



# NEWS & VIEWS

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## You're the Inspiration

By: Kathy Danek President



Postal Reform, Contract Campaign/Negotiations, Plant Closures, Service Cuts, and STOP STAPLES – these are the issues that have been at the forefront for the American Postal Workers Union and Auxiliary families. As we continue to work on resolution of these issues, many of us know the fixes are not easy, but they are political and designed by the USPS to destroy the Postal Service as a government service. It makes you wonder – “is anyone really listening? Do they know that there is a plan to destroy a beloved public service?”

The protests are real, and our voices are beginning to resonate, especially in places where the USPS is not just about daily mail, it is about the commerce and business needs of a community. In giving a speech at the “Inspiring Women” luncheon for the Nebraska Democratic Women’s Caucus, I was pleasantly surprised that a person from Elwood Nebraska knew the real story behind the closing of stations, plant closures, and changing delivery standards. She was the mayor of this small town in south central Nebraska (about 4 miles from Lexington NE), population in 2010 is 707. In sharing my inspiring heroine I talked about the attacks on labor, the need for economic relief, and the facts that businesses are getting richer while the wages and benefits of working men and women are under attack. AND I talked about the starvation of the USPS and effects on our communities. It was tied into our petition to restore delivery standards and to motivate Congress to act to save this beloved public service. The Mayor approached me at the close of the event and shared the entire story – about the 5.5 billion dollar prefunding of retiree health benefits over 10 years for workers not even born yet. She shared the effects of the changing delivery standards on her small town. This town needs the USPS as an economic engine in their community. And, she talked about the disingenuous meetings held by the USPS to explain the changes. She clearly understood. I offered her our petition and

gave her my contact information as well as access to the petition on the web. (You can get additional copies on our website at [www.apwuauxiliary.org](http://www.apwuauxiliary.org)). It’s the bright spot in the summer. We are being heard and we are motivating ordinary people to do extraordinary things in order to save the USPS. It really is about our way of life and someone in a big office building at L’Enfant Plaza and the US Capitol making decisions without discussing the impact on the workers, their families and the communities they serve. Keep up the good work. We need to keep telling the story. It is the truth and it is resonating.



When asked to address this caucus it was about inspiring women and I chose to speak about my hero – Mary Harris Jones (Mother Jones). Mother Jones began her public career as a union organizer, agitator and hero in her sixties. She had lost everything, her husband and children and home. She moved from Tennessee to Chicago and the Mineworkers Union opened their doors to this seamstress. She saw the plight of poverty and the excess of wealth with the “Let them eat cake” attitude. And fight she did, leading children on a March against Child Labor from Philadelphia to New York in 1903 to speak with President Teddy Roosevelt. At that time it is reported that more than 10,000 children were employed in the Pennsylvania textile mills. They were small, broken and battered with little fingers and hands caught in machines. Many appeared to be malnourished. The Textile workers were on strike and the goals of the march were as follows:

### Goals:

1. Draw national attention towards the problem of child labor.
2. Meet with President Theodore Roosevelt to discuss child labor.
3. Raise money to support the strike of textile workers in Kensington.
4. Pass national legislation which made it illegal to employ children under the age of fifteen or to require more than fifty-five hours a week from any textile worker.

In Pennsylvania, state law made it illegal for workers to be under age 12. But it was a state law, not a federal law and it

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# About Bonnie - Legislative Aide-Editor

By: Bonnie Sevre

I grew up in western Minnesota, living in a small village and on the family homestead. Before my junior year in high school my parents moved to Minneapolis. I graduated from South High School and Augsburg College in Minneapolis with a B.A. degree in elementary education. After graduation I taught 3rd grade in Minneapolis for two years before I was married.

Don and I have been married for 47 years and have three children - a daughter and two sons. We also have three grandchildren - a granddaughter and two grandsons.

Don started working for the U.S. Postal Service in 1976. Because he was hatched (*no, he's not a bird!*) he signed me up in the Auxiliary to the APWU in 1983. The Hatch Act prevented federal workers from participating in partisan politics. The Auxiliary members were not federal workers and therefore able to promote legislation to support postal and federal employees. That meant I had to learn something about the political process and how to fight for postal issues. Also, we were a bunch of new auxiliary members and had to go about building up our treasury to have money to attend conventions. We had garage sales, attended the union meetings and held 50/50 raffles to name a couple of fund raisers. We also would hold raffles to raise money for COPA.

I attended my first National Auxiliary Convention which was held in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1984. In 1994 I was elected to the position of District 4 Coordinator representing the states of Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota. I served on the board until 1998 when I stepped down due to work conflicts - having taken a job with the USPS. Upon retirement from the Postal Service in 2013 I was asked to fill the vacant position as District 3 Coordinator representing Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota. Two weeks after



retirement I was attending an Auxiliary board meeting in Richmond, Virginia. I don't think I've caught my breath yet! This past January our Legislative Aide-Editor resigned from the position. I volunteered for the job, was approved, and am now learning about publishing a monthly newsletter. It's been a challenge but I have to say I really enjoy it.

However, the best part of being on the auxiliary executive board is traveling to the various states and meeting all the wonderful people in my district. In my new position I have been able to travel to other states as well. I have not yet been to a state where I have not been treated with the utmost warmth and respect.

As editor of News and Views I hope I will be able to inform the membership of what is happening with the auxiliary and hopefully educate as well. Don't hesitate to give me your opinions of what you like and ways the publication can be improved. It also lets me know that the paper is being read!

## Planning Ahead . . .

News and Views is our main tool for touching base with the membership. The Risograph which we use to print our paper is 17 years old. If the machine breaks down there are no replacement parts to fix it.

We will be conducting a raffle to raise money toward the purchase of a new Riso. Also, we will accept any donations individuals or organizations would like to make toward the Riso fund. Chances on an iPad Air 2 will sold on our website and at the All-Craft Conference in Las Vegas this October. We will hold the drawing sometime during the 2015 All Craft Conference.

No plans have been made to immediately buy a new Riso. We just want to have the funds available when the Risograph we have breaks down and there are no parts available to repair the machine. Hopefully, the current Risograph will continue to work, but there are no guarantees.



## Our Deepest Sympathy

To Bonnie Kroeger from the  
Norfolk, Nebraska Auxiliary and  
her family  
On the loss of her 16 year old  
grandson, Nick



## Win an Apple iPad Air 2

Tickets - \$5.00 each

Tickets may be purchased on the Auxiliary website using PayPal, or mail a check to:

Trisa Mannion, Treasurer 3038 Cloverdale Ct, Grand Junction, CO 81506

Drawing will be held during the All Craft Conference in October, 2015

Need not be present to win!

All proceeds go to the Auxiliary to the APWU Riso fund



# Auxiliaries in Action Across the Country

## Great Kickoff! School Backpack Project

At the Portland APWU Picnic Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Blue-lake Park we held our fundraiser kickoff with a double whammy! A basket filled with goodies worth over \$120 was raffled and netted us \$215 (thanks to Liz Fraser who put the basket together) and we conducted a bingo with half of each pot being dedicated to our project (\$55).

Several of our Auxiliary members were present to help with selling the raffle tickets and conduct the bingo. Thanks to all who participated-either supporting the efforts or donating the money.

As we continue with this project we hope to regularly donate money for this very worthy effort of helping to provide nutrition to school kids each Friday of the school year (when a backpack full of food is given to each child who is on food assistance at selected schools). We hope to contribute regularly in funds to assist in a constructive way. Any questions feel free to call Marie Clark at 503-285-4300.

*Submitted by the Portland Oregon Auxiliary*

At the APWU picnic held in July the **Des Moines, Iowa Auxiliary** had it's own table. Besides promoting their Hawthorn Hill Christmas in July Charity Drive, they also promoted a "Backpack Fundraiser." Backpack raffle tickets were sold, as well as selling ID Cardpack Holders and conducting "50/50 Deck of Cards drawings.



Kentucky State APWU Auxiliary presenting a check for the Feeding America Backpack Program.



The **Kentucky State Auxiliary** conducted various raffles to raise money to donate to the Feeding America Backpack Project. A total of \$910 was raised. At the close of the Kentucky State Convention a group of the delegates made a trip to God's Pantry Food Bank which participates in the Backpack Program. While there, the group was given a tour of the facility giving them an idea of the magnitude of the food distribution.

## You're the Inspiration - *President's Report*

*Continued from page 1*

was not widely enforced. There were reports of more than 120,000 children working in mines and textile mills. They worked in sweat shop environments because they were "cheap labor" and no nationally mandated employee standards for children. Mother Jones knew the problem was larger than 120,000. With about 1.2 million children officially enrolled in school, the attendance was only around 845,000. Where were the other children? Why were they not in school – they were in the work force as child laborers.

The end of the story is very heroic. The march of the children shed the light on child labor and the fact that states largely ignored abuses. And it was Mary Harris Jones who championed that cause. She was an ordinary woman. She was suffering from the loss of her family. She suffered poverty. And she found her voice by working with the Mine Workers Union. She fought for average working men, women and children, organizing their families to stand up and be heard.

When the breadwinners were on strike, Mother Jones activated their families - the women and children – to stand up and protect them. That action is really the inspiration to the work of our Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is about families, friends and retirees of the American Postal Workers Union. Our job is to spread the word, engage our communities, and fight for the rights of families to have economic security. It's about protecting the jobs of the American Postal Workers Union.

I always want to thank Mother Jones for being my inspiration. The work of our Auxiliary may seem simple, but each of you have the ability to turn something ordinary into an extraordinary action. You are the inspiration and the Auxiliary salutes you. Continue to build and activate your states and locals. Your national Auxiliary is here to help. Thank you to each of you for your dedication to the Auxiliary and the APWU.

You can find more about her story at <http://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/content/philadelphian-mill-children-march-against-child-labor-exploitation-1903> .



## 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.**

You may mail the completed form to: Clara Hill at [wavehill@att.net](mailto:wavehill@att.net) OR

Mail the form and optional letter by certified mail to: Clara Hill, Chairperson, 2710 Waverly Street, Knoxville, TN 37921

I know there are members out there that deserve this award. Take a minute and read the guidelines and if you have such a person in your local or state, nominate them for the award.

Clara Hill, Chairperson  
Bridge Builders Committee

# 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](mailto: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 questions: please include 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)		

**When someone close to you has cancer, it can be difficult to know what to say or do. C. Kramer has compiled a list of tips and thoughtful gestures that can make your friend feel cherished and supported.**

1. Send well wishes, cards, messages, and texts, but don't overwhelm her. Set a reminder on your phone, or set a specific day where you always check in, even a simple "thinking of you." Let her know that she doesn't need to respond if she's not up for it.
2. Make or deliver meals, and drop them off in containers you don't need returned. Or have food delivered from her favorite restaurants.
3. Focus on the person instead of the illness when you ask her how she is. Ask her what she's been up to or what she's reading. Stroll down memory lane or talk about future day trips you can take together.
4. If you're very close to your friend, offer to be the filter for messages, phone calls, and gifts. Having someone who is able to field concerns and well wishes can be a welcome relief for your friend so she doesn't get overwhelmed or tire herself out trying to respond to everyone.
5. Don't offer medical advice.
6. Make frequent, shorter visits rather than lengthy stays that may exhaust her. Call ahead first to make sure she's up for it.
7. Accept her coping mechanisms. We all have different ways of handling stress and sickness. Understand that if she grows distant, she's just trying to grapple with this huge change. Be there for her when she decides she's ready for company. If she's angry or lashes out, understand that anger and frustration are part of the process. Love her anyway. BCS\_Blog\_RESP\_SC\_Horizontal1
8. When you visit, bring along your own book, knitting, or other quiet task, so that you can sit with your friend without her feeling like she needs to entertain you if she's tired. Sometimes silent companionship is all she needs.
9. If you're the super-organized friend, put your talents to good use by creating a calendar. Mark down treatment appointments, days where friends are delivering meals, and appointments her children or spouse may have. Take it a step farther by making sure that there is a friend or caretaker that can drive her to appointments or at least stop by and sit with her (if she wants that).
10. Offer to do the cooking and cleaning around the house, whether it's once a week or once a month-or gift a housekeeper.

Read more at <http://blog.thebreastcancersite.com/help-friend-who-has-cancer>

**APWU Health Plan members: Remember most cancer screenings are covered at 100% for in-network providers. Early detection is your best chance at survival. Visit [apwuhp.com](http://apwuhp.com), APWU Health Plan members: Remember most cancer screenings are covered at 100% for in-network providers. Early detection is your best chance at survival. Visit [apwuhp.com](http://apwuhp.com), click on the Brochure link for details. Or call customer service at (800) 222-APWU (2798).**



**[www.apwuhp.com](http://www.apwuhp.com)**

**(800) 222-2798**

# Nuts and Bolts of Newspaper Editing

By: Bonnie Sevre

I had the privilege of attending the National Postal Press Association (PPA) Conference which was held this August in Madison, Wisconsin. The conference was packed with classes and activities from early in the morning until late in the evening.

Pre-convention workshops were held on Wednesday, August 19th. I attended "Legal Issues, Your Responsibilities" and "Coping with Stress" two classes that I felt were important.

The conference opened on Thursday with guest speaker, Ruth Conniff, editor-in-chief of *The Progressive Magazine*.

We then moved to our classes. For me, who is a new editor, I tried to absorb as much information as possible. Everything from "Newspaper Production: Giving Your Paper a Makeover" to "News, Headline and Feature Writing: Reaching Members with Messages that Matter" to "Photojournalism: Creating Irresistible Photos" to "Illustrate Like a Pro: A Cartoon Collage Workshop" were covered in the various classes.

The conference hotel was just around the corner from the Wisconsin State Capitol. On Wednesday at noon we joined the Solidarity Sing Along at the Capitol. The group has been singing every day since March of 2011. We sang with them again on Friday over the lunch break.

We had the privilege of hearing a legislative update from John Marcotte, legislative director on Thursday afternoon. On Friday night the movie "Inequality For All" with Robert Reich was shown

with discussion after. On Saturday afternoon we had the pleasure of watching the Solidarity Kids perform. They presented a puppet show, "Racism in our Hometown: The Story of Arthur and Edith Lee Family." The Solidarity Kids are from Minneapolis, Minnesota under the direction of Greg Pofert, past director of APWU Support Services. The Arthur Lee family lived in south Minneapolis and Arthur worked at the post office.

After the puppet show a Press Conference with APWU Mark Dimondstein was held. Conference attendees had a chance to ask President Dimondstein questions concerning the contract and continuation of the "Grand Alliance."

The conference concluded with the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening. After dinner Anne Feeney, Pittsburg-based

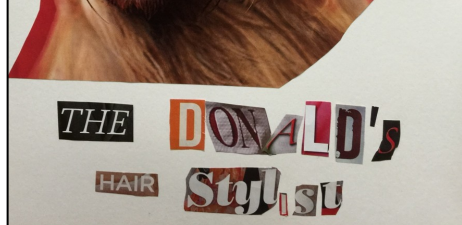
agitator performed music that she says is designed to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." John Nichols, who was to have been on the agenda in the afternoon, but due to plane delays, gave a dynamic speech at the banquet. He said postal workers should quit focusing on the negatives, and stress the positives. The positives include three things:

1. Postal banking
2. Postal voting and
3. Keeps communities together and connected

APWU President Mark Dimondstein had an opportunity to speak again after Nichols.

The classes I took covered about all aspects of putting together a newspaper. I came home gung ho to put together what I had learned during the conference. I walked in the house to a mess. A water pipe was leaking (long story) and had made a major mess in the furnace room and some damage in the bathroom. So some of my ideas and plans will have to wait until next month.

I had a lot of fun in the cartoon collage class I took. Those of us in the class felt like we had moved back to elementary school. I have included my creation as part of this article.



*My attempt at a cartoon collage!*

My request to you, the membership: Sit down with magazines, scissors, glue, pens and whatever else you might need. If you are artistic you can draw your own cartoon. See what kind of a cartoon collage you can create. Take a picture of your creation and email it to me, preferably as a word document. Put "Collage Cartoon" in the subject line. Also include your name and address. I will choose your cartoons to include in future editions of the paper. If your cartoon is selected you will receive a prize. Choose a topic that would be of interest to auxiliary members around the country. Have fun and I hope to receive lots of entries!

**Volunteers Needed For All-Craft**

**Conference Registration**

**If you plan to be in Las Vegas for the All-Craft Conference and would like to volunteer a little time at the registration or exhibit booth, please contact Kathy Danek or Trisa Manion - or visit our website at: [www.apwuauxiliary.org](http://www.apwuauxiliary.org)**

**This is a great opportunity to meet some new friends, connect with old friends - and help the Auxiliary and APWU.**



# September 2015

Color editions of News and Views from the past three years can be viewed on the Auxiliary website:

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

## Human Relations Backpack Project

By: Joyce Tanguay

Convention season has come and gone; summer has come and gone and here it is, September, already. It's back to school time and we are hoping that those of you who have not had a chance to donate to our Backpack Project will check it out and consider doing so. For those of you who have already sent us a donation, thank you so much. We have a request for everyone. We would like articles and pictures, whether it is voting at a Union meeting to support the project (yes, you can send us a brief article and picture) or raising monies at Auxiliary or Union functions. We feel that if you share what you are doing with our Brothers and Sisters it might give them ideas of what they can do. If for some reason you are not familiar with the Project, please do not hesitate to contact Joyce or Bonnie (or any of the Officers on the back of this publication.) Checks may be sent to Trisa Mannion, and articles and pictures to Bonnie Sevre.

### Feeding America Backpack Program



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

**Your Impact**  
**\$1=10 meals**

For every dollar donated, the Feeding America network of food banks secures and distributes 10 meals to people facing hunger.

**Our Impact**  
 The Feeding America network leads the fight against hunger.

- 46.5 million** people served
- 3 billion** meals sourced
- 800 million** pounds of produce delivered

\*Fiscal year 2014 annual results

Auxiliary News and Views

## 2014- 2016 National Officers

**PRESIDENT** Kathy Danek  
**402-464-8549** **402-464-8557 (fax)**  
 4261 Knox, Lincoln, NE 68504-1955  
[kmdanek@aol.com](mailto:kmdanek@aol.com) or  
[kmdanek@apwuauxiliary.org](mailto:kmdanek@apwuauxiliary.org)

**SECRETARY** Patricia Lewis  
**804-644-3843 (fax/voice—office)**  
**804-644-6454 (home)**  
 1500 N 30 St, Richmond, VA 23223  
[netta15@aol.com](mailto:netta15@aol.com)

**TREASURER** Trisa Mannion  
**970-245-3912 (fax)** **970-243-7706**  
 3038 Cloverdale Ct  
 Grand Junction, CO 81506  
[tmaux@aol.com](mailto:tmaux@aol.com) or [tman-nion@apwuauxiliary.org](mailto:tman-nion@apwuauxiliary.org)

**LEGISLATIVE AIDE-EDITOR** Bonnie Sevre  
**612-788-3440**  
 2836 Highway 88  
 Minneapolis, MN, 55418-3243  
[bsaux@aol.com](mailto:bsaux@aol.com)

**DISTRICT 1** Colette Phillippe  
**406-453-6085**  
 5600 57th Ave. SW,  
 Great Falls, MT 59404  
 AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY  
[cpauxdel@aol.com](mailto:cpauxdel@aol.com)

**DISTRICT 2** Rebecca Kingsley  
**562-355-3308**  
 PO Box 93686  
 City of Industry, CA 91715 -3686  
 AZ, CA, CO, HI, NM, NV, UT  
[rkingsley@apwuauxiliary.org](mailto:rkingsley@apwuauxiliary.org)

**DISTRICT 3** VACANT  
 Please contact President Danek  
 IA, KS, MO, MN, NE, ND, SD

**DISTRICT 4** Debra Stewart  
**817-534-9130** fax 817-534-2279  
 6400 Guilford, Fort Worth, TX 76119  
 AR, LA, MS, OK, TX  
[tycozz@aol.com](mailto:tycozz@aol.com)

**DISTRICT 5** VACANT  
 Please contact President Danek  
 IL, IN, KY, OH, MI, WV, WI

**DISTRICT 6** Clara Hill  
**865-637-1867**  
 2710 Waverly St  
 Knoxville TN 37921  
 AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VA  
[wavechill@att.net](mailto:wavechill@att.net)

**DISTRICT 7** Joyce Tanguay  
**207-772-8521-**  
 236 Westbrook Street  
 South Portland, ME 04106-3326  
 CT, DE, ME, MD, DC, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT  
[jetang@maine.rr.com](mailto:jetang@maine.rr.com)