 844-402-1001.

National Convention

The national convention will be held July 15-18, 2024, in Detroit, Michigan. We will keep you informed as more information comes in. Watch for a Special Edition in April with credentials and pertinent information needed for the convention. An issue devoted entirely to the convention is a convenient way to keep everything in one place.



"APWU Health Plan partners with postal and federal families to create a lifestyle dedicated to healthy living. We are committed to providing our members with innovative high-quality products and services."



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News & Views, which keeps them informed about current events and the latest information. Dues are \$5.00 per member per year. The state constitution sets dues and are typically \$5.00 per member. You will set the local dues in your constitution.

You must file with the IRS for an Employer Identification Number (EIN). The IRS form is called SS-4. The National Treasurer can help you with this process, or contact me, and I will help you. It will take about 15 minutes. You will need this to open a bank account.

You will need to set up a constitution—no worries about that. I will help you and offer you a template that makes it less complicated. We try to make everything as easy as possible because you have things to accomplish, and endless

paperwork is not part of that.

You will want to become chartered, which is the official document stating you are a part of the parent organization. Charter issuance requires four members, a constitution in place, and the IRS-issued EIN. Also needed are officers acting or elected. A copy of the minutes must be sent to the National Secretary showing the action taken.

The beginning of the local is when you start accomplishing the work of the Auxiliary. This work is detailed in Article II-Objects of the National Constitution.

This article is cut and dry, but the work is fun, fulfilling, and rewarding. I can't wait to be contacted by you to build your new local or state organization.

Book of Memories



One of the Auxiliary's most important and honored responsibilities is maintaining the Book of Memories. This book is a perpetual memorial for the Auxiliary and APWU members and their families who have passed between National Conventions.

A Celebration of Life takes place Wednesday morning at each biennial convention. After the Celebration of Life, a personalized folder containing a certificate of the page from the Book of Memories, a copy of the program from the service, and any other important items used to honor the person will be issued.

Do you have the name of an Auxiliary, APWU member, or family member whom you would like to have honored? Please complete the attached form and submit it to the address listed on the form as soon as possible after the date of death so that the Auxiliary can be sure to include all the names of your loved ones

A donation of a minimum of \$10 per name submitted, which will go toward the Nilan Education Scholarship, is appreciated.

The form can be found on the next page or on the Auxiliary website, www.apwuauxiliary.org.

Zipline



New schedules for the 2024-2025 Zipline meetings are included with this issue of the News and Views. Please join us for these informative get togethers. The Executive Board welcomes suggestions for future topics. E-mail or call President Mannion with your ideas.





Book of Memories

Auxiliary to the American Postal Workers Union

Please Print or Type

In Memory of: _____

Last known residence: City: _____ State: _____

List any titles held in APWU or Auxiliary:

Please list name **EXACTLY** as you want it to appear in the Book of Memories

Submitted by: _____

Local/State APWU, Auxiliary: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Send Family acknowledgement card to (if different):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Remembered by _____

(This line must be completed)

\$10.00 Minimum Donation Suggested Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: *All proceeds go to the :*
Auxiliary to the APWU *Nilan Continuing Education Scholarship*
Karen Wolver Secretary
4631 NE 29th St
Des Moines, IA 50317-4833

*If you have any questions regarding this form, please contact
Janeil Payne, Committee Chair jpayne@apwuauxiliary.org or (503)931-3441*



Forms must be received by June 15, 2024 to be honored at the 2024 Convention

Nilan Scholarship 2024 Application

The National Auxiliary to the APWU is pleased to offer the 2024 Nilan Adult Continuing Educational Scholarship because we believe the following: Education is the key, instrumental in opening the door of opportunity, enabling one to advance, enrich lifestyles, and develop skills necessary to improve oneself in today's world. This scholarship was first awarded at the National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, in August 1990.

Suppose you desire to update your skills or wish to make a career change requiring training to make your dreams possible. In that case, the APWU Auxiliary Adult Continuing Education Scholarship could help you reach these new heights.

NO 2023-2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP.

Applicants Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____ SS # _____

Last school attended _____ Date(s) _____

College or vocational school you plan to attend and course of study or degree(s) completed

School name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Sponsoring APWU Member's name _____ Tel.# _____

Name of Local & State _____

Signature of Applicant _____

Essay Topic

The pros and cons of joining a Union in today's society.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 2024 ESSAY



All essays must be:

- Typed
- Double spaced
- On white paper

Between 175 and 250 words

The essay be accompanied
by the official application form.

Completed applications and essay

must be sent via Certified Mail,

Return Receipt Requested To:

Lisa Beer, Chairperson

3006 N 5th Ave

Whitehall, PA 18052

E-mail:

lbeer@apwuauxiliary.org

****Must be postmarked on or before July 1, 2024**

RULES & GUIDELINES - FOR THE 2024 SCHOLARSHIP

1. No 2023–2024 high school graduates will be considered for the 2024 scholarship. Applicant MUST have had a break from High School of one year or more.
2. Applicant must be a member in good standing with APWU National Auxiliary. The applicant must have been an Auxiliary member in good standing for at least one (1) year prior to the application deadline.
3. Application must be on the official application form from the APWU National Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship Program.
4. Applicant must write an essay on the designated subject of no less than 175 and no greater than 250 words.
5. Completed application form with the essay must be mailed to Chairperson Lisa Beer (the address included with instructions) postmarked by July 1, 2024, by certified mail with the return receipt requested.
6. Applicant must be registered, enrolled, or attending an accredited college (college, university, vocational or technical school, etc.) at the time the scholarship is given.
7. The APWU National Auxiliary will award one (1) yearly scholarship of \$1000.00.
8. After verification that the recipient has enrolled with the school of their choice the award will be sent to the business office of the school. The funds can be applied to the cost of books, food vouchers, or tuition. Scholarship must be used within 18 months of the award date.
9. The scholarship recipient is eligible to receive one (1) yearly scholarship for a maximum of two (2) years upon reapplication & selection process in accordance with the rules and guidelines of the scholarship.
10. If the recipient drops out before the completion of the course(s) (and within the refundable time frame), any unused funds that have already been sent to the recipient school for continuing education shall be refunded back to the National Auxiliary to the APWU.
11. No APWU Auxiliary National Executive Board member or family will be eligible for this scholarship.
12. No exceptions will be made to these rules.

PERSONAL INFORMATION (Will be used for press release information if your entry is the selected winner.)

Spouses Name (if applicable) _____

Children's Names & Ages _____

DOB _____ Sex: M ___ F ___ Current Occupation _____

Hobbies, special interests: _____

Community Involvement: _____

Additional Comments and Future Goals: _____

I grant permission for the above information to be used in a press release.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Human Relations Project

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

By: Jim Henry-Minneapolis Local

Sleep in Heavenly Peace, “No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town”



Our National Auxiliary has selected Sleep in Heavenly Peace, as our human relations project. This program/charity provides beds for kids who do not have beds. The program is in most areas of the country. When the national organization published an article in the News and Views newsletter, I decided to volunteer locally. I looked up online, found a local chapter, and then filled out a short form to volunteer. The program locally had time slots of two hours to work. I showed up, and everyone was so nice. There were about 50 of us per session. There were groups like the Lions and Rotary and some church groups and individuals like me. They provided the equipment (orbital sanders), earplugs, and masks. They also had clear instructions. You did not need to know how to sand or be experienced. Some people were retired, like me, and very young adults, parents, and teenagers. I was surprised when they told our group how many kids needed beds in the twin cities. I found the experience very rewarding and easy to do. I volunteered two more times for a total of three times during the summer. Another time, I cut lumber. That was easy also and they had stop blocks set up so we could make sure the boards were cut at the correct size. I worked with two young college-age people. Safety was a primary concern of the group. I would suggest, if you can, try and do this. If you cannot, I am sure your local auxiliary can take donations for this very worthwhile program. I am glad I did this.



Her generosity knows no Bounds

Anna Braun, Illinois State President, has made it her mission to pay it forward



to the hospital where she was once a patient. Each year, she quilts and collects as many blankets as possible so that each baby born at Ascension Mercy can have one to take home. She donated 103 blankets and quilts this holiday season to keep their smallest patients warm all year.

Anna has also donated countless blankets, quilts, comforters, sheet sets, and pillows to Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Her generosity knows no bounds.

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