



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 32,
Issue 4

DECEMBER 2015

The Spirit of Giving

By Kathy Danek, President



As we approach the holidays many of us look for opportunities to share the spirit of giving. It’s not just a part of faith, but rather a true spirit of family, faith and community. But what does that gift really mean? Is it just a little money in a pot, a dinner for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Years? Is it a gift for a child, a coat for warmth, new shoes to keep feet warm and dry, a hat, scarf & mittens to protect the extremities? Is it a Christmas or Holiday Card to a senior center, sharing a couple of hours visiting the forgotten in Veterans homes or the aging? How do we define the spirit of giving?

It’s the gift of yourself; an expression that could be defined as making the world better for another person. Those gifts – needs if you must – are very personal. They may not seem like much, but to the person on the receiving end, you may never fully understand the impact of your gift. Each and every one of us has the ability to change a life, a neighborhood, or an entire community. It’s up to each of us.

As Auxiliary members, we really focus on helping those in need. We’ve embraced national projects such as our Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team project, or the current Feeding America Backpack Program. And we share our time, talent and resources to make the world better for someone else. No one faith can take total responsibility for the spirit of giving. In fact, this world is made a better place

when all of us regardless of our faith, finances, and abilities come together for others. What is your Auxiliary doing this year to help others? Did you adopt a family, host a holiday party for the union, work to provide coats for children and families, raise money or collect food for the local food banks, deliver meals to those who are homebound, visit a senior center? What are we doing – please take a minute to let National Legislative Aide Editor Bonnie Sevre know what you are doing. We want to share those ideas and successes with our membership. Your success truly inspires others to get involved.

Here are a few ideas of ongoing projects:

Feeding America Back Pack Program – the National Auxiliary two year project. You can host a fundraiser and send the donation to National Auxiliary Treasurer Trisa Mannion. It can be from your local Auxiliary or a coordinated effort with your union. OR you can create a project to benefit the Backpack program in your own city. The Auxiliary would like you to share the success of these local projects. Keep track of the time you helped fill backpacks, collect money for the contents, or make deliveries to the schools. It seems small, but to the families receiving this backpack, it is truly a gift of nutrition and sustenance.

Visit a senior center and consider a gift either to the center’s activity projects or their giving tree. Many of our seniors have outlived their family OR the family lives miles away. Some are forgotten and need to be reminded that they are valued. The gifts can be simple: a pair of socks to warm their feet; a small lap quilt to warm their legs while they sit in their chairs; a book (in big print would be preferable); volunteering two hours a week to read to a senior who can no longer see good enough to read OR lead a group of songs. All of these gifts create a sense of belonging and value. Many of them have weekends designated to decorate for the holidays.

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About Kathy - National Auxiliary President

By: Kathy Danek



The Auxiliary has been part of my family since the fall of 1975. That word “family” really encompasses this organization. For my family, we truly have been blessed with many friendships because of our work with the Auxiliary.

I am married to Terry Danek who retired from the USPS in 2013 after 39 years.

He is still active in the local serving as the editor of the local newsletter and is also a member of our local Auxiliary. He also serves as the chair of the Operation Warming a Child’s Heart coat project for the local. It is a joint project with the APWU and Auxiliary, celebrating their 11th year. I love working with Terry and our local to provide these coats for kids. The local raises the funds, while we manage the purchase and delivery of the coats.

I am serving my 15th year as a member of the Lincoln Public Schools Board of Education and was elected to serve as the President for the fourth time. I have also served as the President of the Nebraska Association of School Boards and am on the nomination committee for the Council of Urban Boards of Education. I’ve had the opportunity to teach in both state and national conferences on a variety of topics including creating and evaluation of successful projects.

I am blessed to still have both my mom and my mother in law in my life. Their journey into senior life has kindled an awareness of a very vulnerable segment of our population.

I have four sisters and four brothers, 18 nieces and nephews, and 23 plus great nieces and nephews. I also volunteer with a variety of political groups and candidates, including the Democratic Party. I have worked learning the printing and publishing for more than 10 years – which helped me understand the communication process for my 20 years as Legislative Aide Editor.

But, it’s our four daughters and their families who are the light of our lives.

Tina & Shannon Gocke live in York NE. Both are teachers and community volunteers. They are the parents of Bailey (16) and Harrison (15). Bailey is the creator of the quilt raffled by the Auxiliary for the WWAST at the

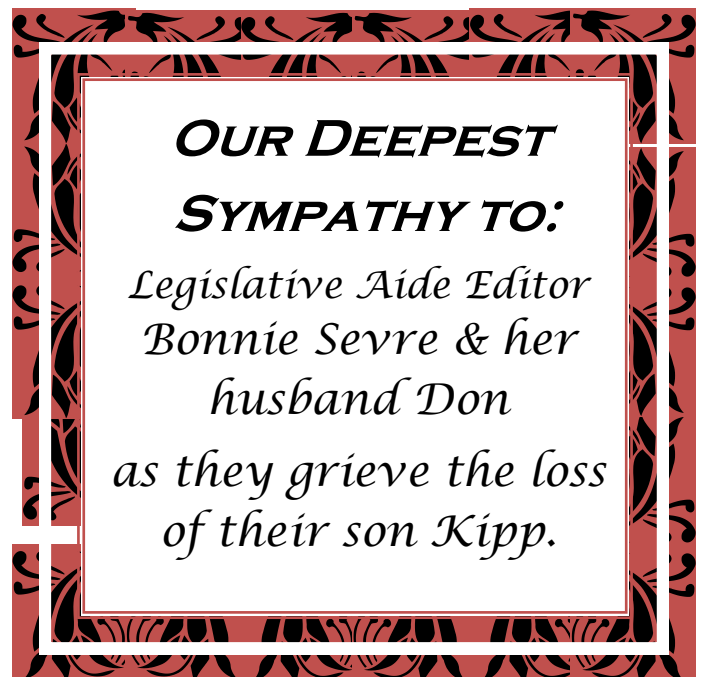
2014 convention. Both are involved in sports, 4-H, quilting, music and church.

Wendy & John Morrissey live in Lincoln, NE. Wendy is a school psychologist for Lincoln Public Schools and is the President of both the Lincoln Local and Nebraska State Auxiliaries. They have a daughter Savahanna (15), who plays the violin, is in the orchestra and in the YMCA Camp Kitaki leadership group. Savahanna has served as a page for the National Auxiliary Conventions. John is an active postal employee and an officer in both the Lincoln Local APWU and the Nebraska Postal Workers Union.

Kelly & Matt Witters live in Edmond OK. Kelly is an executive administrator at Merrill Lynch and Matt is employed by Chrysler, serving the Oklahoma region. They have a son Easton (6).

Megan & Jeremiah Kroll live in Lincoln NE. Megan is an Instructional Coordinator for Lincoln Public Schools and JJ is a manger for ResCare (helping families improve their lives). They have three daughters Alexandra(7), Kyndel (3), and Jaelyn (1).

Our family is the center of our life. It is why we are actively engaged in our community. Our daughters and grandchildren are all members of the Auxiliary. Together, we spend a lot of time volunteering together. I consider my most fulfilling work to be that of a community volunteer. It’s been both political and human needs volunteer efforts and all have their emotional and financial benefits. They have framed the focus of a great life with family, friends and community.



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Maternity care

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YOU PAY	SELF ONLY 471	SELF PLUS ONE 473	SELF AND FAMILY 472
APWU Career biweekly	\$68.14	\$129.46	\$188.46
Postal Category 1 biweekly	\$68.14	\$129.46	\$188.46
Postal Category 2 biweekly	\$80.00	\$155.07	\$215.60
Non-postal biweekly	\$80.00	\$155.07	\$215.60
Non-postal monthly	\$173.34	\$335.98	\$467.13

YOU PAY	SELF ONLY 474	SELF PLUS ONE 476	SELF AND FAMILY 475
APWU Career biweekly	\$10.39	\$22.85	\$24.93
APWU Career (less than 1 year in FEHB) biweekly	\$43.11	\$94.84	\$103.46
APWU Non-career (PSE) biweekly	\$51.94	\$114.27	\$124.65
Postal Category 1 biweekly	\$43.11	\$94.84	\$103.46
Postal Category 2 biweekly	\$51.94	\$114.27	\$124.65
Non-postal biweekly	\$51.94	\$114.27	\$124.65
Non-postal monthly	\$112.54	\$247.58	\$270.08

The High Option features the Cigna Healthcare provider network.

The Consumer Driven Option is administered by UnitedHealthcare.



2015 BRIDGE BUILDERS GUIDELINES

Rewarding a lifetime of Auxiliary Dedication

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, 2015.

Be sure to include name, city and state, local name and tell us about the accomplishments they have done in the areas above.

Please use black ink to fill out the nomination form.

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, 2015

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 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 de-</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)		



Auxiliary Executive Board Members

I love all the different colors of this time of year. The colors of the leaves and the colors of the lights that are placed on the tree.

I like spending time with friends, family and eat all the wonderful food that is prepared for this time of year..

Winter time is cold, but I do enjoy the snow. I love to get out and ride my snowmobile in that fresh white powder that everyone calls "snow".

Colette Phillippe - District 1 Coordinator
Great Falls, Montana

A Christmas image for me was and still is a Santa surfing. Being from California I've never had a white Christmas. And we didn't have a chimney so I didn't know how Santa would get to our house, but he did. Christmas for us was sunny days and no school. Making sure to write the letter you've been waiting for all year long. Trying to cash in on being good all year, even though for me sometimes was hard. I grumbled when I knew I would have to freeze (in 60 degree weather) to make that walk to church for Midnight Mass. But excited because I knew that I would be able to open one gift when we got home (most of the time my dad or mom carried me home because I had fallen asleep during mass). But Christmas morning to me was about family. And to solve mysteries of who got what. Excitement because that gift I made in school (many weeks prior) was finally opened (although they probably knew because I would drop hints for weeks) and my parents kissed and hugged me and gave me praises for a great gift. Memories that I cherish and will forever hold in my heart. Merry Christmas everyone.

Rebecca Kingsley - District 2 Coordinator
City of Industry, California



What Christmas means to me....The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ. My family's tradition at Christmas was to put up our tree on December 7th which was my sister's birthday. But I love the peace and joy of this time of year. It brings my family peace, joy and unity.

Debra Stewart - District 4 Coordinator
Fort Worth, Texas

When I think of Christmas, I think of children and presents and toys under the tree. I also think of a feast with my family, and then we open presents. I also love the Christmas Carols, and festive atmosphere. I just want to bottle it

up and save it for later in the year. I guess the favorite part of Christmas, for me, is celebrating the birth of Jesus. It is the reason for the Season. Merry Christmas, everyone.

Clara Hill - District 6 Coordinator
Knoxville, Tennessee

Although times have changed since I was much younger Christmas is always a season I look forward to. Getting together with family this time of year is so important. We all lead busy lives and just taking the time to get together and enjoy each other is very important to me. Listening to Christmas music, shopping, wrapping gifts, getting together with friends to exchange gifts, putting up the Christmas tree and other decorations, sending out Christmas cards, and attending special services at the church I attend are all on the list of what makes this time of year special to me. Merry Christmas!

Joyce Tanguay - District 7 Coordinator
South Portland, Maine

The sights, sounds and smells of Christmas really get the



Danek's in the holiday spirit. I love singing and hearing Christmas carols while we are decorating the house both inside and out. As a child, we decorated the tree the Saturday before Christmas, but I've changed that tradition to encompass the entire month of December. It starts with our outdoor lights which includes the North Pole and a Nativity. Inside we have a glimpse of the holidays in every room. It's a couple of trees, lights, a village and books. And breaking out those once a year recipes - these are the special traditions for my family. Christmas eve, we celebrate with church services. Christmas morning it's the smell of homemade cinnamon rolls before we open gifts. But it was really important for our family to share blessings with others. We always find a giving tree and bought a gift - sometimes it was for a child - sometimes for a senior citizen in assisted living. For my children, it's a tradition that carried into their adult years. These are our favorite traditions of the Holidays.

Kathy Danek, President
Lincoln, Nebraska

Share Holiday Traditions



I have several memories of the holidays but I will share only one.

I can recall a large Christmas tree.. I would say at least six feet. This tree would always arrive on Christmas Eve. After dinner and when all of the dishes were washed we would get down to business. First we would be sure that the star was placed on the top of the tree. Then we would trim the tree. Every bulb and every light would be used. Once this was done off to bed we would go anxiously awaiting CHRISTMAS DAY.

Christmas morning our feet were the first on the floor off to see the tree and what Santa had left. We were always greeted by the magnificent tree and several gifts, and it took most of the day to open them. There were clothes, toys and books. We were always thankful and delighted to be able to share our gifts and our love.

Patricia Lewis - Secretary
Richmond, Virginia

Celebrating the holidays has changed over the years. It has always meant family, friends and lots of love. As an adult, it meant working 12 hour days to deliver cards, packages and the wishes of our patrons. I actually enjoyed the hustle of the post office at Christmas time. I am retired now and life has changed drastically but it still centers on those that I love, my family and friends. It is a time to re-

new the loving spirit inside each of us, no matter, what your religion or beliefs. My favorite Christmas song is 'Grown up Christmas List' by Michael Buble. It talks about adult wishes - that no more lives be torn apart, that war would never start, time will heal all hearts, every man would have a friend, right would always win and love would never end. I wish you and your loved ones each of these things.

Trisa Mannion - Treasurer
Grand Junction, Colorado

The holidays remind me of my Norwegian heritage. Lots of baking - krumkake, sandbakkels, and, of course, lefse - with Christmas music playing in the background! We get together with family for Christmas eve supper which consists of lutefisk, meatballs, lefse and add some lingonberries for a little tartness and color, plus all of the other goodies. Gifts are opened and then off to Christmas Eve candlelight service.

And what is winter without cold and snow? I like to get out on some gentle hills (NO mountains in Minnesota!) and do a little skiing.

Bonnie Sevre - Legislative Aide/Editor
Minneapolis, Minnesota



President's Article - continued

Provide money or coats to a local project. "Operation Warming a Child's Heart", "Operation Warm", "Coats for Kids", all of these are examples of projects that provide a clean, new or gently used coat for those in need.

Volunteer in hospitals, Homeless shelters, soup kitchens, schools, neighborhood organizations. That gift of time is priceless. It's up to us to make our communities a better place. The spirit of giving lives within us all. It's a spirit that also enriches each and every one of us. Thanks to each and every one of you for the time and talent you share with our Auxiliary and with our communities. Have a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holiday and a most Joyous New Year.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY...

The Auxiliary would like to extend our deepest sympathies to our National Legislative Aide Bonnie Sevre and her family on the recent death of her son Kipp. We extend our love and prayers to them in this very trying time.

Reinstate Postal Banking?

From 1911 until 1967 the United States Post Office provided safe and convenient banking service to working class Americans. Reinstating postal banking would allow the postal service to maintain local branches in many rural areas as well as continue six day delivery service that is vital for many postal patrons getting medications.

Unfortunately, nearly 28% of American households are being underserved by traditional banking institutions, spending almost 10% of their income on fees and services at payday lenders, check cashing services and other predatory lenders. This is a \$103 billion dollar industry making its profits on the working classes and retirees. (Source: Alliance for Retired Americans)

Urge Postmaster General Brennan to reinstate postal banking!



December 2015

2014– 2016 National Officers

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Check the "Dues Expired" date on your envelope label. If your dues are not current, please send a check for \$5.00 per year for National dues. Mail them to:
Treasurer Trisa Mannion at
3038 Cloverdale Ct, Grand Junction, CO 81506
- State and Local dues should be paid to your state and local treasurers.

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

Feeding America Backpack Program

Co-Chairs - Joyce Tanguay, District 7 Coordinator
Bonnie Sevre, Legislative Aide Editor

Here it is, December already, and Christmas is right around the corner. This is a busy time for all of us but I hope you will take the time to stop and reflect on how fortunate most of us are. Then, if you have not yet done so, I would ask that you would also stop and think about the boys and girls across America who are less fortunate. In each issue of the News & Views you may have noticed that we put in a little article about the Feeding America Backpack Program. It is a reminder to all of you that these boys and girls need your help. No amount is too small and if your Auxiliary or Local has not yet made a decision to either donate by sending a check to our National Treasurer (address below) or by doing a fundraiser to keep the monies raised in your own communities for this program, please consider doing so. Thank you in advance for your support and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

Care to Donate?

Please make checks payable to:

National Auxiliary APWU

and mail to:

Trisa Mannion

3038 Cloverdale Ct

Grand Junction, CO 81506

www.apwuauxiliary.org



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