

# News and Views



Volume 36  
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](http://www.apwuauxiliary.org)

## September-October 2020

### Register, Vote and Thank You, Wayne

By: Trisa Mannion-President



The most important thing about voting is voter safety. It would be best if you stay safe to vote for another year. I am sure your loved ones agree with this idea. Since we all want you to keep safe but vote, let's talk about Vote by Mail. It is safe. I have voted by mail for more than a decade. Colorado, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Hawaii have been successfully voting this way for many years with far greater participation, less fraud, and ease to vote. Twenty-two states have no-excuse absentee voting, and there have never been unresolved issues. Please stay safe and vote the way that is best for you.

People are often surprised to find that after many years of voting, they are no longer able to vote. Reasons for this change can include a recent move, address changes, name change, identity theft, or a few others that seem related to glitches in the system.

It is a good idea to check your status now, so there is time to get that problem remedied. [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) is a suggested site where you can check to be sure you are registered to vote.

Maybe, you have never voted because you do not care for the politicians. I suggest now is the time to consider

voting the issues and what that party platform means to you and your family. It is your right to vote, and many people in the world fight for the opportunity while you are choosing to ignore the process. You are needed to help preserve the Postal Service from privatization.

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# Treated Like Gold

By: Janice Gillespie— Legislative Aide-Editor

There seems to be a lot of discussions lately about the security and sanctity of mail-in ballots. Let me set the record straight.

First of all, postal workers take an oath to uphold the security and sanctity of the mail. This oath is something that they take seriously. Mail-in ballots are given even more safeguards. Ballots are treated like gold.

Election mail has its own section in the domestic mail manual, (DMM), which is the rules and regulations book of the United States Postal Service. The DMM defines election mail as requests for absentee ballots and the official ballots.

A representative from the election office presents the mailing and postage statement to the Business Mail Entry Unit (BMEU) at the post office. A trained clerk checks the mailing and logs the time and date received along with the postage statement into the political mail log. A lime green placard identifies this mail as it is processed.

Ballots have a first-class Endicia, and election mail supersedes all other correspondence.

The BMEU clerk clears the mailing and notifies the processing supervisor, who then signs off on the release of the ballots to the processing unit.

Ballots destined for overseas or to members of the military are required to be presented to the BMEU to be documented, reviewed, and processed accordingly.

The postal service uses Intelligent Mail Bar Codes, IMBC, specific to ballots to track them during transit. These unique bar codes on the easily recognizable envelopes are an additional safety measure.

Torn or damaged ballots are sealed in an official postal envelope and sent on to the election office. Election officials will then contact the sender and arrange for a replacement.

All USPS employees know never to delay ballots. They take pride in being a part of the democratic election process and their responsibility in delivering ballots efficiently.

Clerks, mail handlers, custodians, and carriers are instructed to check all work areas, machines, and vehicles for stray letters. This scrutiny is especially stressed during elections.

Fraudulent mail-in ballots are very rare. Some of the safeguards in place through the election office include verification of registered voters, their addresses, and signatures. Voters can drop their ballots off at the election office if they choose, or time is short, and call election officials to verify their vote is received.

Tampering with first-class mail, including election mail, is a federal offense punishable by up to a \$250,000 fine and a five-year prison term, and of course, loss of employment.

Party affiliations are not visible on the ballot envelopes, so it would be impossible to try to throw an election by stealing ballots. A person would have no way to know which envelopes were for which candidates.

A conservative think tank, The Heritage Foundation, keeps a database of election fraud reports. The total number of ballots from 2000 to 2020 was almost 250 million. The number of votes judged to be fraudulent during these twenty years was about 0.00006 %.

This year, with the pandemic still going strong, mail-in voting is, without a doubt, much safer than going to the polls. The risk of contracting Covid-19 is genuine. There are fewer polling places and workers, this year, due to the pandemic; therefore, the lines will be long.

I urge everyone to vote by mail this year. It is safe, secure, and reliable. Vote early. Encourage friends and family to do the same.



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## Zipline Reminder for 2020

Just two ziplines left for 2020! October 6, 2020 and December 1, 2020  
Special guest on Dec.1, National Research and Education Director Joyce Robinson will be giving a training session on Parliamentary Procedures.



<https://zoom.us/j/368309307>  
[Meeting ID 368 309 307](#)  
[Or call 1 \(669\) 900-6833](#)  
[8:00 pm EST](#)





# Red, White, and Blue on Display



## Legislative Update

Louis DeJoy, the new Postmaster General, has an agenda. A plan that, if succeeded, is not going to be good for postal workers, unions, or the American people. This new head of our National Treasure immediately put measures in motion to slow mail service, under the guise of saving money, to set the post office up to fail. An outpouring of public support has temporarily put a halt to his schemes, but he has full Senate support and needs to be watched. The APWU needs the Auxiliary now more than ever. Let's keep up the excellent work and proudly display our red, white, and blue.





# \$\$\$ COPA Money Needed \$\$\$

APWU COPA is the union's Committee on Political Action. Voluntary contributions to COPA from APWU and Auxiliary meetings, conferences, and conventions are traditionally when members contribute to COPA. Raffles, games, and drawings make giving easy and fun. Unfortunately, the pandemic has caused a lot of changes, and Zoom meetings have replaced in-person contacts. Your COPA dollars are still needed. Now more than ever. All APWU members and their family members, who are in the Auxiliary, and retirees may contribute to COPA. The easiest way to donate is by payroll deduction if a postal employee or electronic funds transfer from a bank account. Giving to COPA is another way to support the APWU and the issues it faces. COPA information is located on the APWU website at APWU.org, or you can call (202) 842-4211.

## Show Your Support Order Your Window Clings

1 Cling	\$ 2.00
3 Clings	\$ 5.00
10 Clings	\$ 15.00
50 Clings	\$ 75.00
100 Clings	\$140.00
101 +	Call for Pricing (612) 788-3440



### Prices include Shipping

#### They are USA and Union-Made

A great way to show your support for the United States Postal Service. They are a 6X6 cling that can be placed in a car or house window and will remove easily. If you need larger quantities you can contact Treasurer Bonnie Sevre for pricing details. [bsevre@apwuauxiliary.org](mailto:bsevre@apwuauxiliary.org)

**Send Checks payable to: Auxiliary to the APWU 2836 Highway 88 Minneapolis MN 55418**

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You can vote in the United States if you are a citizen, are 18 years old, meet the residency requirements of the state where you live, and register to vote by the state deadlines.

Encourage your children to vote. Teach them the importance of voting. The Secretary of State website in your state will have information to help answer any questions that you have. Request your ballot now if you have not done that yet.

Please help with the efforts to stop the privatization of the Postal Service. Remember, the mail is secure, and without a warrant, it remains secret. The original intent was a method to communicate without someone else being able to read or hack your mail. I believe the ultimate goal of privatization is to stifle the American

people's right to private communication, vote, and have a say in our government.

I want to extend my condolences to the Poland family. Wayne Poland, the husband of former President Doris Poland, passed away August 15, 2020. He was a tremendous supporter of the Auxiliary and our goals and helped us behind the scenes thousands of times. Every time I think of Wayne, I remember him, Tim Mannion, Gary Phillippe, Guy Smith, and Terry Danek, attempting to put up the walls in our office at National Conventions. Ask any of the spouses or people mentioned here about those days, and you will get a groan with a huge smile. Wayne also stood up for us on the APWU floor when resolutions might harm us. Wayne Poland left a hole in the hearts of many who loved and appreciated him.



# Book of Memories



## Auxiliary to the American Postal Workers Union

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Acknowledgement card to (if different):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a COVID-19 related death?      Yes   

\$10.00 Minimum Donation Suggested

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

Auxiliary to the APWU

Mail checks to:

Bonnie Sevre

2836 Highway 88

Minneapolis, MN 55418-3243

All proceeds go to the Nilan Scholarship

*Please Print or Type*





# HEALTH NEWS

## Help Your Kids Navigate School Amid a Pandemic

**FRIDAY, Aug. 14, 2020 (Health Day News)** -- This school year comes with special challenges for kids as the United States grapples with a coronavirus pandemic, but experts say parents can help their children navigate the tough emotional terrain.

Whether returning to a school building, continuing online learning or adjusting to a hybrid school environment, it is normal for children and adolescents to have some stress or anxiety about going back to school, said Samanta Boddapati, a child clinical psychologist and prevention coordinator at Big Lots Behavioral Health Services at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

Fears of getting sick or following school safety protocols for COVID-19 may make the transition even more difficult.

In a survey of parents by Nationwide Children's, 2 out of 5 said they had concerns about their kid's social and emotional well-being.



Very young children can suffer from separation anxiety about being away from family and in new environments. For these children, experts recommend making a special goodbye part of your routine and reminding your child when you will see each other again. Some kids like a transitional object -- an item that reminds them of mom or dad while at school.

Older children being in a classroom might be uncomfortable.

"Maintaining a routine is important, especially for families who are continuing to do online learning full-time. Create a part of your child's day that is structured and a part of their day that has some flexibility," said Parker Huston, a Nationwide Children's pediatric psychologist.

The hospital's experts offer these tips for parents and caregivers:

Tell your child there are a lot of unknowns, but that you and others are there to help them.

Discuss fears and talk through options and alternatives.

Model coping skills to your children, so they know how to respond to unknowns and build resilience.

Help them understand special procedures in schools such as wearing a mask and undergoing temperature checks.

Find out what resources are available at school for your child, such as social-emotional support or counseling.

"A certain amount of stress is normal, but parents, caregivers and educators should look out for drastic changes in functioning or behavior," Huston said in a hospital news release. "Sleep changes, mood changes, inability to engage with social environments or friends, increased anxiety about things that they maybe weren't nervous about in the past are changes you want to talk to your child's pediatrician about."

### More information

For more on kids going back to school, see the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

-- Steven Reinberg

SOURCE: Nationwide Children's Hospital, news release, July 29, 2020

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# Nationwide Day of Action



Malden Massachusetts



Aurora Illinois



Portland Oregon



Grand Junction Colorado



San Diego California



Minneapolis Minnesota



Bar Harbor Maine



Baltimore Maryland



Des Moines Iowa



Lincoln Nebraska



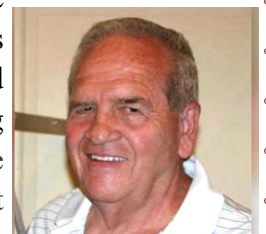
Salem MA



Southern Oregon



We lost a long-time Auxiliary member, supporter, and very dear friend. Wayne Poland, the husband to past National President Doris Poland, passed away August 15, 2020. He was given a lifetime membership award from the APWU Auxiliary for his years of dedicated service and the bridge builder award for his ability to reach across the aisle while advocating for labor. It was his wish that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Auxiliary to the APWU. Please mail to 2836 Highway 88, Minneapolis, MN 55418 and make a notation that it is for the Wayne Poland Our deepest sympathy to Doris and the family.



# 2018-2020 Human Relations Project

By: Karen Wolver - Human Relations Chair

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

They say that there is a national coin shortage, but I have yet to see it. At the end of each day, I still have a few cents left in my pocket. That got me to thinking about setting a personal goal. Since we are not able to have state conventions, and most union meetings are held via ZOOM, we have fewer opportunities to collect donations for the Fisher House. Do I hear a challenge here? Hint, hint!



I have a jar on my counter that I put my change into at the end of each day. Just a quarter a day adds up to \$100 by National Convention time; our plan B. Are you up to the challenge? If you have a Plan C, D, or E, please share them with us. Together we can make a huge difference in people's lives. We will not let COVID-19 get in the way!

The pandemic we are in right now is affecting all of us, and the Fisher House is no exception. To stifle the spread of COVID-19, the VA had stopped doing non-elective surgeries and had cut back on visitors to the hospitals. Because of this, Fisher House was seeing a reduction in house guests.

But because Fisher House thinks outside the box, they opened up their houses to medical personnel who travel where needed during upticks. A lot of these doctors and nurses are working 14+ hours a day and deserve a comfortable place to sleep and get rejuvenated so they can continue to be our heroes. I am proud to support a company that goes above and beyond and is always thinking of ways to help others.

For our Veterans who live in community living situations where they cannot accept visitors at this time, Fisher House has set up Facebook portals for them to stay in contact with family and loved ones.

They are very appreciative of the employees at the USPS who are being exposed day in and day out just to keep things moving as smoothly and as normally as possible.

While they are still building homes as planned, they are postponing their grand opening celebrations until it is safe to do so.



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