

News and Views



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May-June 2020

You are Needed Now

By: Trisa Mannion-President

What is ahead for this organization in these uncertain times? We are stepping up and becoming inventive to do our communication and the work of the organization.



We need you to be a part of that. Zipline meetings using ZOOM, a now common name, is something we have used for a few years. It is also a way to hear what is happening in all parts of the country. Your voice and ideas are needed on these meetings.

The Auxiliary is needed to fight for the COVID-19 Stimulus funds the United States Postal Service needs desperately. The brave postal workers that go to work every day with uncertain safety need us to fight for the additional hazardous pay. Many other frontline workers receive this extra pay. Since there is no provision to bargain for additional compensation for this purpose, Congress must pass this measure. We are also focusing on Vote by Mail. We need to ensure all citizens can vote without the fear of contracting a horrible virus. It is safe, secure, and simple to do. Remembering the photos from the Wisconsin primaries should be enough of an incentive to not be one of the 19 (so far) that contracted Coronavirus standing in those lines. We can make a difference if you help. Read the legislative article in this issue for more information.

You can help the members of the local. We can make a difference with our kindness and creativity. There are ideas in this issue that should inspire you. Please, share other ideas of ways you helped.

The Auxiliary National Convention is held in conjunction with the APWU National Convention. It is postponed to

ensure our safety, adequate time to debate resolutions, elect delegates, and until it is legal to gather in large groups. We will continue to operate until that time, whether it is this Autumn or next year.

Acts and provisions were agreed upon to help the families and APWU members cope with the effects of this pandemic. Expanded sick leave, Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and expanded FMLA all help the families cope with this pandemic. They allow

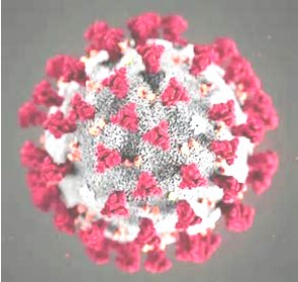
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Pandemic Update

The APWU executive board has announced its decision to postpone the 2020 National Convention. The members of the Auxiliary Executive Board are following the rules of the constitution and postponing the Auxiliary National Convention as well. Keeping people safe during this COVID-19 pandemic is paramount. Please



cancel any travel or hotel arrangements you may have made. We will provide everyone with new credential forms as soon as we know the date and location of the next convention. We ask that you not send in the ones you received for the event in Los Angeles. We sincerely apologize for any confusion this is causing. We will get past this, and life will settle down.

We are accepting memorial submissions for the people that you wish to honor in the "Book of Memories". We added a box on the form to indicate if your loved one passed away due to COVID-19 so that we can give them special recognition. We also deleted the due date. A new form is available on our website.

This issue also includes the Nilan scholarship form. The deadline for entries is July 1, 2020, so let's get those entries in. This scholarship offers the winner an excellent opportunity to go back to school.

On a more somber but necessary note, now would be a good time to check your life insurance policies and wills. Have you updated your beneficiaries? Does your family know your wishes should something happen? Do you know theirs? End of life directives are easily put off during busy everyday life.

2020 is presenting us with some difficult challenges. Life as we have known it has changed and keeps changing. It is our commitment to you, our members, to keep you updated. Remember that in addition to the News and Views, we have the Auxiliary website, apwuauxiliary.org, our Facebook page, our Zipline meetings, and, of course, all of the board members are accessible by phone or e-mail.

Take special care of yourselves and check on your loved ones. Practice social distancing, wear masks, wash your hands often. Let's be united, but apart, as we fight this awful virus.



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the postal worker to care for children that require homeschooling, caring for a family member that has tested positive, and many other situations. You will find an article in this issue that deals with the death of a postal worker spouse. Thank you APWU National Officers for helping the family too.

Are you feeling overwhelmed by the new duties, lonely and isolated, or desperate and afraid? This organization is a support group for family members, friends, and retirees of the APWU. You can call us for help. We have resources that can help you manage during this time. I know it is getting kind of cliché to say you are not alone while you are safe at home. The truth is you don't need

to be alone because we are here for you.

If you are feeling suicidal, you can call 1-800-273-8255 for help.

Have you considered writing to friends, sending a few Thinking of You cards, or maybe even finding a pen pal? All of these things support the USPS and will cheer you to know you sent a bit of sunshine and friendship to someone else.

The Auxiliary has a long history of helping when and where our membership is needed. You are needed now!



Urgent-Action Needed

by: Janice Gillespie Legislative Aide-Editor

It's all about COVID-19 right now. Bernie Sanders hosted a town hall meeting on-line, with Mark Dimenstein, President and Judy Beard, Political Director -Legislative Aide, both representing the APWU; Fredric Rolando, President of the NALC; and Paul Hogrogian, President NPMHU. The message from this broadcast was clear. We need everyone to act.

The worldwide pandemic that we are facing is causing havoc everywhere, and the Postal Service is not exempt. The USPS is funded solely from postal revenue. Even with the unfair and unreasonable pre-funding mandate from 2006, this organization does not receive tax dollars. COVID-19 has made a direct hit on the USPS. Package mail has slightly increased but doesn't come anywhere near to making up for the drastically decreased letter volumes. The workforce has dropped due to Corona related illness, exposure, and death. Expenses have risen to provide much-needed supplies to post offices all across the country. Masks, face shields, plexiglass, cleaners, disinfectants, and the multitude of other safety measures to help keep postal workers safe cost money.

The current administration has offered stimulus payments to airlines, hotels, and large corporations everywhere, but is refusing to include the USPS. This national treasure that Americans rely on is in trouble and needs help from everyone. Members of the Senate and the House, from both sides of the aisle, endorse our cause. We have bi-partisan support. The Board of Governors, which consists of two Democrats and three Republicans, were appointed by the current sitting President. They are requesting 25 billion dollars for


COVID-19 related costs, 25 billion dollars for modernization, and quarterly emergency appropriations during the fiscal year 2021 to cover the differences between postage revenues and postal expenses. The board also asks that the administration include the postal service as a qualifying employer in the program funding COVID-19 related sick leave and family leave expenses and to include our front-line workers to receive hazard pay.

Twenty-five billion dollars sounds like a lot of money until you put it in perspective. The Care Stimulus Package was for 2.2 trillion dollars, with 500 billion dollars going to the private sector of corporate America. Companies such as Boeing and Harvard received stimulus payouts while the government agency that employs over 640,000 workers nationwide received none.

What can the Auxiliary do? Call, write, text, and e-mail Congress. Now! To write to your Representatives and Senators, go to [apwu.org/covidletters](https://www.apwu.org/covidletters) and solicit your family, friends, and coworkers to do the same. Connect with members of Congress in any way that you like to communicate. Tell everyone who will listen, the truth about the postal service. Your voice counts if you use it. Visit [apwuauxiliary.org](https://www.apwuauxiliary.org) and [apwu.org](https://www.apwu.org) regularly and stay informed.

Local and state presidents can call and e-mail their members to educate them, if needed, and to remind them to make their connections. We must all work together, postal workers, Auxiliary members, and the public, to keep the United States Postal Service solvent.





Please remember to send in your dues. If you are unsure of your due date you can check the envelope your News and Views came in. The date is located in the address section right before your name.

Auxiliary to the APWU

Nilan Scholarship for Lifelong Learning

RULES & GUIDELINES - FOR 2020 SCHOLARSHIP

1. NO 2019 – 2020 high school graduates will be considered for the 2020 scholarship. Applicant MUST have had a break from High School of one year or more.
2. Applicant must be a member in good standing with APWU National Auxiliary. The applicant must have been an Auxiliary member in good standing, for at least one (1) year prior to application deadline.
3. Application must be on official application form from the APWU National Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship Program.
4. Applicant must write an essay on the designated subject of no less than 175 and no greater than 250 words.
5. **Completed application form with essay must be mailed to: Chairperson Rebecca Kingsley (the address on back) postmarked no later than July 1, 2020, by certified mail with return receipt requested.**
6. **Applicant must be registered, enrolled or attending an accredited college (college, university, vocational or technical school, etc.) at the time the scholarship is given.**
7. The APWU National Auxiliary will award one (1) yearly scholarship of \$500.00
8. Upon verification that the recipient has enrolled with the school of his/her choice, the award will be sent to the business office of the school to be applied to the cost of books, food vouchers, and or tuition. Scholarship must be used within 18 months of award date.
9. The scholarship recipient is eligible to receive one (1) yearly scholarship for a maximum of two (2) years upon reapplication & selection process in accordance with the rules and guidelines of the scholarship.
10. In the event that the recipient drops out before the completion of the course(s) (and within the refundable time frame) any unused funds that have already been sent to the recipient school for continuing education shall be refunded back to the National Auxiliary to the APWU.
11. No member of the APWU Auxiliary National Executive Board or their family will be eligible for this scholarship.
12. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THESE RULES.**

2020 APPLICATION

Essay Topic

How Does the Union Impact My Life?

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 2020 ESSAY

All essays must be:

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

Between 175 and 250 words

Essay must be accompanied by the official application form.

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

Rebecca Kingsley, Chairperson
P.O. Box 93686
City of Industry, CA 91715-3686
E-mail: rkingsley@apwuauxiliary.org

Must be postmarked on or before
July 1, 2020

HAPPY
Mother's
DAY

Happy
Father's
Day!

Auxiliary Scholarship
**An Opportunity For
the Future**

Scholarship Official Application Form

Applicant's name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____ SS # _____

Last school attended _____ Date(s) _____

College or vocational school you plan to attend and

Course of study or degree(s) completed _____

School name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Sponsoring APWU Member's name _____ Tel.# _____

Name of Local & State _____

Signature of Applicant _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

(optional - to be used for information for a press release if your entry is selected as our winner)

Spouses Name (if applicable) _____

Children's Names & Ages _____

DOB _____ Sex: M ___ F ___ Current Occupation _____

Hobbies, special interests: _____

Community Involvement: _____

Additional Comments and Future Goals: _____

I hereby grant my permission for the above information to be used in a press release

Date: _____ Signature: _____

The National Auxiliary to the APWU is pleased to offer the 2020 Nilan Adult Continuing Education Scholarship because we believe the following: Education is the key, instrumental in opening the door of opportunity, enabling one to advance, enrich lifestyles, and develop skills necessary to improve oneself in today's world. This scholarship was first awarded at the National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada in August, 1990.

If you are desiring to update your skills or wish to make a career change that would require training to make your dreams possible, then the APWU Auxiliary Adult Continuing Education Scholarship could help you reach these new heights.

NO 2019-2020 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP



HEALTH NEWS

APWU Health Plan COVID-19 Coverage Enhancements

The APWU Health Plan will continue to evaluate benefit enhancements as a result of COVID-19. For the most up-to-date information visit our website at

www.apwuhp.com/coronavirus-outbreak-update/

The Health Plan will:

- **New!** Cover in-network inpatient and outpatient care for COVID-19 treatment at **no cost*** to the member
- Cover health care provider office visits, urgent care center visits and emergency room visits that result in an order for or administration of a diagnostic test for COVID-19 at **no cost*** to the member**
- Cover COVID-19 testing at **no cost*** to the member when testing is prescribed by a clinical professional including antibody testing once it becomes widely available
- Cover telehealth visits at **no cost*** to the member when visits are performed through the Health Plan's telehealth providers:

High Option: Visits through Amwell are available at www.amwell.com at **no cost*** to the member

Consumer Driven Option: Virtual visits through AmWell, Teladoc, and Doc on Demand are available at www.myuhc.com at **no cost*** to the member

- Cover telehealth visits to network providers at **no cost*** to member when related to COVID-19
- Waive inpatient prior authorization requirements related to COVID-19
- **Reminder: Members are encouraged to use mail order for maintenance medications which provides a 90-day refill and the delivery is free**

*All deductible, coinsurance and copays will be waived

**Your provider should be aware of this Families First Coronavirus Response Act and CDC guideline. If you are charged a copay or coinsurance at the time of your visit, you will be reimbursed



Our deepest sympathy to the family, friends, and co-workers of the APWU and the Auxiliary to the APWU who have lost loved ones due to COVID-19.

Auxiliary Members in Action

The “New” Look



Pam Tucker
Southern Illinois

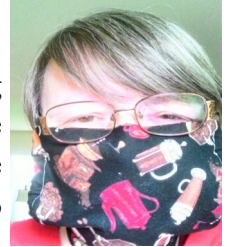
It takes more than a pandemic to keep Anna Braun down. Anna is President of the Illinois Auxiliary and has kept herself busy making much needed masks for Illinois postal workers. She has made almost 60 with 42 going to window clerks, such as Pam Tucker, at the Southern Illinois post office. The face coverings she has made are of a variety of designs ranging from "airmail" to "bumblebees." She uses any of her fabric large enough for six. You could say she's helping to "change the faces" of the Postal Service. She consistently checks in with the employees at her local post office.

Anna also has made some for her nephew and his family

in Tennessee. Chris gets the coffee prints, as he works at Starbucks in Hendersonville, and his wife will receive one with a dog print. The couple's young son will be sporting a mask with a cute truck and puppy on it.

Anna says she has found it challenging to make masks, not because they are difficult to make, but because of the sadness that this brings. She goes on to say that she can't help but think of all the postal workers that are doing their jobs daily and not having the proper equipment to protect themselves and becoming so overwhelmed. She also struggles with knowing just what type of mask would be the best choice.

Anna, you are doing an excellent job!



Anna Braun
Illinois President

For Those in Need

First responders and others in need have been the lucky recipients of over 100 masks made by Missouri State Vice-President Tiffanie Schultz. She presented 40 of them to Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St Louis. Michelle Hewitt, Missouri State Treasurer, is spending her time donating much-needed food to her local food banks and snacks to postal employees. You both are amazing!



Tiffanie Schultz
Missouri Vice-President

What are you doing these days? Some of us have extra hours on our hands during these unprecedented times or, if not more time, at least different schedules. Are you teaching school to your young ones? Cooking more? Sewing? Have you discovered skills you didn't know or had forgotten you have? Maybe you are catching up on missed TV shows or books, or have funny antidotes about your kids or pets. We would love to hear from you.

You can e-mail or mail your stories with pictures to:
jjillespie@apwuauxiliary.org

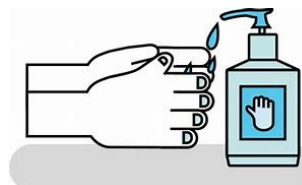
Janice Gillespie
224 38th St

West Des Moines IA 50265



Keeping Them Safe

Lisa Beer, District 7 Coordinator, has been buying hand sanitizer in bulk from a nearby brewery and putting it in individual bottles for her local post office along with masks handmade by her daughter. Great work!



Taylor Beer
Lehigh PA

2018-2020 Human Relations Project

By: Karen Wolver - Human Relations Chair

We make a living by what we get, but we make
a life by what we give." ~ Winston Churchill

The Executive Board has voted and approved that Fisher House will continue to be our Human Relations Project until we meet for our next National Convention.

With that being said, please continue to raise funds for this great organization and share your photos and ideas on what is happening in your locals/states.

I'd also like to know if you are doing anything in your communities regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Some Auxiliaries are making masks, sending the carriers and clerks prepackaged snacks, and sending thank you cards to their stations. Please send in pictures to put in the next issue. Don't forget to put something in your mailbox and thank your mail carrier. We need to do everything we can to help put a smile on their faces!

Take care and be safe!



How to Collect Survivor Benefits

By: Don Sevre

Survivor benefits are one benefit you hope that you do not have to collect. The amount of benefits you will receive is determined at the time of retirement. Unless you sign a notarized document at the time of retirement, you will get 50 percent (FERS) or 55 percent (CSRS) of the annuity.

If you need to collect survivor benefits, do NOT call the postal service. Call Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at (888) 767-6738 or write to OPM, P.O. Box 45, Boyer, Pennsylvania 16017-0045. You may also access OPM online at www.serviceonline.opm.gov. In many cases, OPM can begin monthly benefit payments to your surviving husband or wife based on a phone call. In every case, OPM will tell your heirs what benefits are payable and provide the necessary forms they need to apply for benefits.

If you have a FERS retirement, you also need to contact your local Social Security office.

If your annuitant is a part of the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), those rules are similar to a 401K. Contact tsp.gov to send a secure message. Or call 1 (877) 968-3778. Their call volume is highest on Monday and Tuesday mornings. You may experience longer wait times if you call during those hours. **Stay Safe!**

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