



# NEWS & VIEWS

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

## Gearing up for National Convention

By: Kathy Danek - President

We have just 3 short months until the National Convention convenes in beautiful downtown Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. It promises to be a very rewarding experience for delegates of both the APWU and Auxiliary and our families. Here are a few tips to make this a most rewarding experience.

### CREDENTIALS -

Please request credentials by emailing [kmdanek@apwuauxiliary.org](mailto:kmdanek@apwuauxiliary.org) or in writing to APWU Auxiliary – Credentials Request, PO Box 4243, Lincoln NE 68504. All credentials should be completed, with the original returned to APWU Auxiliary at PO Box 4243, Lincoln, NE 68504. PLEASE retain the duplicate copy to turn in to the registration desk at the National Convention. Please take time to fill in a committee preference on the credential so President Danek can make committee assignments

**LOCAL & STATE DELEGATES:** If you are a delegate for a state or a local, Make sure you have your local president and secretary sign the credentials.

MAL's and LWOL's credentials will be verified and signed by the National President and Secretary. Please return

your completed original copy to APWU Auxiliary, PO Box 4243, Lincoln, NE 68504; and keep the completed duplicate copy to be presented at the National Convention Registration booth.

### DUES –

Make sure your dues are paid current through the first of September 2018.

### RESOLUTIONS -

If your states or locals passed Constitutional Resolutions, please send those to National President Kathy Danek with a copy to Treasurer Trisa Mannion for a fiscal impact statement, and a copy to Legislative Aide Bonnie Sevre to print in the convention book.

**Below is a tentative agenda for the festivities.**



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### AGENDA

August 16, 2018 (Thursday)	Auxiliary Executive Board meeting	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m
August 17, 2018 (Friday)	Auxiliary Executive Board Meeting	8:00 a.m. to noon
	Auxiliary Registration	12:30 to 6 p.m.
for APWU & Auxiliary	Auxiliary Registration	8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m.
August 18, 2018(Saturday)	for APWU & Auxiliary	Auxiliary Registration
August 19, 2018 (Sunday)	for APWU & Auxiliary	8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m.
	Auxiliary Classes	10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.
	Parade of States /Ice Breaker	7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

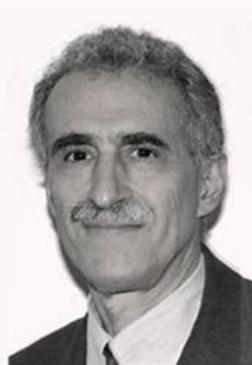
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# Let's Deliver the Mail, Not Myths

By: Mark Dimondstein May 11, 2018

*President Dimondstein wrote a column which was published in the Boston Globe. In it, he busts myths about the Postal Service and sets the record straight.*

*"The Postal Service, with its dedicated and accountable workforce, is consistently rated the most trusted and respected government agency. In these days of the e-commerce revolution, it is as vital as ever."*



President Trump's attention of late has been focused in part on the United States Postal Service and Amazon, resulting in a new executive order calling for an evaluation of USPS finances. This is a good opportunity to underscore some important facts regarding the Postal Service, a national treasure belonging to all the people of the United States.

Tax dollars do not fund Postal Service operations. Instead, it operates on earned revenue from postage and other products and services. As a self-funding independent agency, the Postal Service provides universal service at uniform and reasonable rates, delivering to 157 million addresses six (and sometimes seven) days a week, no matter who customers are or where they live.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, the primary source of current Postal Service financial challenges is not the decline of letter mail. Rather, the red ink derives almost entirely from the bipartisan congressional enactment of the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act. The act compelled the Postal Service to pre-fund 100 percent of future retiree health care costs, 75 years into the future, for workers not even born yet. This mandate transferring postal revenues to the federal treasury bilked the Postal Service out of \$5.6 billion a year over a 10-year period. No other company or agency faces, or could survive, such an onerous financial burden. Adding to the absurdity is the fact that, prior to the new law, the Postal Service had been reliably paying the retirement health benefit premiums as they arose, as do other companies and agencies. Without this manufactured pre-funding crisis, the US Postal Service would have shown a positive net income in four of the last five years averaging close to \$1 billion annually — again, without a dime of taxpayer money.

The same 2006 law placed further strain on postal finances with an unreasonably restrictive price cap on postage rates. While it helped the profits of huge mailers,

it diminished services for the general public. Combined with the pre-funding debacle, this price cap contributed to reduced hours, closing of post offices, slower delivery standards, and severe short staffing, leading to longer lines and later delivery times.

With the growth of the Internet, letter volume has declined over the last decade. And yet a massive amount of mail is processed and delivered, some 500 million pieces a day — including messages of love and sympathy, medicines to seniors and veterans, financial and business transactions, periodicals, catalogs, and packages. Indeed, what the Internet "taketh" the Internet "giveth," as package volume has skyrocketed with the explosion of e-commerce.

The public post office, established by the Constitution, is a democratic right of the population and has helped bind the people of this country together for the last 240 years. The Postal Service, with its dedicated and accountable workforce, is consistently rated the most trusted and respected government agency. In these days of the e-commerce revolution, it is as vital as ever. Noteworthy is that in the Internet age, lack of security and invasion of our privacy has become the norm. The US mail may just be the last bastion of private and secure communication.

New challenges certainly exist, but the solutions are not complicated. Congress should fix the pre-funding fiasco. Common-sense bipartisan bills, currently stalled in both the Senate and House, would do just that. The Postal Regulatory Commission can eliminate the arbitrary and artificial price cap and give the USPS more pricing flexibility so large mailers pay their fair share. This still will allow the Postal Service to maintain the lowest postal rates in the industrialized world.

Postal workers and millions and millions of customers certainly hope that the task force created by the executive order has as its starting point a sincere commitment to helping the Postal Service thrive. However, if the task force proves to be a smokescreen to promote the postal privatization agenda of the likes of the Heritage Foundation and Cato Institute and their billionaire benefactors' efforts to turn the common good over to private profiteers, then postal workers will be on the front lines fighting back, united with our communities and the people of this country, to ensure a vibrant public postal service for many generations to come.

**You've got mail — for now**  
*So what happens if written notes become obsolete?*

# Justice – it's more than JUST US

By: Kathy Danek - President

The words justice and just us sound an awful lot alike. Justice is defined as fairness, justness, fair play, fair mindedness, equity, even handed, impartial, objectivity, neutrality, honest, righteousness, morals, morality. At least that is what the dictionary says. But the real question is – who should be afforded justice. Is it just us? Is it only people who look like us, believe like us, act like us? Is it really about us?

Justice is used as a standard in courts of law, our Auxiliary proceedings, our US Constitution, our organizations Constitutions. But it's also about giving voice to all of our members. That doesn't mean we don't have to work together, but rather that we find a way to build consensus and create a just environment. That justice creates a sense of fair play where each of us can exercise our right of speech, share our ideas and build a strong collective agreement that improves things for all of our members and their families.

That's the idea behind our Contract Action Teams – where we need all of our voices working collectively to create a fair and just environment for a strong collective bargaining agreement that will define the future of APWU members, their families and our retirees and their families. That means that agreement will benefit us as Auxiliary members. I am asking each and everyone of our members to get engaged in your local communities, your state organizations, your local union and auxiliary meetings. We all have places we can share our voices – where we can bring up new ideas. But we really need our communities to understand that a strong and healthy USPS – and APWU benefits each and every citizen, their community, and our

nation. What can you do? Talk with friends and neighbors about the need for all of us to have a strong public post office – that serves every address with similar rates across our entire nation. This is the strongest communication network in the country and it's available without prejudice of where you live, how much you make, who lives in your house, -- its about equity for all. It's about a sense of justice.

Across the nation you see grocery stores, clothing stores, many kinds of retail services disappearing especially in our disadvantaged neighborhoods. Services shouldn't only be available to the people who have much, but rather – to also serve those who have little. That is true justice. Our public post office is a national treasure. It's been around more than 240 years, and has survived numerous attempts to plunder it's network. Saving our post office is truly about justice of services for every citizen. To make sure basic communication needs can be met. So, get active in the contract action activities across the country. And get to work to keep the strong public support for the USPS and our APWU members. Justice really is MORE than JUST US. It's all of us.

## Pittsburgh's Labor History

From dramatic strikes, to the formation of the AFL, the CIO, and the AFL-CIO, Pittsburgh's labor movement has a rich and deep history. Fight Back Pittsburgh has released a new online, interactive map of Pittsburgh's labor history.

Since both the American Federation of Labor (1881) and the Congress of Industrial Organizations (1937) were founded in Pittsburgh, the region is seen as the cradle of the American labor movement. However, the story of workers' aspirations and struggles are not only about the unions and other organizations that represent them. From their formation, social and political forces have shaped Pittsburgh labor unions.

<https://battleofhomestead.org/bhf/pittsburghs-labor-history-sites-an-interactive-map/>

**Save the Date!**

**National Auxiliary  
Convention**

**August 20 - 23, 2018**

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**



# Auxiliary Happenings Across the Country

## New Auxiliary Formed in Erie Pennsylvania



Kathy Danek presenting Peter Sigler the Erie Pennsylvania Auxiliary President with their new charter.

The newly formed Erie Pennsylvania local Auxiliary President Peter Sigler was presented with their new Charter honoring the work they have done to organize and activate their local Auxiliary.

Local member Tamara Kloss credited Sigler for his hard work in getting the Auxiliary chartered and moving forward. Officers of the new local are:

President - Peter Sigler,  
Vice President - Ray Wall  
Secretary - Frances Sigler  
Legislative Representative Cathy Wall.

Congratulations to Erie PA Auxiliary and all of their members. And congratulations and thanks to District 7 Coordinator Joyce Tanguay for all her hard work inspiring this local Auxiliary's formation.

## Children Incorporated Continues to Receive Donations

Pictured is Dana Coletti, New Hampshire State President, presenting Joyce Tanguay, District 7 Coordinator, with a check for \$250.00 for Children Incorporated at the New England Multi State Convention in Providence Rhode Island.



The auxiliary is continuing to receive checks from APWU locals and auxiliaries from around the country. Your generosity toward this project has been overwhelming and we are most appreciative of your support.

We will continue to receive donations through the National Convention in Pittsburgh. Also, please remember that we will have a collection box at the auxiliary booth for those of you who bring underwear - socks, t-shirts, panties, etc. - which will be taken to a school in Kentucky where the underwear will be distributed to the children in need. You may also bring gift cards (Target is available in most locations) which will be used for supplies the children need.

## Maine Labor Council Sponsors a Child with Children Incorporated By: Doris Poland - Past National Auxiliary President

Children Incorporated is an organization that provides basic necessities such as food, clothing, healthcare, and educational support to children living in poverty. In 2016 the Auxiliary to the American Postal Workers Union adopted Children Incorporated as their Human Relations Project until the next National Convention in 2018.

I was at that convention and had worked with Children Incorporated during my time in the National Auxiliary. I am now the Vice President of the Southern Maine Labor Council. After attending the Auxiliary convention, I asked the Labor Council if they would be interested in adopting an American child for one year through Children Incorporated. The vote from the e-board and the membership was unanimous. Our treasurer sent in the council's information along with the donation to sponsor our child for one year. We were pleased to receive not

only information on our child but also a photo of our child. We decided to correspond with our child by sending him postcards from our state. At every meeting someone brings in new post cards to fill out. Every member of our council will, at some point, have sent in a postcard telling our child a little bit about who they are, and what their union does.



At Christmas our members asked if we could send some extra money to help the family during the

*Continued on page 5*

# More Auxiliary Happenings

## Christine Sarcone - a True Bridge Builder

By: Bonnie Sevre - Legislative Aide Editor

Each year the Auxiliary to the APWU recognizes one person in each state to receive the Bridge Builder Award. Applications must be submitted by December 31<sup>st</sup> for the individual nominated to be eligible to receive this award. The National Auxiliary Executive Board reviews all of the applications and vote on one individual from each state to receive this award.

Christine Sarcone from Des Moines Iowa Local 44 was chosen to receive the Bridge Builder Award for 2018. She exemplifies what the Auxiliary is all about.

Christine joined the Auxiliary in 2010 when it had a membership that could be counted on one hand and a treasury that had less than \$600 in the bank accounts.

As president of the Des Moines Iowa Auxiliary Christine sees what needs to be done and follows through. Starting with building the foundation, she organized the files and then worked on increasing the numbers. She is a great motivator and the Des Moines Auxiliary now has more than fifty members and a growing bank account. This enables the Auxiliary to support and donate to needy causes. The membership



participates in the auxiliary meetings and are quick to volunteer wherever and when ever they are needed. Christine is quick to point out that she cannot do any of this alone, crediting the volunteers every step of the way. The auxiliary has a great time while making food for luncheons, selling raffle tickets, finding donations and volunteering their time and energy at events.

Christine is active politically. She votes to protect her job and her union. She doesn't hesitate to write or call her congressman, campaign, rally, protest - whatever it takes. She urges all union members to support their union by voting to protect organized

labor. Educate yourselves; know your rights; get involved. She believes that our union is like a family which is why we refer to ourselves as "brother" or "sister". Our solidarity and our strength in numbers is our survival. Many people say the right things or have good intentions, but Christine follows through with her convictions. She acts and inspires others to do the same.

I was honored to present the 2018 Bridge Builder Award to Christine Sarcone. Thank you for all that you do - for your auxiliary - and your union!

## Maine Labor Council Sponsors a Child with Children Incorporated

*Continued from page 4*

holidays. I contacted the organization and they said we could so we were happy to do so. We received thank you letters from our child and from his mother. She said she could not believe that a group of people that did not know her son or her family would do something like this. She informed us that they had the best Christmas ever because of people they have never met.

We have just sent in our donation to keep **our** child for another year. Our members are thrilled to be able to support him for another year. It is a joy to see and hear how our contributions have helped him have the food, clothing, healthcare and educational support he needs for a chance at a better life. Our Union members know what it takes to bring up a child and they are proud to help.



Kathy Danek presenting Harry Bowers, Greensboro North Carolina with the 2018 Bridge Builder Award for his many years of dedicated service to the union and to the auxiliary.



## Ask Tina? *About the Health Plan*

### When Temperatures Fall, Heart Attack Risk May Rise

Colder weather may raise the risk for a heart attack, a preliminary study suggests. Researchers in Taiwan found that heart attack rates fluctuated seasonally, with more occurring in winter than summer. When the temperature fell below 59 degrees Fahrenheit, heart attacks increased dramatically, the study authors said. "When the temperature drops, people at high risk of a heart attack should be put on alert for symptoms such as chest pain and shortness of breath," said study author and cardiologist Dr. Po-Jui Wu. For the study, the researchers analyzed health records from more than 40,500 Taiwanese heart attack patients from 2008 to 2011.

That information was then stacked up against two other databases. One contained information about nearly 920,000 adults who had never had a heart attack, while a second tracked local weather patterns collected by the Taiwan Central Weather Bureau. The researchers found that colder weather, changes in weather, and strong winds each were tied to increased heart attack risk the next day. The study couldn't prove a cause-and-effect relationship. However, the researchers advised taking public health measures to alert high-risk patients -- perhaps via smartphone messaging -- when problematic weather changes are coming. "At-risk groups include people who had a previous heart attack, the elderly, or those with risk factors such as diabetes, high

blood pressure, smoking, obesity, and sedentary lifestyles," said Wu, of Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan.

The findings will be presented this week in Taiwan at a meeting of the Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology. "Heart attacks can cause people to die suddenly, so it is essential to urgently seek medical assistance when symptoms occur," Wu added in a news release from the European Society of Cardiology. Research presented at meetings is usually considered preliminary until published in a peer-reviewed medical journal.

#### More information:

There's more on heart attack risk at the [American Heart Association](#). - Alan Mozes

SOURCE: European Society of Cardiology, news release, May 18, 2018



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*Our Deepest  
Sympathy*

to **Ethelda Burris**  
on the passing of her husband,  
**William Burris**, past president  
of the **American Postal Workers**

# Plan Ahead for the National Auxiliary Convention



## Educational Classes APWU Auxiliary 2018 National Convention



Education helps develop skills so that we can help make our state and local auxiliaries be more successful.

We have some awesome classes prepared and hope you plan to attend a couple.

**When: Sunday August 19, 2018**

**Where: David L Lawrence Convention Center**

### Signing Up Members and Keeping Them

Rebecca Kingsley – District 2 Coordinator

Room: 316

Time: 10am-12noon and 2pm-4pm

### 1<sup>st</sup> Timers Class

Clara Hill – District 6 Coordinator

Room: 315

Time: 1pm-3pm

### Legislative Class

Bonnie Sevre – Legislative Aide-Editor

Room: 315

Time: 10am-12noon

## Gearing Up for National Convention President's Article - *continued*

### August 20, 2018 (Monday)

Auxiliary & APWU

Joint Opening Session 9:30 a.m.

Aux. General Session opens 10:30 a.m. to 4:00

**Mystery Party**–Westin Hotel 4:30 to 6:30

**PNC Labor night at Ball Park** 7:00 p.m.

### August 21, 2018 (Tuesday)

General Session 9:30 to 4:00

Nominations for office Last order of business

### COPA Night

### August 22, 2018 (Wednesday)

General Session 9:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Memorial Service Opens session

Election of Officers 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Auxiliary Celebration Luncheon

### President's night

### August 23, 2018 (Thursday)

General Session 9:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Presentation of Human Relations Project



## Mystery Party

On Monday afternoon (4:30pm - 6:30pm) the Auxiliary will be hosting a Mystery Party. Characters will be played by your union and auxiliary

brothers and sisters. The event will be held at the Westin Hotel (next to the convention center). It's bound to be a lot of fun that you will not want to miss!

## Celebration Luncheon

Wednesday afternoon the Auxiliary will be hosting their celebration luncheon. This is the time when awards are handed out and members are recognized for their service. It's also a great time to get to meet and mix with auxiliary members from other parts of the country.



## Auxiliary Achievement Award



Don't forget to fill in the Auxiliary Achievement Award form. The form may be found on the Auxiliary website or contact one of the national officers. Please mail the form by July 15, 2018 to Bonnie Sevre, 2836 Highway 88, St. Anthony, MN 55418, or, email to [bsaux@aol.com](mailto:bsaux@aol.com).

## Book of Memories

On Wednesday morning the Auxiliary will hold a Memorial Service which will recognize our brothers and sisters who have passed away in the last two years. Please submit names of those you would like to have recognized. The form with a suggested donation of \$10.00 is on the Auxiliary website (under programs), or, the form was included in the April 2018 issue of News and Views.



We will be conducting raffles throughout the auxiliary convention to raise money for COPA. *Do you have something special you would like to donate or an item that is a representation of your state? We would love to have all kinds of items to raffle for COPA.*

**REMEMBER:** COPA dollars go to support candidates who support the postal service and our good union jobs.

## 2016-2018 Human Relations Project

By: Joyce Tanguay - Human Relations Chair

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

This is the last issue of News & Views before our National Convention, (remember, we do not publish issues in July and August) so this will be a final push for our Human Relations Project, Children Incorporated. Your support of this project has been greatly appreciated and for those of you who have not yet made a decision whether or not to support these children we do hope you will consider doing so. We will be accepting donations up until and during the National Convention and would love to see the name of your state or local posted along with the others at the Auxiliary Booth. Please mail your donation no later than August 1<sup>st</sup> so we may add your name to this list. Any donations given at the convention will be recognized in a future issue of News & Views.



Checks may be made payable to *Auxiliary to the APWU* (please designate Children Incorporated) and mailed to:

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

**And, remember, no donation is too small (or too large!)**



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