

# News and Views



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[www.apwuauxiliary.org](http://www.apwuauxiliary.org)

## March-April 2021

### Local Elections Matter

By: Trisa Mannion-President



Local elections have real consequences in your daily life. It is election time for regional bodies such as; school boards, city councils, county commissioners, etc. We need to vote in these elections.

The local councils affect your cost of living more than any other entity.

Local officials control taxes, air quality, drinking water (remember Flint water issues), bridges, streets, safety, sewer systems, parks, and recreation. It is too early to know how much of the cold snap disaster in Texas could have been avoided by better policies, but it makes us all want to be sure that does not happen in our cities. Often, we turn to federal officials to fix these issues when it is a local problem to fix or control.

People state that they do not vote in these crucial elections because they are exhausted from the federal elections, and it does not matter. As I pointed out already, they govern our daily lives, our commute to work, the safety of our lives, the quality of life we experience. Local races are typically nonpartisan, which means the political parties are not involved. People covered by the Hatch Act can run for these offices without retribution.

You can actually meet the candidates and get a feel for their intentions and what they stand for without the filters of a large campaign or the media. They may be your neighbor, a member of your church, a fellow parent of a Little Leaguer, and affected by the same policies.

Get active in the local boards that control your life. Do you

want to see more practice fields for your children who are athletes? Do the seniors need a place to gather that is safe for them? Are you interested in sharing your skills with others? You may learn something while improving your quality of life.



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# Across Party Lines

By Janice Gillespie-Legislative Aide-Editor

The last few years have seen significant divisions over race, religion, sex, political affiliation, and even whether COVID-19 is real or not. The US has been in a battle with the US.

Racism is an ongoing problem, with several police brutality incidents against African Americans sparking an increased fervor among activists and moderates alike. Religious prejudice between faiths is pervasive, and immigration rules have caused a lot of controversies. Sexual orientation bias is a hot topic, and some people believe the coronavirus is real, and others think it is a hoax. Politically, this country is rife with far leftists and extreme right-wingers. Insurgents even attacked the nation's capital.

It is time for a change. The APWU and the Auxiliary are equal opportunity organizations in theory and fact. The issues facing the

Postal Service are bipartisan. The post office sorts and delivers mail to everyone no matter who they are or what they believe. It's time to come together and encourage unification.



Only big businesses would benefit from postal privatization. The post office is vital to everyone, regardless of color, religion, sex, or political party. Postal employees sort and deliver mail with no partiality to the sender or receiver: the APWU and the Auxiliary support and fight for all of its members' rights. It is essential to erase party lines and focus on the bills in Congress now and in the future that benefit the USPS.

We have always had and need bipartisan support. We also need each other and our families, friends, neighbors, and the general public to save the people's post office. It is a cliché to say there is strength in numbers, but that is because it is so true.

## Committee on Political Action

The APWU depends on lobbyists to educate, influence, and inform Legislators on postal issues. These experienced advocates have the unique knowledge of the rules and regulations that govern lawmaking. COPA contributions from the union's active, retired, and auxiliary members support the campaigns of preferred candidates for public office. A COPA committee confers with the APWU National, State, and Local officers, the Auxiliary, and Retiree Department to determine the best use of COPA funds.

Conferences and conventions, perfect occasions to collect additional COPA funds through drawings, games, and raffles, were canceled in 2020 and most so far this year due to the pandemic. The easiest way to give COPA dollars is by payroll deduction, COPAmatic, retirees annuity, or by electronic funds transfer, EFT.



### Show Your Support Order Your Window Clings



1 Cling	\$ 2.00	<b>Prices include Shipping</b>
3 Clings	\$ 5.00	They are USA and Union-Made
10 Clings	\$ 15.00	A great way to show your support for the United States Postal Service.
50 Clings	\$ 75.00	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.
100 Clings	\$140.00	
101 +	Call for Pricing (612) 788-3440	<a href="mailto:bsevre@apwuauxiliary.org">bsevre@apwuauxiliary.org</a>

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

# It's a New Congress!

By Janice Gillespie-Legislative Aide-Editor

The 117<sup>th</sup> Congress has convened, and we need to keep the Postal Service in their sights. The public started seeing the Post Office in a new light in 2020. Postal workers processed and delivered mail during the pandemic, the election, and Christmas, proving that the USPS is a viable, reliable, and necessary institution. APWU, Auxiliary members, and retirees showed dedication and determination as they found ways to keep the American people informed on the issues plaguing the Postal Service. We cannot stop now. Auxiliary members wrote letters and cards, made phone calls, participated in caravans, emailed, zoomed, and shared social media while quarantining and sanitizing. We can all be proud to belong to an organization with so many devoted men and women.

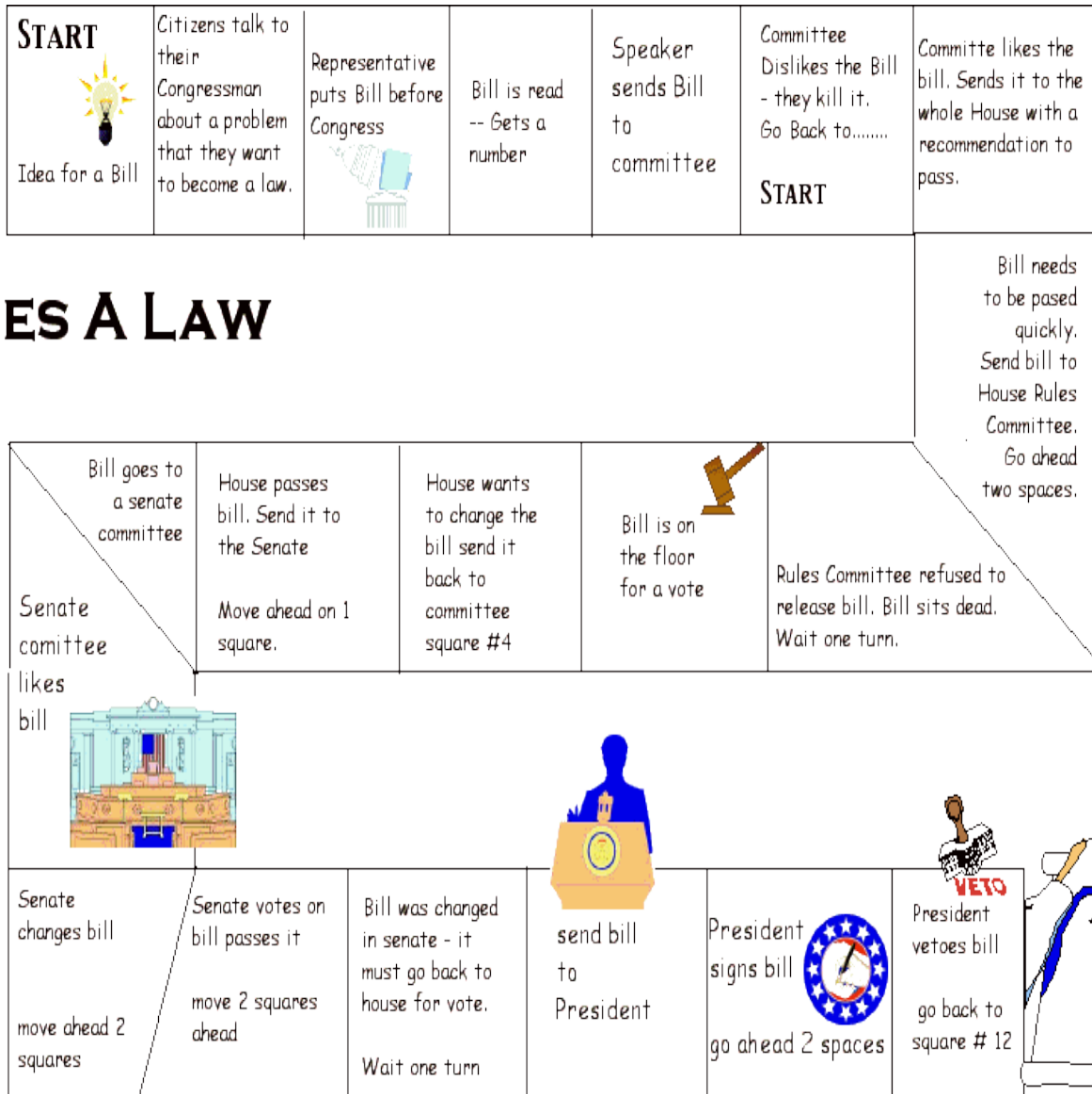
A new Congress means new legislation. Similar bills from last year will now have new numbers and sponsors. Two to keep an eye on are H.R. 695, sponsored by Rep. Peter Fazio

with 242 cosponsors, and S.145, introduced by Senator Steve Daines. If passed, these bills would repeal the United States Postal Service requirement to prepay future retirement benefits. The road is long. The path a bill must follow is arduous. Committees, subcommittees, rules committees, witnesses, debates, changes, votes, reconsiderations, back to committees, to the House or Senate floor, and then if successful, it will go to the other side to start the process again. Eventually, on to the President for a signature or a veto. There are pages and pages of rules and regulations for legislators to follow. I have included a chart that shows a simplified version of the path of a bill. Basic knowledge of the process and contents of the current legislation helps our cause. The more we know, the easier it is to solicit help from politicians and educate the public.



## HOW A BILL

## BECOMES A LAW



# Way To Go District 2!

By Rebecca Kingsley-District 2 Coordinator

“Our lives are never going to be the same.” is something that I hear often. However, in a way, I believe that it’s a good thing. I have seen a tremendous awakening for people to understand that they do need other people. Whatever it may be, doing good seems to be more of a priority than something we just “remembered to do “once in a while.

District 2 has not been idle. Longtime Auxiliary members Byron and Carolyn Denton from California starred in a hit promotional video. They were featured in local TV and newspaper articles and on the APWU and Auxiliary websites.

Colorado State MALs are now 100%. Way to go! Thank you,

Colorado. Not to be left out, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah are all working toward state or local organizations. District 2 states have been staying safe through this pandemic by conducting business via zoom.

The executive board has kept busy as well. We keep in steady contact with each other and our members through zoom and zipline meetings, phone calls, emails, and even a Newsflash and, of course, the US mail. We are planning for the conventions and collaborating to see how we can reach out even more.

I appreciate all of the members in my District for your hard work and dedication.



## Rules for Nilan Scholarship

1. No 2019-20 high school graduates will be considered for the 2021 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 the APWU National Auxiliary. The applicant must have been an Auxiliary member in good standing, for at least one (1) year prior to application deadline.
3. Application must be on 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 essay must be mailed to: Chairperson Rebecca Kingsley, postmarked no later than July 1, 2021, by certified mail with 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 \$500.00
8. Upon verification that the recipient has enrolled with the school of his/her choice, the award will be sent to the business office of the school to be applied to the cost of books, food vouchers, and or tuition. Scholarship must be used within 18 months of 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. In the event that the recipient drops out before the completion of the course (and within the refundable time frame) any unused funds that have already been sent to the recipients school for continuing education shall be refunded back to the National Auxiliary to the APWU.
11. No member of the APWU Auxiliary National Executive Board or their family will be eligible for this scholarship.
12. No exceptions will be made to these rules.



# Scholarship Official Application Form

Applicant's 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

*(optional - to be used for information for a press release if your entry is selected as our 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Essay Topic

## Why is diversity important in the Union and Auxiliary?

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 2021 ESSAY -

All essays must be:

- Typed,
- Double spaced,
- On white paper,

Between 175 and 250 words

Essay must be accompanied by the official application form.

Completed applications and essay must be sent via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested To:

Rebecca Kingsley, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 93686

City of Industry, CA 91715-3686

E-mail: [rkingsley@apwuauxiliary.org](mailto:rkingsley@apwuauxiliary.org)

Must be postmarked

On or before July 1, 2021

Auxiliary Scholarship

An Opportunity To The Future



# It's a Family Thing

By: Trisa Mannion-President

How can you keep your local and state organizations active during the no-contact times of a pandemic? We all know about meeting via ZOOM or one of the other online options. Thankfully, we have been using ZOOM in the Auxiliary for about four years; therefore, most of the members are accustomed to using this technology. If you want guidance or suggestions, contact your District Coordinator or myself, and we can help you.

Another way to keep active is to involve your family. Do you have children or grandchildren that you are caring for at home right now? Maybe it is time to teach the little ones in our lives about being of service for good causes. They benefit from learning to address envelopes, applying stamps, and hearing the reasons for sending postcards and letters. They also get to spend one on one time with you. It is a mix of quality and quantity time.

Children need a lot of quality time where the adults are not using their phones or distracted. We suggest that you teach them about the Auxiliary and why unions help make their lives better by involving them in Auxiliary activities. They are good at folding and stuffing letters, adding postage to

postcards, and sealing envelopes. I am sure you can think of many other ways to include them in your activities. Teenagers are very willing to help with anything on a computer or creative and skilled jobs. They love to be involved in your life, just like you are interested in their activities.



**Jace and Addie Wolver helping Grandma Karen District 3 Coordinator**

Most schools no longer teach about unions and their contributions to our society. Simple things like a 40-hour workweek, paid leave, insurance, retirements, and safer working conditions were all brought to us by unions. Children have rights that unions were instrumental in securing. Limited hours of work, a limit on the timeframe of the hours they can work, the ability to attend school, banned from using dangerous machines that have mangled many children. Teenagers often work in fast food industries that would

require them to work overnight and long hours if it were not for these basic labor laws.

We have a lot of members that already include their children and grandchildren in their activities. Let's make the Auxiliary work a family thing by including the youth in the family.



## Are your Dues Due?



Due dates are found before your name on the label of your News and Views. If due, please send a check for \$5.00 per year for National dues.

Mail payable to: Auxiliary to the APWU Bonnie Sevre-Treasurer 2836 Highway 88 Minneapolis, MN 55418  
State and Local dues should be mailed to your state and local treasurers.

## Have you Filed Your 990N?



The e-postcard is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. For example, if your tax year ended on December 31, the e-postcard is on due May 15 of the following year. If the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the due date is the next business day. You cannot file the e-postcard until after your tax year ends.

# HEALTH NEWS

## APWU MEMBER PORTAL & MOBILE APPLICATION

### Connect to your personal health plan information.

Your member portal — [myapwuhp.com](http://myapwuhp.com) — features resources to help you stay healthy and tools to help you get the most out of your health plan. Access deductibles, copays, coverage, maximums, and more.

When you register for a free member account, you'll have secure access to your personal health plan information.

**All members must re-register for the new member portal, even if you've registered in the past.**

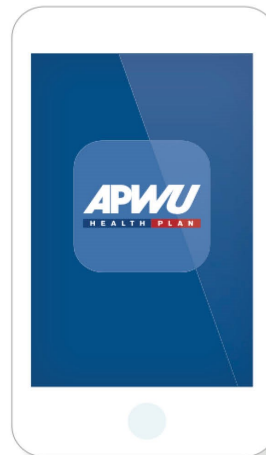
**Visit [myapwuhp.com](http://myapwuhp.com) to register in just minutes for instant access to your health plan.**



**Need help?**  
Call 1-877-814-9909  
[connect@healthtrio.com](mailto:connect@healthtrio.com)

### Manage your High Option Health Plan with your member portal.

Your member portal automatically transfers medical information from your claims and organizes it in a single, secure location.



As a member, you can log in to [myapwuhp.com](http://myapwuhp.com) to:

- Check the provider network to find a doctor
- Print a temporary ID card or request a replacement ID card
- View or print claims and authorizations
- Review your personal health summary
- See benefit and eligibility information
- View and download the plan brochure
- Read industry-leading health and wellness information
- Update your email address
- Update your coordination of benefits

### Download the myapwuhp app.

The [myapwuhp](http://myapwuhp.com) app is another tool that can help you manage your health plan. See your claims, year-to-date information, prescriptions, and more.

**You must register for the member portal in order to use the secure app.**



App Store is a secure mark of Apple Inc. Google Play is a registered trademark of Google LLC.



This is a summary of benefits and features offered by the APWU Health Plan. All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the Plan's Brochure (RI 71-004).

The APWU Health Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices describes how medical information about you may be used by the Health Plan, your rights concerning your health information, and how to exercise them and APWU Health Plan's responsibilities in protecting your health information. The Notice is posted on the Health Plan's website. If you need to obtain a copy of the Health Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices, you may either contact the Health Plan via email or through the website at [apwuhp.com](http://apwuhp.com) or by calling 800-222-2798.



## Strut Your Stuff

Has your local and state Auxiliary members been collecting their photos? Gather your memories to share at the National Convention. Let's brag and show off our history and our members in action. Old pictures and new are wanted. Bring your photo books, albums, newsletters, and memorabilia and strut your stuff.





# 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

Who doesn't like a BOGO (buy one, get one) sale? I know I live for these sales!

That is what it felt like at the end of December when I received an email from Fisher House letting us know that Wabash Trailer was willing to double any donation towards Fisher House up to \$45,000.00. Wabash has been in business in North America since 1985, and the United States Postal Service happens to use some of these trailers to transport our mail. In my mind, that was too good of a deal to pass up.



I immediately let the Budget Committee know about this deal. They only had a few days to send the money into Fisher House to get the matching monies from Wabash Trailer. With that, the National Auxiliary rushed a payment to Fisher House from the Human Relations fund for \$25,000.00. Our \$25,000.00 quickly turned in to \$50,000.00!!! Talk about winning the lottery!

It's moments like these that make me happy and proud of all the work each one of you contributes to our Human Relations projects year-round. I'm confident that we can continue in our efforts to grow our donations. You never know when a deal like this comes along, and I am so glad we had the money to donate to them when we did. Thank you all for everything you do.

Keep up the excellent work. Together we can change lives and help our Military families, one of our top priorities.



# New Date!

## Training: Parliamentary Procedures

Saturday, April 10, 2021

by Joyce Robinson

12:00 EST

National Research and Education

Director for the APWU

Mark your calendars. This will be an intensive 4-hour class.

A great opportunity to learn from the best.

There will be no Zipline meeting on April 6, 2021

## 2018 - 2020 National Officers

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