



NEWS & VIEWS

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Ordinary People - Being Extraordinary!

By Kathy Danek, President

Being Extraordinary --- it's done by ordinary people every single day.

When Pam Gee attended the Wyoming convention in May, she was on a mission – to find a way to keep the Postal operations in Green River Wyoming. Gee is an APWU Member from Green River and has been a part of the Wyoming 100% Auxiliary for a very long time. In fact, Wyoming has been a 100% state Auxiliary for more than 30 years.

Green River Wyoming sits just south of Interstate 80 in west central Wyoming. Population 12,752, and growing 8% since 2000. Sounds like a pretty great little community –and one dependent on the service of the US Postal Service. Gee is a dedicated postal employee and APWU & Auxiliary member. She took the Auxiliary petition home from the May convention – and promised they would work to get a huge out pouring of support to keep the USPS. Gee sent in several sheets of signatures that she herself collected, but decided she couldn't do this alone. She sought out help from her community and enlisted the help of her local newspaper. The Green River Star, the weekly newspaper for this bustling community has been in business since 1890; and they were not about to let the post office go without a fight. So the Green River Star circulated the Auxiliary's petition to save the USPS. AND the support kept growing – as they returned 24 pages of signatures, complete with names and addresses. That's over 520 signatures from this small Rocky Mountain town. But it is so much more than a stack of petitions – it's the work of one ordinary

person setting out on an extraordinary journey to save the post office – starting with her own town. It just goes to show you that ordinary people do extraordinary things each and every day. Keep up the good work Pam Gee – and thank your local newspaper.



Rural America really does depend on the USPS – and they are not alone. In fact, the Post Office impacts our lives six days a week. We can no longer sit back and hope someone else will do the work to save the Post Office. It's up to each and every one of us.

It just takes a little more communication, the sharing of ideas, and hoping that someone out there is listening. I want to take this opportunity to give a special shout out to two of our local members – starting with Jean Williams from Illinois. Jean read in the last issue of News and Views that we were planning to ensure that News and Views would continue reaching our members. In her note to Treasurer Trisa Mannion, she noted that she and her husband Jim Williams (former Central Region Coordinator of the APWU) had published a lot of pages for newsletters – and understood the plight of aging equipment and the

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Volunteers Needed For All-Craft Conference Registration

Help Wanted – If you are attending the All Craft in Las Vegas October 10-14, the Auxiliary could really use your help. We are again volunteering our services to work the Registration for the APWU. Join us for a couple of hours. It's a great opportunity to network with other Auxiliary members from all over the country. Come on – join us – we can't wait to work with each of you.

About Trisa - National Auxiliary Treasurer

By: Trisa Mannion



I was hiking in Ouray when this picture was taken last Fall. Actually, I was hanging onto the side of a cliff and trying not to slip off. :)

The Auxiliary has been an important part of my life for a very long time. My first introduction to this wonderful group of people was also my first meeting. I had the privilege of serving this organization at the state level for a few years before running for national office in 1984. District 2 Vice President was a great way to learn about the work we can do and mature as I went, I was 28 years old. My age was a bit of an issue because I was so young and the Executive Board was much more mature than I was at the time. In

1989 I was appointed to Treasurer and I have remained in this position since that time.

My formal education is in Computer Science. I also make a point of continually updating my skills because so much has changed since I was in school. I love to make technology work for us. I was asked to "computerize" our membership list as one of my first tasks. When, this task first began we did not have a list of our membership, only the number of members in each local was recorded. That was not accurate either. It took many people helping me gather the information needed to input the membership and create the database that we currently use but with time and lots of help from the national, state, and local officers, we were able to succeed. That changed a lot of our processes for the better. We can contact each member on a regular basis. Our voting strengths are now accurate and people know who is a member.

The next task was to move the financial records to the digital world. That was a much easier task and was accomplished within a year. Kathy Danek and I created the first website for the organization. I built and maintain the current site. I continue to update our technology and finds ways to make it save us money and time, or at least get more for the time we use. We have a few plans in the works now.

Being the longest serving officer on the Executive Board is humbling. I appreciate the faith this organization has placed in me. I also appreciate the assistance my family has given me over the 30+ years that I have served the membership. My husband, Tim, and I raised 3 children while we shared the love for the Auxiliary and APWU. We were both postal workers so

we knew the need for both organizations. Tim served as the local president for more than 30 years and was serving in this position at the time of his death. Our children are adults now but they know what the union is all about and appreciate our drive to buy only union/USA made items, whenever we can find them. They travelled with us to many events, the youngest going to most things with me until he turned 18. He was nicknamed my bodyguard.

I served as a steward for more than 20 years, while also working for the good of the Auxiliary. I held many positions over the years in the union. I retired from the postal service in 2010, with 34 years of service. I currently serve on the Western Colorado Trades and Labor Board. I am also the Secretary for the Mesa County Democrats. Yes, I am retired but to me that just means having the time to do the things that I enjoy.

My play time is spent hiking in the beauty that nature provides. I have several photos on my Facebook page to allow others the chance to see things that you cannot see from the road. You are welcome to browse. My family is very close and we enjoy spending lots of time together.



Win an Apple iPad Air 2



Tickets - \$5.00 each

Tickets may be purchased on the Auxiliary website using PayPal, or mail a check to:

Trisa Mannion, Treasurer 3038 Cloverdale Ct, Grand Junction, CO 81506

Drawing will be held during the All Craft Conference in October, 2015

Need not be present to win!

All proceeds go to the Auxiliary to the APWU Riso fund



2015 Nilan Scholarship Winner

By: Debra Stewart



The 2015 National Auxiliary Nilan Scholarship winner is William P. Martin of Tigard, Oregon. Mr. Martin will attend Lewis & Clark Law School. William is actively involved in the Northwestern Labor Council. Mr. Martin's current occupation is a Mail Processing Clerk. His future goals: He would like to work as a Public Interest Lawyer, possibly for the APWU.

Martin submitted a very well written article on the topic, "How Does the APWU Auxiliary Make the Postal Service Better?" which follows:

The United States Postal Service has both allies and detractors, but it would be difficult to find a more committed supporter than the APWU Auxiliary. Since its inception, the Auxiliary has advocated for the best mail delivery service to serve the American Public. Spouses and family members of Postal employees worked tirelessly to

Ordinary People - Being Extraordinary!

President's Article - continued

importance keeping strong communication with our members. Thanks Jean – not just for the donation – but for reminding us of the value of our strong communications.

Finally, one more shout out to George Pierce of Greater Greensboro Auxiliary – a retiree and now an active member of the local Auxiliary. He called to remind us all that inspiration comes in a lot of different ways. Sometimes there's an article in a newsletter about inspiring individuals – like last month's article on Mary Harris (Mother) Jones. In our short conversation – he warmed my heart by reminding me that we are in a battle for our livelihood. He reminded me that we all should keep working together to promote the APWU and work to save our jobs. – And he said thank you – for keeping us all moving in the same direction.

So what does this all mean to each of you. Our editor, Bonnie Sevre, has been on the job for less than one year – but has inspired people to get involved. They are making those phone calls, knocking on doors, getting petitions signed. They are reminding us that in days when we think no one is really listening, a lot of people are getting the message. And it reinforced that we are fighting the good fight, working for the common good, and on a mission to save the US Postal Service. We can do it. We might be ordinary people, but ordinary people do extraordinary things each and every day. Thank you to each and every member for all you do, not just to save the USPS – but on behalf of the Auxiliary and the APWU each and every day.

transform post office jobs into postal service careers. When an employee's only avenue for bettering their situation was termed collective begging, the Auxiliary took the lead as a strong voice to increase wages and benefits for the workers. The goal of building a stable, dedicated workforce has helped to transform the USPS into the finest mail service in the world.

However, the Auxiliary is not limited to only worker's issues. All too often the public would identify postal workers as either a letter carrier or a window clerk. These were sometimes the only Postal employees they would ever encounter - until the Auxiliary became an active participant in civic projects. The Auxiliary has built support for the Postal Service and its workers through outreach programs in towns and cities around the country. Whether helping to collect food for families that might otherwise go hungry, providing scholarships for students continuing their educations, visiting senior citizens in care facilities, or supporting our wounded veterans, the Auxiliary has served as the bridge between our community and the Postal Service.

The Auxiliary has proven that the Postal Service and its employees are not just public servants, but valued neighbors.

Congratulations to William P. Martin!!!

Have You Bought Your Stamps Today? Submitted by Joyce Tanguay, District 7 Coordinator

As I was doing a mailing for the auxiliary the other day I wondered how many of you are actually using the postal service in your everyday lives. How often do you mail a birthday, anniversary, sympathy, or get well card? Or do you always send e-cards? Are you one of those people who does your banking on-line? Do you order lots of fun stuff on-line and ever check to see if it is being sent by USPS? Did you know that at the post office you can find stamps that say "Made in America Building a Nation"? I use them for paying all my bills (yes, I actually mail them!) and for sending any auxiliary correspondence. If we are going to help keep the American Postal Workers Union alive let's all do our little bit to help out. See you at the post office and don't forget to check out those stamps.





2015 BRIDGE BUILDERS GUIDELINES

Rewarding a lifetime of Auxiliary Dedication

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 come from an **Auxiliary Member** and must list the areas the person is active in. The person may only receive the award one time. 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 to be recognized and rewarded. Take a few minutes to tell us about that member.

The deadline is December 31, 2015.

Be sure to include name, city and state, local name and tell us about the accomplishments they have done in the areas above.

Please use black ink to fill out the nomination form.

You may mail the completed form to: Clara Hill at wavehill@att.net OR

Mail the form and optional letter by certified mail to: Clara Hill, Chairperson, 2710 Waverly Street, Knoxville, TN. 37921

I know there are members out there that deserve this award. Take a minute and read the guidelines and if you have such a person in your local or state, nominate them for the award.

Clara Hill, Chairperson
Bridge Builders Committee

BRIDGE BUILDERS AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Please send (via US. Mail, fax or email) completed form of nomination to Clara Hill,

2710 Waverly St, Knoxville, TN 37921 or contact her at Wavechill@att.net, fax # 865-637-1867

Deadline December 31st

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR NOMINATION.

LETTER OF NOMINATION IS OPTIONAL, BUT IF IT IS SENT, IT MUST BE DATED AND SIGNED!

If more space is needed, please attach a separate sheet of paper!

All Nominations will receive a letter of acknowledgement from the committee.

	Please write answers in this column	
1. Name of person being nominated:		
2. City and State that nominee is from:		
3. Which of the following areas has the nominee been active in? (Check one or more that apply)		
a. Assisting the Union/Auxiliary___	b. Human Relations___	
c. Legislation___	d. Political Action___	
e. Public Relations___	f. Organizing/Recruiting___	
g. Other___ Please specify:		
4. Please give details of what they have done in the above areas:	Please tell us about any Community Service or Activity they are or have been involved in:	
5. Has nominee been or is an Officer in the APWU/Auxiliary?	6. Offices held and what level (state/local, etc.)?	
	State	Local
7. How many years has this person been a member?		
<i>Optional question please included with any further details.</i>		
8. Is their family involved? (Please give a brief description of involvement.)		
9. Did they chair any committees for their local or state? (Please give details.)		
10. Did they implement any new programs at the state or local level? (Please give details.)		
11. Name, address and local of person submitting this nomination.		
Date submitted:		
Submitted by (name & Local)		

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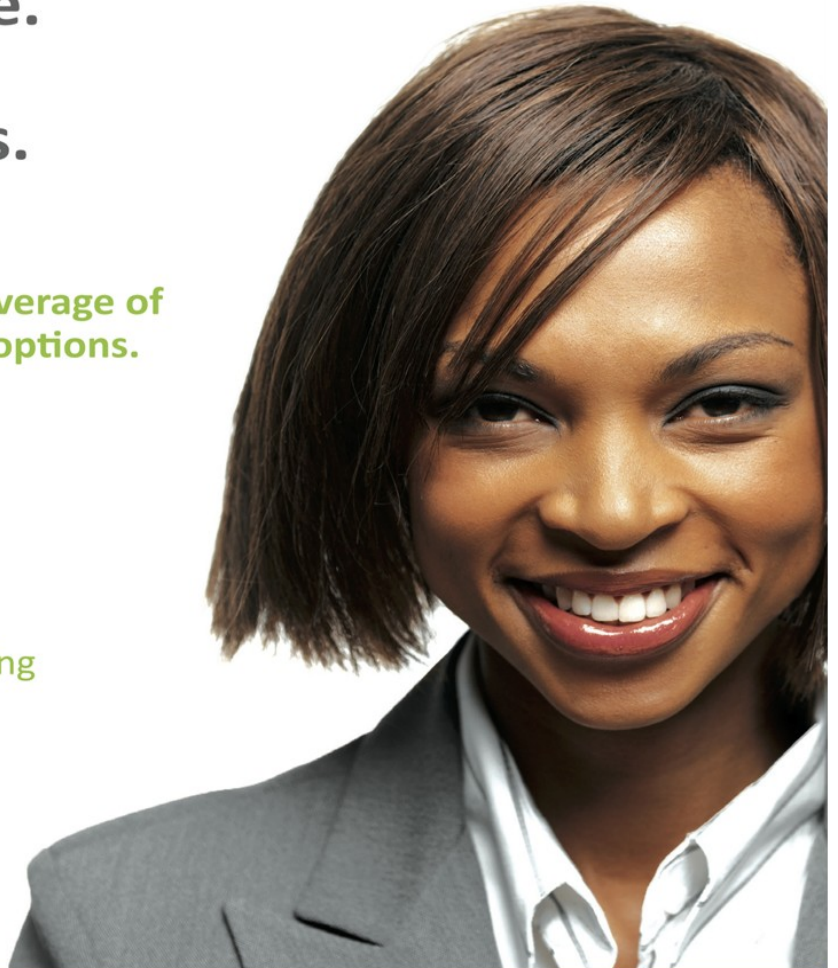
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July 2014

A U.S. Representative's Take on the U.S. Postal Service

By: Bonnie Sevre

In August I was privileged to attend the Democratic National Committee Summer Meeting which was held at the Hilton Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Besides hearing four of the Democratic Presidential candidates speak I also attended the Seniors Coordinating Council, which focused on legislation affecting seniors.

Along with Vice President Walter Mondale, Keith Ellison, US Representative from Minnesota's 5th District spoke. He emphasized that we should meet with our members of Congress a minimum of four times a year and have a list of issues that are important to seniors - I think that also applies to postal workers. Ellison stated that Congressmen need a level of accountability or they will start doing what they want to do.

Then Rep Ellison said he wanted to talk about the post office for a moment. Following is his take on the US Postal Service:

"This is a venerated, beloved American institution contemplated in the Constitution of the United States. This is an institution started by Benjamin Franklin. And the Post Office is such a great institution that we all take it for granted. It reminds me of the story: there were two young fish who were swimming by and there was this older fish who swam by and the older fish said to the two younger fish, "How's the water, guys? And the two younger fish passed by and got a little ways down and one looked at the other and said, "What the heck is water?" Sometimes we are immersed in something so much that we don't notice it.

But there are more post office branches than there are banks around this country and when people need to get something or to send something they've got somewhere they can go conveniently and it will remain that way unless we let these people cut our branches down. We cannot allow this to happen. When they want to cut a day off it would significantly undermine one's ability to get medication and other vital things that they need. AND what they want to do is they're always trying to cut down the processing plants. If you drop a letter in the mail intended to go to someone across the street it has to go all the way across the state and come all the way back. Now, the letter you could have walked across in a day or less now has taken 2 or 3 days. Why are they doing this? I don't know - it's not saving any money, it's not saving any time, it's not making us more efficient, but I will tell you this, and this is not paranoid - there are people in the U.S. Congress who believe that if they undermine the Post Office they can open up private opportunities for their friends.

I don't have anything against Staples, I'm sure it's a fine company but I don't want anybody who's NOT sworn to handle the mail and trained to handle the mail messing with the mail! In the days when we're dealing with surveillance here and the e-mails and stuff, a letter might be the last bastion of private communication. Nobody's going to play with your mail, because if they do they're going to jail for that - that's mail fraud! And you have trained people who are sworn on penalty of perjury to handle your mail properly.

I'm telling you too, the U.S. Postal Service is one of the biggest unionized entities in our country. If they're allowed to break this union they can break any union and I'm telling you it

is the union movement that has lifted the working class into the middle class. It is the union movement that has helped bring about so many of the changes in equality and justice. Black people in unions earn more than other black workers. Women in unions make more money than women who are not. You want to save the work place, you want a more racially just workplace, you've got to start with the union."



Left to right: Minnesota State APWU President Richard Haefner, Rep. Keith Ellison, APWU Retiree Director Judy Beard and Bonnie Sevre

Representative Keith Ellison understands the importance of the post office and what is being done to destroy it as a public institution. We need more members in Congress with the same understanding of the public postal service, and the need to have the post office available to **all** citizens. Meet with your Congressmen and urge them to support legislation favorable to a viable postal service. Have your list of issues and don't be afraid to present your concerns. Our Congressmen are there to represent our interests. If they are already on board, as Rep. Ellison is, thank them for their support!

H. Res. 54 Update from APWU Leg. Dept.

H.Res.54 is closing in on 218 cosponsors, which if attained, would be a majority of the House of Representatives believes the USPS should take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect July 1, 2012. Thank you for your hard work in getting over 200 members of Congress to sign on to this critical resolution. We are glad to announce a new interactive way to find out if your member of Congress is a cosponsor of H.Res.54. Simply click on the link below to go to the H.Res.54 section of the Legislative and Political page of APWU.org. Then scroll down to the page and you will see the new interactive map. The more green your state is, the higher percentage of your state's congressional delegation has signed on.

<http://www.apwu.org/house-resolution-54>



October 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 Ct, Grand Junction, CO 81506
- State and Local dues should be paid to your state and local treasurers.
Color editions of News and Views can be viewed on the Auxiliary website: www.apwuauxiliary.org

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Human Relations Backpack Project

Co-Chairs: Joyce Tanguay, District 7 Coordinator
Bonnie Sevre, Legislative Aide Editor

More than 21 million children qualify for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program. For many of these children, school meals may be the only meals they eat. What happens when they go home over the weekend?

For more than 15 years, the **Feeding America Backpack Program** has been helping children get the nutritious and easy-to-prepare food they need to get enough to eat on the weekends. Today, bags of food are assembled at more than 160 local food banks and then distributed to more than **450,000** children at the end of the week.

(Taken from the Feeding America Backpack Program website.)

Care to Donate?

Please make checks payable to:

National Auxiliary APWU

and mail to:

Trisa Mannion

3038 Cloverdale Ct

Grand Junction, CO 81506

www.apwuauxiliary.org



Auxiliary News and Views