



NEWS & VIEWS

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DECEMBER, 2014

Auxiliary Joins National Day of Action

By Kathy Danek President



BUILDING A COALITION OF FRIENDS— One community at a time

From Portland, ME to Los Angeles CA and many states in between, the Auxiliary joined the efforts of the APWU. The message was clear—"Stop destroying the US Mail".

Saint Charles MO, Lincoln NE, Grand Junction CO, Portland ME, and California Area Local—were just a few of the locals standing side by side with their local APWU and the other Unions of the USPS.

It's really ironic that the USPS is now in the midst of a massive public relations campaign touting the excellent service of the US MAIL. The ad says 15 billion deliveries—on time. And it intimates that we are committed to getting your packages, parcels and cards delivered on time. You can rely on us.

News flash to the USPS—actions speak louder than words. We cannot continue to deliver excellent service when we use a backwards approach of cutting standards. We must continue to fight to save delivery standards, protect 6 day delivery, and make sure the mail is protected in transit.

Protecting the mail—oh yes—hundreds of reports across the country of grinchers trying to steal Christmas as they take packages left by our competitors on your front porches, in your bushes, and the like. Sadly, those packages are not protected by the laws regarding the USPS. Tampering with the US Mail is a federal crime—not petty larceny.

Keep working to protect this valuable national treasure known as US Postal Service. The network reaches every address, community and business. Costs do not and cannot include a profit, because the American people own the USPS.

So it's up to us send our message – the US Mail is safe, efficient, and secure. We are the best bargain in the delivery world.

You can find a copy of a public flyer to share with your family and friends on our website at www.apwuauxiliary.org. We have printed a smaller version with photos from the "Day of Action" on page 4. Please let us know how you are working to help "Save the Post Office".

PMG DONAHOE LEAVING THE USPS Megan Brennan to take over the reigns Feb 1



The sentiment is clear to the current PMG Donahoe—"Don't let the door hit you on the way out". His administration was marred with his intent to destroy the USPS from the inside out. He hid behind the idea of saving us from massive deficits. But those who understand the legalities know those deficits were manufactured by a faulty and unaccountable law enacted in the lame duck 2006 Congress.

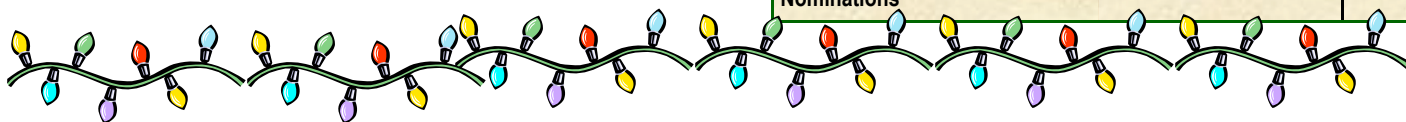
Donahoe was a willing accomplice in the attempts to privatize the USPS. Moreover, he denigrated the dedicated daily efforts of hundreds of thousands of men and women who work to process and deliver the mail. Massive job cuts as the volume has stabilized from the recession. Moving processing plants, delaying delivery by sheer logistics of moving from one processing plant to another and cutting delivery standards, Any novice entrepreneur understands that you must improve your daily standards—not cut them. That's how a business really works.

But maybe that is the problem—the Postal Service is not a business. It is a public service, dedicated to serving each and every address. We pride ourselves in delivering mail with next day service, employees sworn to protect the sanctity of the mail, and employees who work around the clock to make sure these things are done. They are professional, competent and efficient.

Megan Brennan has a lot of work ahead of her. Hopefully she will embrace the true service promised and provided by the USPS for more than 230 years. Let's hold her accountable for protecting and saving the USPS.

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Rating the USPS—our public still says we are excellent

Adapted from APWU News Service Bulletin

The American public, across all age groups approves of the service provided by the USPS by a 2 to 1 margin. In fact, you might be surprised to find out that people age 18 to 29 gave the USPS and 81% approval rating (Excellent/Good). Those 30 to 49 rated us at 75% and over age 50 approved our service at 65%. The source of these numbers is a November 11-12, 2014 poll by nationally respected pollster Gallup.

That is the highest rated of 13 government agencies. And this is not new—it's been that way for years.

According to Gallup, the survey results “could be good news for an organization that has been battered by bad publicity for quite some time.” Despite its difficulties, “the overall image of the agency has remained remarkably positive. This reservoir of goodwill may serve the Postal Service well as it strives to adapt to the changing world in which electronic communication and commerce are rapidly replacing the traditional mailed letter.” They went on to say “All age groups gave solid approval ratings to the Postal Service.”

“As the volume of letters has declined, the USPS has evolved to become as much a courier of

Approval of U.S. Postal Service, by Age and Gender

How would you rate the job being done by the U.S. Postal Service -- excellent, good, only fair or poor?

	% Excellent/Good
Women overall	73
Men overall	70
Women under 50	80
Men under 50	75
Women 50+	65
Men 50+	64

Nov. 11-12, 2014

GALLUP

packages as it is a way to send and receive first-class mail.” TIME Magazine wrote.

APWU President Mark Dimondstein said, “Pundits have convinced many people that the future of the Postal Service is bleak because young people consider it irrelevant, but this poll shows the opposite is true. It makes you wonder how much better the results would be if postal management truly embraced the mission and worked to improve rather than cut service. In this day of rapidly advancing ecommerce, the survey shows that the future of the Postal Service could be bright.”

APWU President Mark Dimondstein— RE—Cyber Security Breach in the USPS

Auxiliary members join APWU members & retirees in sharing grave concerns over the report of the cyber security breach of personal information from the USPS data. The breach compromised the economic security of current and retired USPS employees. Below is an update from APWU President Mark Dimondstein concerning the issue...editor

The security breach in the Postal Service's data systems that compromised personal information about postal employees, including all active and some retired workers, is a very troubling matter.

Unfortunately, cybercrime is real and effective. But we are outraged that this happened. We do not know at this point whether management did everything in their power to protect our privacy, but they bear the ultimate responsibility.

While the Postal Service has been aware of the security problems for months, they kept you and your union leadership in the dark.

I received a phone call Sunday night from Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe about the incident, but it was just a “courtesy call,” not a discussion with the APWU about how to deal with the problem and its negative consequences to the workforce. **On Monday, Nov. 10, the APWU leadership received the same material you received, just minutes prior to the beginning of Stand-Up talks around the country.**

The APWU is fully committed to defending the privacy rights of all our members. We have already [filed charges](#) with the National Labor Relations Board protesting the Postal Service's failure to bargain over the impact of the security breach. We are demanding information from the USPS about the extent of the breach - both known and suspected - and what postal management knew, when they knew it, and what they did, or failed to do to protect employee information.

Along with other APWU leaders, I will be personally involved as we address these deep concerns. And we will work in concert with our sister postal unions.

We will keep you posted as more information is obtained.

See more at: <http://www.apwu.org/news/web-news-article/statement-apwu-members-president-mark-dimondstein#sthash.Zqk99MAN.dpuf>

A Little Bit of Labor Ed - BuyAmerican.com

By Kathy Danek President (reprinted)

From Toys to tools, towels to pens - we're finding it more difficult each and every day to find things made right here in the USA. Thanks to the efforts of the AFL-CIO and the Made in USA products.org - we're getting a little help from Santa this year. Websites are fast becoming the shopping tool for many consumers. It's the ease of finding whatever you want without leaving the comforts of home. BuyAmerican.com has an extensive list of items that could tickle the fancy of every Good Little Boy and Girl or your shopping list. Mom, Dad, Grandma and Grandpa alike will enjoy selections from this source. You can even get a gift certificate so they can select their own gifts. Check out this unique tool - and while you're at it, also check our ShopUnionMade.org and their s also www.sweatshopwatch.org/sweatfree to continue to provide you with options for your buying dollars.

Now, more than ever, we need a grass roots effort using our buying dollars to protect and promote our working citizenry.

May you all have a very Merry Holiday Season and a joyous New Year.

Here are a few examples of items and vendors of made in the USA items.

ART AND STOCKING STUFFERS

Northland Poster Collective

www.northlandposter.com

The Union Shop, AFL-CIO

www.aflcio.org/shop

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Powell's Books

www.powellsunion.com

Syracuse Cultural Workers

www.syrculturalworkers.com

Union Communication Services (UCS)

www.unionist.com

Really Big Coloring Books, Inc.

www.coloringbook.com

The Union Shop, AFL-CIO

www.aflcio.org/shop

Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company

www.charleshkerr.org

Labor Heritage Foundation

www.laborheritage.org/books.htm

COFFEE

USA Coffee Co.

www.usacoffeecompany.com

CLOTHES & ACCESSORIES

Union Jean and Apparel

www.unionjeancompany.com

Justice Clothing

www.justiceclothing.com

Pendleton Woolen Mills, Inc.

www.pendleton-usa.com

No Sweat Apparel

www.nosweatapparel.com

New Era Cap Company

www.neweracap.com

Excelled Sheepskin & Leather
www.leathercoatsetc.com

GAMES & HOBBY KITS

The Testors Corp.

www.testors.com

Hasbro, Parker Brothers,

Milton Bradley

www.hasbro.com

SPORTING GOODS

Camillus Cutlery

(Official Scout knives)

www.camillusknives.com

Cutco Cutlery

www.cutco.com

Corwin Knives

www.corwinknives.com/prod/

Top Flight Golf Balls

www.callawaygolf.com

TPS Hockey Sticks

www.tps-hockey.com/dealers.asp

Louisville Slugger

(Wood Baseball Bats)

www.sluggergifts.com

Remington Arms Co.

www.remington.com

Winchester/U.S. Repeating Arms Co.

www.winchester-guns.com

Wilson Footballs

www.wilson.com

SWEETS

Ghirardelli Chocolate

www.giftprogram.com/ghirardelli

Hershey Chocolate USA *

www.hersheygifts.com

Russell Stover Candy *

www.russellstover.com

See's Candy *

www.sees.com

Our Deepest Sympathy

to Karen See and family

**on the loss of her husband Greg See, Assistant
Director of the Maintenance Craft. Greg proudly
served the APWU as an advocate for workers. the
union and the Auxiliary.**

Threatened Cuts Would Destroy Mail Service!

The Postmaster General and USPS Board of Governors are poised to make devastating cuts in service to the American people – cuts so severe that they would forever damage the U.S. Postal Service.

- On Jan. 5, the USPS is slated to lower “service standards,” to virtually eliminate overnight delivery – including first-class mail from one address to another within the same city or town.
- All mail (medicine, online purchases, local newspapers, newsletters, bill payments, letters and invitations) throughout the country would be delayed.
- Beginning Jan. 5, 82 mail sorting centers are scheduled to close.

This is the same misguided thinking that’s behind efforts to end Saturday and door-to-door deliveries, cut back post office hours and make other reductions in mail service.

Degrading service would hurt residents, small businesses and communities across the country – and it would eventually destroy the Postal Service itself by driving mail away.

It’s not necessary. The Postal Service, which doesn’t use a dime of taxpayer money, is profitable. So far this year, it has earned more than \$1 billion in operating profit, and its finances have been improving for years.

The red ink stems from Congress, which requires the Postal Service to pre-fund future retiree health



benefits – something no other public agency or private firm has to do. That costs the Postal Service \$5.6 billion a year – and that’s the red ink.

You Can Stop This!

Lawmakers need to fix the problem they created – not force you to accept substandard service while destroying a national treasure that is based in the Constitution.

Fifty-one senators and 160 House members have called for a one-year moratorium on the reduction in service and the closure or consolidation of 82 mail processing centers – scheduled to begin on Jan. 5 – to allow Congress time to enact postal legislation that would improve, not degrade, postal service.

Call your representative and senators at 1-877-662-2889 (the Capitol Hill switchboard) and tell them to support the moratorium on plant closings, so the U.S. Postal Service can continue to serve your community.

Auxiliary Joins National Day of Action



For more information, visit www.StopMailDelays.org or www.facebook.com/StopDelayingAmericasMail





THE HOLIDAY SEASON A DIVERSITY OF JOYOUS CELEBRATIONS

By Kathy Danek

When you think of the holiday season what comes to mind? For many of us it is the holiday of Christmas. The tradition of Christmas might include a religious service steeped in the belief in Christianity and the birth of Jesus Christ otherwise known as the nativity. For many it's the joy of a small child opening a gift left under a beautifully decorated tree on Christmas morning left by a jolly old elf - Santa Claus. It's candy canes, wreaths, Christmas Carols and a beautifully decorated tree.

Many of our brothers & sisters celebrate the holiday of Hanukkah (December 16 through 24). It's the Jewish Festival of Lights and is an eight-day commemoration of the rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees after their victory over the Syrians. This tradition and belief reaches back into history to about 165 BC. Some of the beautiful symbols of the Jewish faith are the menorah and the Star of David.

If you are Islamic, your family probably commemorates the Ramadan. This year it was celebrated June 28 through July 27. (This is the Islamic month of fasting that commemorates the month that the Koran was revealed. The Koran is the holy book of the Islamic faith. Adults are called to fast from dawn to dusk to achieve spiritual and physical purity. Muslims celebrate the end of the fast with the joyous festival of Eid ul-Fitr, the Festival of Breaking the Fast. They attend special congregational prayers in the morning and greet each other with "Eid Mubarak," or "Holiday Blessings".

There is the season of Advent - four weeks prior to Christmas when Christians spend time in prayer and fasting in the preparation of the "coming of Christ." This year it begins on November 30 and runs through December 24 – culminating with Christmas Day. Four candles – three purple and one rose symbolize the anticipation of the birth of the Savior. Christians believe this is a time of penance, forgiveness, charity, and a sharing of the gifts from God.

The African American community celebrates the holiday of Kwanzaa. (December 26 through January 1, 2015) Kwanzaa affirms seven principles called "Nguzo Saba". They are: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. During Kwanzaa tables are decorated with African cloth and a kinara (A special candelabra) may be found in their homes across the country. Ritual includes a time of remembering their ancestors and hymns would be sung. Unlike the usual gift giving that often accompanies the Christmas tradition, the gift of Kwanzaa (called zawadi) are usually homemade.

So what does this all mean? As you can see many cultures find this a season of joy, preparation and sacrifice. It's a time when peace is negotiated all over the world. It's a time when people smile and help others in their community regardless of race, creed, gender or age. It's a gift - a true belief that this can and is a world we all want to be a part of. Our forefathers had the great foresight to create this nation with freedom and honor as our doctrine. We have the freedom to practice whatever religion we want. We live in neighborhoods brimming with diversity, beauty and joy. May this season of joy fill all our hearts with peace and love that we may live and prosper throughout this century.



Holiday Word Scramble by Deb Donovan

Unscramble the words below using words from the word list.

Taken from parentsplace.com -

- GEG OGN _____
- TMLIEOSTE _____
- TEARWH _____
- RANOMHE _____
- KNITSSOCG _____
- NEEDREIR _____
- KHHNAACU _____
- STYO _____
- LEON _____
- NOSW _____
- SLAROC _____
- TSNAA _____
- THMACSRIS EETR _____
- TRAPEIS _____
- ANAAZWK _____
- GIHSEL _____
- RESENTPS _____
- TIGHLS _____
- KIOOSCE _____
- FASLOWNSEK _____
- MOWANNIS _____
- MNREAOTN _____
- VELES _____
- VIGNIG _____
- TAMRSHCIS _____
- RATCOOSNEDI _____
- SENDRIF _____
- TRAS _____
- MAFYLI _____
- GELAN _____



Word List



- CHRISTMAS
- DECORATIONS
- STAR
- SLEIGH
- WREATH
- CHANUKAH
- SNOW
- PRESENTS
- LIGHTS
- SANTA, TOYS
- COOKIES
- MISTLETOE
- STOCKINGS
- EGG NOG
- ORNAMENT

- MENORAH
- ELVES
- ANGEL
- SNOWMAN
- GIVING
- KWANZAA
- PARTIES
- FRIENDS
- SNOWFLAKES
- CAROLS
- CHRISTMAS TREE
- REINDEER
- FAMILY
- NOEL

Together. Better Health.®

Health Plan Highlights

- Office visits (including specialists) \$18 copay* (HO)
- Urgent care centers \$40 copay (HO)
- No upfront deductible, coinsurance or copay (CDO)
- Maternity covered at 100%*
- Use LabCorp and Quest Diagnostics for 100% coverage (HO)
- Diabetes and hypertension management (HO) covered at 100%*
- Preventive care and screenings covered at 100%*
- Routine dental covered at 70% (HO)
- Secure on-line access to healthcare data
- Almost 1 million providers
- Get care nationally and abroad
- No referrals needed

High Option Highlights

- Copays*: \$18 for office visits (including specialists); \$40 for all urgent care centers; \$8 for generic drugs
- Deductible: \$275 self/\$550 self and family (in-network)
- Use LabCorp and Quest Diagnostics for 100% coverage
- 100% coverage (in-network):
 - Preventive care and screenings
 - Maternity
 - Accidental injury (within 24 hours)
 - Diabetes Management Program
 - Hypertension Management Program
 - Weight Management Program
 - Tobacco Cessation Program
- Cancer Centers of Excellence paid at 95%
- Routine dental coverage
- Discount vision program
- Extra dental discount when Health Risk Assessment is completed
- Hearing aid benefit

Consumer Driven Option Highlights

- Personal Care Account (PCA) provides 100% coverage for the first \$1,200 of your annual medical expenses for self only coverage or \$2,400 for self and family coverage
- No upfront deductible, coinsurance or copay until PCA is exhausted
- Completing Health Risk Assessment adds \$75 self/\$150 self and family to PCA
- 100% coverage (in-network):
 - Preventive care and screenings
 - Maternity
 - Diabetes Management Program
 - Tobacco Cessation Program
- Healthy Back and Pregnancy Programs
- Cancer Centers of Excellence paid at 90%
- Dental and vision coverage available under PCA
- Plan SmartChoice Winner three years running

*100% coverage for in-network providers; additional out-of-pocket costs for out-of-network providers

www.apwuhp.com



High Option Premiums 2015

	Self Only (471)	Self and Family (472)
APWU Career		
biweekly	\$42.65	\$105.20
Postal Retiree		
monthly	\$140.12	\$316.83

Consumer Driven Option Premiums 2015

	Self Only (474)	Self and Family (475)
APWU Career		
biweekly	\$9.26	\$20.84
APWU Career (Less than a year in FEHB)		
biweekly	\$36.58	\$82.30
APWU Non-Career (PSE)		
biweekly	\$46.31	\$104.18
Postal Retiree		
monthly	\$100.34	\$225.73

BRIDGE BULDERS 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)		

Bridge Builder Nomination Form (revised) 9/16/2014



December 2014

Bridge Builder Nominations are due December 31, 2014.

Nomination form is on page 7. Completed information and supporting documents should be mailed to Clara Hill, Chairperson at 2710 Waverly, Knoxville, TN 37921
Email—wavechill@att.net
Fax— 865-637-1867



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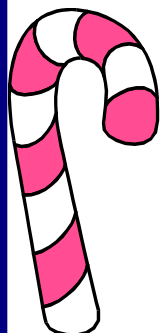
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“A TREASURY OF ASSISTANCE...”

FROM TREASURER TRISA MANNION



Have you noticed the label on your News & Views? Take a minute to look at the information above your name. It shows the expiration date of your dues. Are your dues current or expired?

DON'T FORGET ABOUT PAYING YOUR DUESNational dues are \$5.00 per member per year payable in advance. Your state and local dues vary and should be paid to your respective treasurers. I will accept your check for state and national dues combined then rebate the state dues to your respective state.

State Treasurers should be sending dues notices in the next few weeks. I am sure they would appreciate receiving your dues before sending a notice. It is very costly to send notices, not to mention, time consuming.

If the dates on your label are not correct, notify me. A copy of your cancelled check, if possible, is very helpful. Keep in mind, if you forgot to pay a year your dues may have been credited to the year you skipped payment.

When you send dues payments please include name, address, city, state, zip, telephone number, and the local where you or your sponsor holds their membership. If you are a state officer sending this information please group the names by locals and note the correct local in a heading.

Make checks payable and send them to
Auxiliary to the APWU
3038 Cloverdale Court
Grand Junction, CO 81506-1960.

(our label looks like this)

ADC Code	Dues Expire (date)
Name & Title	
Address	
City, State, Zip	