



NEWS & VIEWS

News & Views is published monthly – except for July and August - by the Auxiliary for the Auxiliary, PO Box 4243, Lincoln, NE 68504. We are a proud member of the APWU Postal Press Association

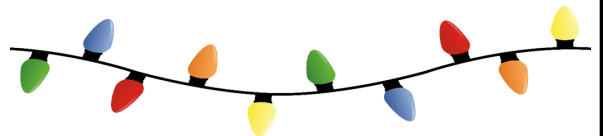
Volume 34,
Issue 4

DECEMBER 2017

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

Celebrating the Holidays

By: Kathy Danek - President



The month of December is full of good will, gestures of humanity, lots of food, fun, friends and family. It's guided by several different holidays that have a history in several different religions. The Jewish celebrate Hanukah. Christians celebrate Christmas. Muslims celebrate Ramadan in the fall and winter. Many in our communities support Christmas as a holiday regardless of religion. Around the world, many nations celebrate Christmas. We love the music, foods, gifts, and sharing them with friends.

But the best thing about any and all holidays is the gift of sharing. We buy gifts for those we love. We volunteer, and buy things for the less fortunate. This is the time of the year that we all find a way to reach out to others. What will you do this holiday season?

Here are a few ideas:

•Spend time at a senior center and visit with the residents. Provide them with a small gift like a pair of socks, a warm sweater, some music, or art. It really is about spending the time with them. Sometimes, it's a little ornament or a box of cookies.

•Donate to a back pack program or the local food shelter. Food is a mainstay in life. We all need to eat.

•Collect and clean business attire and donate it to a women's shelter. Sometimes that attire helps them dress for success and prepare for a new career as they enter a new phase of their life.



•Buy a coat or two to help keep someone warm; Or donate blankets and pillows at a homeless shelter. Or serve food at a shelter.

There are so many opportunities to give of ourselves during any and all holidays. Create a better place for others. Make this holiday season merry and bright. Bring warmth, light and love to the world.

The Executive Board of the Auxiliary to the American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO wishes each and every one of you a very Happy Holiday Season.

Inside this issue:

Auxiliary Grassroots Training Drove us to Victory Our Deepest Sympathy	2
Finding Clarity - What Guides the Auxiliary	3
Time to Pay Up? Bridge Builder Guidelines	4
Bridge Builder Nomination Form	5
Ask Tina About the Health Plan	6
Why Do Workers Want Labor Unions? TSP Withdrawal Options - Bill Becomes Law	7
2016-2018 Human Relations Project - Child, Inc. National Officer Listing	8



Auxiliary Grassroots Training Drove us to Victory

By: Trisa Mannion - Treasurer



It may not seem like much to those that are not from this town or love it, but North Avenue was quite the place, at one time. All of the real merchants were on this street. You could buy the best of anything here, eat a fine dinner, play golf, go to a movie, go to

college and all within a four mile stretch. Kids cruised their cars and met spouses and lifelong friends on this street. It has a beloved history for many generations, in fact it is in the original plat of streets.

All was well, until someone decided to change the name of this street where people made memories and have hundreds of businesses. The Chamber wanted to highlight the university and call it University Boulevard. They did this under the guise of promoting the university despite the many polls that declared that was definitely not what the citizens would want to have happen.

A group of 3 women decided that could not be the end of this. We formed a group and soon were joined by thousands of likeminded citizens. This is where the many lessons and actions of grassroots movement came in handy. We were lucky that each of the three Admins had a different strength and could carry that part of this project. It was going to be an intense ride and one that no one could have prepared us to expect.

We not only fought City Hall, but we tackled the Chamber of Commerce head on and the University. We had many lessons on the best way to handle adversity. We are a huge group of determined people that were willing to volunteer for all of the projects. We asked people to speak at City Council meetings, carry petitions, hang banners, talk to friends and wear

shirts in support of our beloved Avenue and history. They told of the millions of dollars in cost to them for changing their business addresses, dug up facts to present and gave of themselves. We learned to write ordinances and petition language to present Direct Legislation by the People to force a rescinded vote or a vote of the people. We applied a lot of pressure using the techniques we teach at the Auxiliary workshops.

We won! In the end, the Chamber of Commerce asked the City Council to rescind the vote because it was causing deep division in the city and county. They were correct, we have a 5,000+ group of people that know how to navigate a council agenda, how to stand up to the public pressure that was applied, and are still engaged in making this a better place to live. I think in the long term the citizens won this battle because they are now aware that they can make change happen. I can definitely say the experience of being an Auxiliary activist helped us win.



The 3 admins - l. to r. - Trisa Mannion, Nancy Bennett (Grand Junction, CO auxiliary member), and Mackenzie Dodge, a former radio personality - collecting petitions.



Our Deepest Sympathy

to Dianna Marshall - Lexington Kentucky (Central KY Area Local Auxiliary) on the passing of her husband, Barry.

Finding Clarity – What Guides the Auxiliary?

By: Kathy Danek - President

It seems at times that our nation is struggling with finding moral and practical clarity. Many of us look at it as common sense. But still, when is something right – and when is it wrong? How do we make that decision?

There will be times when we don't agree on issues. In fact, there will be times that we might even have to agree to disagree. As officers and leaders of the Auxiliary we take an oath to follow the Constitution and By-laws of our Auxiliary to the APWU. There are five guiding principles identified as the Object of the Auxiliary. They can be found in **Article II OBJECTS** and state the following:

1. *To bring together persons interested in the efforts of the American Postal Workers Union for better working conditions*
2. *To extend a knowledge of political operations of government and the responsibilities and duties of citizenship.*
3. *To render effective aid in securing the passage of desired remedial legislation.*
4. *To support all programs of the National American Postal Workers Union.*
5. *To support workers generally in their efforts to secure a higher standard of living.*

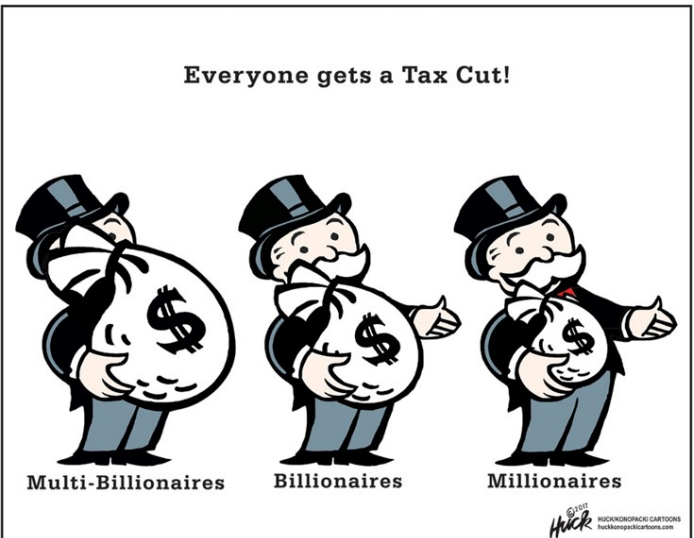
Sub section 3 of Article II Objects clearly states “to render effective aid in securing the passage of desired remedial legislation. And that is how we make the decision as leaders of the Auxiliary. While other organizations might not endorse or support the same legislation positions, our Constitution and Bylaws is very clear in our mission as an organization – to support the APWU.

There are so many pieces of legislation that are being proposed that could impact the USPS, the APWU, NARFE (National Association of Retired Federal Employees), other federal unions, the middle class, senior citizens, college students, and more. Right now, the issue of Tax Reform is headed for the Senate after passing the House of Representatives. Both bills cater to the business and eliminate many deductions that help almost everyone in the middle class. And these changes give millions of dollars to businesses and the people at the top of the income brackets.

Postal Reform legislation has been drafted and would eliminate the prefunding payments for retiree health benefits 75 years into the future. The American Postal Workers Union has endorsed this legislation and has asked our help in trying to get Congress to pass it and send it to the President for his signature. While other organizations may not agree on the provisions of the bill,

we as the Auxiliary to the APWU are asked to support this legislation.

So, when you write your articles for local and state papers, and use your Auxiliary byline, the positions you endorse and promote should be guided by our Constitution. Simply put, that means we support the positions of the American Postal Workers Union and will work to secure passage of desired legislation. Most of us are involved in multiple groups and organizations. We get Information from a lot of different sources. We as officers, leaders and members of the Auxiliary to the APWU should follow the language in our Constitution to help us formulate positions and solicit assistance within our communities, in our newsletters, and in our Auxiliary. That is how we get support to pass legislation. And that is one of our major objectives as Auxiliary members – to Support the American Postal Workers Union, their programs and their legislative agenda. Thank you for all you do for the Auxiliary to the APWU.



11/07/2017 - Last week, the House Republicans released their tax bill titled, *The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*. “Don’t be fooled by the name,” said Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard. “The foundation of the legislation is a massive corporate tax break and includes many provisions that will hurt working families. It is not designed to create jobs with a living wage and good benefits, but to enrich the corporate elite and the billionaire class.” This bill passed the House and the Senate is currently working on their version - which is just as bad, if not worse. Urge your Senators to vote “NO”.

Time to Pay Up?

By: Trisa Mannion - Treasurer

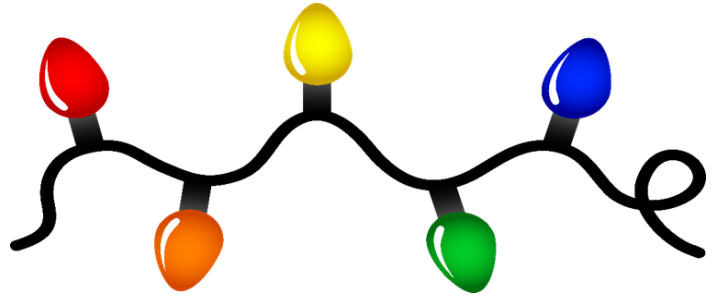
Most member's dues expire January 1. That means several states and locals will begin sending their dues to the treasurer very soon. I have a few requests that will insure they are credited correctly and with a lot less guessing.

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.



2018 BRIDGE BUILDER 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 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, 2017.

Be sure to include name, city and state, 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.

Please use black ink to fill out the nomination form.

You may email the completed form and optional nomination letter to: Clara Hill at wavechill@att.net OR

Mail the form and optional letter by 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 BULDERS AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Please send (via US. Mail or email) completed form of nomination to Clara Hill,
2710 Waverly Street, Knoxville, Tn. 37921 or contact her at: wavechill@att.net
Deadline December 31st

PLEASE USE BLACK INK TO FILL OUT FORM

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!

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 all 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:					
5. Please tell us about any Community Service or Activity they are or have been involved in:	6. Offices and level held (state/local, etc.)(Below)				
	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">State</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Local</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> </table>	State	Local		
State	Local				
7. How many years has this person been a member?	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:	Name: Local:				

Bridge Builder Nomination Form (revised) 1-14-2016

Ask Tina? *About the Health Plan*

Two smart plans to consider.



High Option

100% COVERAGE IN-NETWORK

- Preventive care and screenings
- Maternity care
- Accidental injury within 24 hours
- Lab tests (covered blood work performed at LabCorp and Quest Diagnostics)
- Visits to registered dietician/nutritionist
- Diabetes management: Generic medication, glucose test strips, lancets and coaching calls
- Weight management, pregnancy and tobacco cessation programs

Consumer Driven Option

100% COVERAGE IN-NETWORK

- A Personal Care Account (PCA) which is funded by the Health Plan each January and is used by member for covered medical services. Until the PCA is exhausted, the member is covered at 100%. The Plan funds the PCA at \$1,200 for Self Only and \$2,400 for Self Plus One and Self and Family
- Preventive care and screenings
- Maternity care
- Pregnancy and tobacco cessation programs

2017 Open Season Dates	2018 Premiums
November 13th through December 11th	

APWU HEALTH PLAN TOGETHER.BETTER HEALTH.®	We work hard to keep your premiums low.			Postal			
	Enrollment code	Non-Postal Biweekly	Non-Postal Monthly	Category 1	Category 2	APWU Career	APWU Career rate change
HIGH OPTION Self Only Self Plus One Self and Family	471	\$93.04	\$201.59	\$86.67	\$80.31	\$86.67	+\$1.61
	473	\$185.79	\$402.55	\$172.15	\$158.51	\$172.15	+\$4.25
	472	\$251.90	\$545.78	\$237.41	\$222.92	\$237.41	+\$5.37
CONSUMER DRIVEN OPTION Self Only Self Plus One Self and Family	474	\$63.97	\$138.61	\$58.21	\$53.10	\$12.79	+\$0.43
	476	\$140.74	\$304.93	\$128.07	\$116.81	\$28.15	+\$0.95
	475	\$153.53	\$332.65	\$139.71	\$127.43	\$41.83	+\$2.82

*Rate change is the premium increase members will pay in 2018 over 2017

TOGETHER. BETTER HEALTH.

Get comprehensive health benefits at an affordable price.

(800) 222-2798

Why Do Workers Want Labor Unions?

By: Bonnie Sevre - Legislative Aide Editor

Industrial development in the 19th century affected the workers. Not only did it widen the gap between skilled and unskilled workers, it also brought on longer working hours and unsafe working conditions. The decline of the Knights of Labor in the 1880s gave rise the American Federation of Labor (AFL). Led by Samuel Gompers, the AFL's first president, the AFL led members to victories for better wages and working conditions. This was also a time when the United States had a growing number of immigrant workers who took advantage of new machines and technologies that were becoming available.

What role did children have in labor? And still do.

Children have always played a role in labor serving as servants and farm workers throughout history. Boys began their apprenticeship in a trade between the ages of ten and fourteen. However, use of children reached new extremes during the Industrial Revolution. Children worked long hours in dangerous conditions for very little pay. Children were favored because they could fit in small places in factories and mines where adults wouldn't fit, they were easier to manage and control and were more difficult for unions to organize. Employers could also pay children less. In the 19th century reformers and labor organizers tried to restrict child labor and working conditions, but they didn't have much luck until the Great Depression.

Efforts to regulate or eliminate child labor has been a feature of social reform in the United States since the early 1900s. Child labor committees tried to get laws passed to restrict child labor. Congress passed such laws in 1916 and 1918, but the Supreme Court ruled them unconstitutional.

The Great Depression changed a lot of the political attitudes and child labor benefited. The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 which for the first time set the national minimum wage and maximum hour standards for workers in interstate commerce, also placed limitations on child labor. The employment of children under sixteen years of age was prohibited in manufacturing and mining.

One of the reasons that helped the restrictions on child labor was America was suffering from high unemployment and jobs held by children were opened to adults. Also new types of equipment cut the use of children. Some of the jobs held by children were mechanized and semiskilled workers became necessary for the most efficient use of the equipment. Also, many of the jobs required more schooling.

“Although child labor has been substantially eliminated, it still poses a problem in a few areas of the economy. Violations of the child labor laws continue among the impoverished migrant agricultural workers. Employers in the garment industry in New York City

have turned to children of illegal immigrants in an effort to compete with imports from low-wage nations. Finally, despite the existing laws limiting the number of hours of work for those still attending school, some children labor an excessive number of hours or hold prohibited jobs”. (Source: Walter Trattner, Crusade for the Children: A History of the National Child Labor Committee and Child Labor Reform in America (1970).



TSP Withdrawal Options Bill Becomes Law

From the TSP website:

(November 20, 2017) On November 17, 2017, President Trump signed into law the TSP Modernization Act of 2017, which will provide TSP participants with more flexible withdrawal options. The law eliminates the statutory prohibition on multiple post-separation withdrawals and multiple age-based withdrawals while a participant is still working. It also removes the restriction that participants cannot take partial post-separation withdrawals if they've already taken an age-based in-service withdrawal. Though it has no effect on required minimum distributions mandated by the Internal Revenue Code, the law also allows separated participants who are over age 70½ to remain in the TSP, eliminating the requirement to make a withdrawal election on an entire account balance. Participants will also be able to stop monthly payments, change payment frequency, or elect to purchase an annuity while receiving monthly payments.

The Executive Director of the FRTIB has the authority to establish parameters regarding this new ability to take multiple withdrawals, and the law gives the FRTIB up to two years to make the regulatory and operational changes necessary to enact these changes.

2016-2018 Human Relations Project

By: Joyce Tanguay - Human Relations Chair

“People who give will never be poor” ~Anne Frank~

Here it is December, already. The days have gone by so fast since the All Craft Conference in October that I hardly remember November!! I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Speaking of the All Craft Conference, the Auxiliary Executive Board would like to give a big THANK YOU to those of you who stopped by our Auxiliary Booth and supported our Children Inc. project. We had a 50/50 drawing daily with 4 lucky winners; a container for donations, an “Underneath it All” box for children’s undergarments, which we were able to send to a Children Inc. location in Vanceburg, Kentucky, and a raffle for a lovely centerpiece made by Carolyn Denton and won by Lori Ennis. The winners of the 50/50 were Tanya Jackson, Wanda Wroten, Rebecca Kingsley and Kathy Woods. Again, we thank you and appreciate your support.

No donation to the Children Inc. project is too small (or large) and checks may be made payable to Auxiliary to the APWU (designate Children Inc.) and sent to:

*Trisa Mannion, Treasurer
Auxiliary to the APWU
3038 Cloverdale Court
Grand Junction, CO 81506*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



2016– 2018 National Officers

PRESIDENT Kathy Danek
402-464-8549 402-464-8557 (fax)
4261 Knox, Lincoln, NE 68504-1955
kmdanek@aol.com or kmdanek@apwuauxiliary.org

SECRETARY Patricia Lewis
804-644-3843 (fax/voice-office)
804-644-6454 (home)
1500 N 30 St, Richmond, VA 23223
netta15@aol.com

TREASURER Trisa Mannion
970-245-3912 (fax) 970-243-7706
3038 Cloverdale Ct
Grand Junction, CO 81506
tmaux@aol.com or tmannion@apwuauxiliary.org

LEGISLATIVE AIDE-EDITOR Bonnie Sevre
612-788-3440 612-889-4111 (cell)
2836 Highway 88
Minneapolis, MN, 55418-3243
bsaux@aol.com

DISTRICT 1 Colette Phillippe
406-453-6085
5600 57th Ave. SW,
Great Falls, MT 59404
AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY
cpauxdc1@aol.com

DISTRICT 2 Rebecca Kingsley
562-355-3308
PO Box 93686
City of Industry, CA 91715 -3686
AZ, CA, CO, HI, NM, NV, UT
rkingsley@apwuauxiliary.org

DISTRICT 3 Tina Beaton
816-786-5572
409 Belmont Dr.
Raymore, MO 64083
IA, KS, MO, MN, NE, ND, SD
tbeaton@apwuauxiliary.org

DISTRICT 4 Debra Stewart
817-534-9130 fax 817-534-2279
6400 Guilford, Fort Worth, TX 76119
AR, LA, MS, OK, TX
tycozz@aol.com

DISTRICT 5 VACANT
Please contact President Danek
IL, IN, KY, OH, MI, WV, WI

DISTRICT 6 Clara Hill
865-637-1867
2710 Waverly St
Knoxville TN 37921
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VA
wavechill@att.net

DISTRICT 7 Joyce Tanguay
207-772-8521-
236 Westbrook Street
South Portland, ME 04106-3326
CT, DE, ME, MD/DC, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT
jetang@maine.rr.com