



NEWS & VIEWS

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United We Stand

By: Kathy Danek President.

“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have too much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.” These words were spoken by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on January 20, 1937 in his second inaugural address.

During the past couple of weeks, we have seen fires in the Pacific northwest, devastating parts of Montana and Oregon; hurricanes struck the islands in the Gulf of Mexico and ravaged much of the state of Florida and Texas, while leaving a devastation of flooding, destruction, injury and death; Earthquakes shook the areas around Mexico City, even levelling a school, and the political tensions between North Korea, the United States and the world have all of us on edge. And what shocking thing does the Senate decide to take up in the last two weeks of September – trying one more time to Repeal and Replace the Affordable Care Act – with a bill that would take more than \$283 billion from Medicaid, jeopardize the guarantees that all citizens should be able to have affordable options for health care, and turn the rules over to individual states that could define

preexisting conditions state by state while limiting what care you could receive.

You have to wonder – with all the need in this world ravaged by Mother Nature (or as I might believe – by reminding us that Climate Change is real), the hostility in several parts of the world and the amount of effort that would be needed to rebuild both situations – “Why would they choose this over helping our friends and neighbors in their time of need? While we passed sending \$7.4 billion in aid for the victims of hurricane Harvey (and extending the debt ceiling until December 2017), the actual need exceeded \$180 billion. Hurricanes Irma and Jose followed leaving death and destruction through the Florida keys, up through the state zig zagging from the Gulf of Mexico side to Jacksonville; destroyed the territory of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Much, much more is needed to rebuild and repair the devastation. We should all be concerned about how and what activity is engaging our Congress in Washington. And that they were sent there to SERVE – not the donors who sent them there, but the people that live in their states – the people they represent. Taking care of their constituency should be paramount in providing public policy. It’s time to stop acting like Republicans and Democrats – and start acting like Americans – dedicated to doing what is in the best interest of our nation.



We are more divided than ever. We don’t discuss issues and how to solve them. We draw lines in the

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Remembering Our Loved Ones

Clara Hill - District 6 Coordinator



The Memorial Service is the remembrance of the loved ones who have gone from us since the last National Convention. It is on Wednesday of the Convention, first on the agenda of the day.

If you want to have a friend or family member remembered in our service, go to our website: apwuauxiliary.org, and look for the form to send the name in. Be sure to

write legibly so it can be recorded in the program correctly. The name of the Local which the person is a member and the person submitting the name should be correct as well. The minimum donation is \$10.00, but more if you would like to.

The service is respectful and reverent and lasts about twenty minutes. The names submitted are entered into the "Book of Memories" and kept as a remembrance.

Send the completed form and a check or Money Order to: Trisa Mannion, 3038 Cloverdale Court, Grand Junction, CO. 81506.

Bill to Improve Thrift Savings Plan Introduced

By Legislative & Political Director Judy Beard

(This article first appeared in the Sept-Oct 2017 issue of the American Postal Worker magazine)

The 2017 Congress introduced legislation to improve the Thrift Savings Program (TSP). It addresses shortcomings in the withdrawal rules which have not been changed since 1986. The current rule allows for active postal employees, upon reaching age 59½, to make only one withdrawal from their TSP account. Similarly, retirees can only partially withdraw from their TSP a single time. This inflexibility often leads retirees to fully withdraw their money and move it into private investment plans which have pricier maintenance fees.

To address this problem, the **TSP Modernization Act of 2017** was introduced in the House and Senate and provides much needed flexibility to retiring postal workers, lifting the current restrictions and allowing them to make

multiple, partial post-separation withdrawals from their TSP savings. It would also give TSP contributors the choice of quarterly or annual payments.

The bipartisan authors of the House bill (H.R. 3031), Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD-7) and Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC-11), highlight the value of this reform for postal workers. The bill would "encourage participants to keep their TSP accounts to take advantage of low administrative fees," Cummings said. It would "give TSP participants what they want: greater flexibility to withdraw money from their accounts to address unexpected life events."

In a climate where bipartisan solutions are often hard to come by, the TSP Modernization Act is a notable exception. The APWU supports the TSP Modernization Act and encourages congressional action on the bill.



Protecting Your Right to Vote

By: Kathy Danek, president

If you haven't noticed, the right to vote is under attack. President Trump appointed a group led by Vice President Mike Pence to gather the individual information of every state's registered voters – information, and rules that are protected and guided by individual states. In most of our states, the registration to vote is part and parcel a local control issue. But you have to wonder – why do they want a national purge of our voter file, who will be affected, what are they looking for, and how would they know what was occurring in our local communities? The right to vote is precious. In states that have expanded the right to vote to include a broad vote by mail opportunity, the participation

significantly increases. Most of these states have enormous voter turnout. Vote by mail is safe, secure and protected by a variety of methods, including the US Postal Inspection services. It is a federal crime to tamper with the US Mail. Using the mail to handle our ballots is one of the proposals. And something we need to keep in mind as we work to get mail delivery standards reversed to the fastest and safest and in most areas next day within their communities. We must not allow further degradation of the USPS. The USPS is the fabric that weaves our nation together. A strong Postal Service truly unites us. AND this country works best when we are together. Truly – UNITED WE STAND, divided we fall.

Why Do Workers Want Unions?

By: Bonnie Sevre - Legislative Aide Editor

Why do we workers want unions and why do business owners resist them so strongly?

I am planning to make this a series of articles which will show the growth and decline of labor unions beginning in the 1800s. Periodically, I think that we need a reminder of the changes our unions fought for: sudden wage cuts, lay-offs, or firings. They also fought to change dangerous working conditions or overly long hours to name a few.

Business owners don't like unions for various reasons. To compete in an economy that can go boom or bust they want the flexibility in cutting wages, hiring and firing, adding or trimming back on work hours when needed. Wages are a big part of their overall costs. This flexibility can lead to higher profits. Plus they like to be in charge and don't like to be hassled by people they think of as mere employees, not as breadwinners for their families.

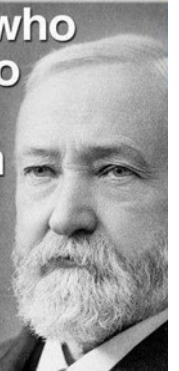
In the United States, the early trade unionist wanted the same kind of rights at work that they had as independent citizens. The early forms of labor organization in the United States were largely mutual aid societies or craft guilds that restricted entry in to craft and enforced workplace standards, as was also the case in Western Europe. But industrial development in the early 19th century slowly widened the gap between employers and skilled workers, so the workers began to think of industrial factories as a threat to both their wages and status. They formed beginner craft unions to resist sudden wage cuts, longer working hours and unsafe working conditions, while also protecting their political, social, and economic rights.

The first steps beyond separate craft guilds at the local level occurred between 1833 and 1837 when

workers in variety of skilled jobs (including railroading, mining, and canal building and building construction) formed citywide labor organizations. Their goal was to resist longer hours and cut wages that were being demanded by employers. (Source: The Rise and Fall of Labor Unions in the U.S. From the 1830s until 2012 (but mostly the 1930s-1980s) by G. William Domhoff)

The Knights of Labor was founded in 1869 as a secret society by a handful of Philadelphia garment cutters, who had given up on their own craft union as having any chance to succeed. They emphasized citizenship rights, action in

I pity the man who wants a coat so cheap that the man or woman who produces the cloth will starve in the process.



Benjamin Harrison
23rd President of the United States
(1889-1893)

support of general social progress, cooperative forms of organization for the society as a whole, and significantly, the inclusion of workers of all crafts and races in one union for the first time. (Voss 1993, pp. 73-82). Although they emphasized their openness to unskilled as well as skilled workers, to women as well as men, and to African Americans as well as whites, they were in fact mostly white male craft workers when the union grew to a few thousand members nationwide between 1869 and 1877.

Continued on page 7

The Bridge Builders Award

Rewarding a Lifetime of Auxiliary Dedication

By: Clara Hill, Chair– Bridge Builder Committee

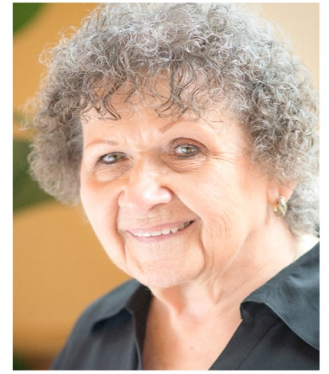
Have you nominated your Bridge Builder yet? Why not? The deadline will be here before we know it and you didn't nominate a person you know deserves it. Shame on you!

The Guidelines are simple and easy to follow. Just read them over and fill out the form and mail or email it to me, and be someone's hero. It is kept confidential until presentation and gives that person a nice surprise to know someone cares and appreciates their labor.

The deadline is DECEMBER 31, 2017. The nomination must be made by a member of the Auxiliary, but the nominee may be an Auxiliary or APWU member, with the exception of the National Auxiliary Executive

Board.

We have a lot of deserving people out there, and I would love to see more awards presented next spring. Think about your members who you couldn't do without, or a union member who is so supportive of your auxiliary and you have wanted to do something to repay them for their efforts, this is it! Send their name in.



2018 BRIDGE BUILDER GUIDELINES

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, 2017.

Be sure to include name, city and state, local name and tell us about the accomplishments they have made in the areas above. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper, and attach it to the nomination form.

Please use black ink to fill out the nomination form.

You may email the completed form and optional nomination letter to: Clara Hill at wavechill@att.net OR

Mail the form and optional letter by 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 or email) completed form of nomination to Clara Hill,
2710 Waverly Street, Knoxville, Tn. 37921 or contact her at: wavehill@att.net
Deadline December 31st

PLEASE USE BLACK INK TO FILL OUT FORM

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 all 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:		
5. Please tell us about any Community Service or Activity they are or have been involved in:	6. Offices and level held (state/local, etc.) (Below)	
	State	Local
7. How many years has this person been a member?	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.		
	Name:	
Date submitted:	Local:	

Bridge Builder Nomination Form (revised) 1/14/2016

Ask Tina? *About the Health Plan*

When a Cold or Flu Strikes a Family Member

How to keep everyone else healthy:

When one child gets sick, you might brace yourself for everyone getting sick. But it's possible to keep healthy family members from falling ill, too. When taking care of a sick child, handwashing is more important than ever. All healthy family members should wash frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub. Do this after every contact with the sick person, their room and bathroom, and any items he or she used.

Handwashing is a must after:

- Every contact with the sick child.
- Cleaning soiled linens or clothing.
- Wiping the child's nose.

Forget sharing right now -- this extends from food, drinking glasses and utensils to combs, brushes and clothing, including hats and scarves. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, your best bet is to create a sick room within your home for the patient, away from all common areas like the kitchen and family room. If you have more than one bathroom, designate one just for him or her. Clean the sick room and bathroom daily with a disinfectant.

And follow these smart clean-up rules:

- Have your child throw used tissues and other disposable items right into the trash.
- Clean all sickroom surfaces -- including bedside tables, doorknobs and toys -- with disinfectant.
- Collect all soiled sheets and towels in a laundry basket -- don't carry them in your arms. Wash and dry on the "hot" setting.
- Clean all eating dishes and utensils used by the sick person thoroughly before reusing.

Avoid face-to-face contact with the sick child and, if possible, have only one parent take care of him or her to protect the other adult. In the case of flu, ask your doctor if healthy family members should take antiviral medication for added protection. And follow this key tip to avoid re-infection: Replace the sick person's toothbrush after he or she recovers.

More information:

The CDC has more advice on [caring for a loved one with the flu](#), as well as what to do if you catch it.

By **Julie Davis** | *HealthDay Reporter* | THURSDAY, Sept. 21, 2017 (HealthDay News)



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BETTER HEALTH.**

Get comprehensive health benefits at an affordable price.

APWU
HEALTH PLAN

United We Stand - President's report - continued from page 1

We are more divided than ever. We don't discuss issues and how to solve them. We draw lines in the sand and dare them to cross. It's my way or the highway. We see this in our daily lives as families of APWU members. The USPS was damaged by a 2007 law that put in place the prepayment for 75 years of future retiree health benefits. Heck most of those people are not even born yet, but \$5.5 billion was assessed to the USPS – damaging their financial health for more than a decade. That provision in law, even though it was suspended, devastated many of our service standards, consolidated mail processing to the detriment of the delivery of the mail, created a workplace more focused on cost cutting rather than processing and delivering the mail – because managers were more concerned about making cuts and cutting their work force rather than delivering the mail.

But we must come together and demand that our members of Congress collaborate and compromise to provide for the needs of the American people – all of the American people. We must reinvigorate our activity in the political process, making sure we elect good public servants who will meet with their constituents, listen to and address their concerns, not be afraid to respond to them, and always be accountable to the citizens. We

start this by volunteering to rebuild our electorate, making sure they understand bread and butter issues, making sure they know where our candidates stand and holding them accountable for their votes. You can't just register to vote, you have to show up and vote. You must be informed on the issues. And hopefully, you see this great nation as a place of great gifts, that should be used to provide for our people. We are a nation of immigrants, natural born citizens, refugees, elderly, children, handicapped, educated, laborers, union member, blue collar, students.....and so many more. When we come together we are unstoppable. We are the United States of America.

The challenges have been laid down for more than two centuries. We have been able to take care of those who have little, while providing opportunities. Will we live up to the expectation of FDR and many who followed? It's up to each of us. We must fight to protect retirement benefits, social security, Medicare, Medicaid, minimum wage laws (and improving them to living wage laws), protecting and restoring our Postal Service to a true public service that meets the needs of every address in the USA.

We can do it. Let's get it done!

Why Do We Want Labor Unions? - continued from page 3

The Rise of Violence

In 1877 just after the last of the federal troops were removed from the former Confederate states as part of the deal that gave the presidency to the Republicans, labor relations abruptly took a vicious turn. This violence turned out to be the start of a new era that lasted for decades and reshaped the nature of the American union movement. It began when the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad announce in mid-July that it would impose an immediate 10% pay cut, the third for that year. Due to the ongoing depression that had lingered since 1873 other railroads had made severe cuts with no major protest but the announcement by the B&O led to a spontaneous strike that did not end quickly. The local militia was called out, the governor called in federal troops leading to a clash that stopped trains and destroyed railroad property. The strike spread, demonstrators were fired at and several were killed. Buildings were burned and trains were destroyed. The strike grew massive. Over 100 people were killed and many more were imprisoned. The extent of the violence was a shock. In the past strikes had been to reduce long working hours or to protest sudden wage cuts.

In the aftermath of the violence of 1877 some of the railroad corporations decided to give their employees some benefits such as accident insurance and old-age pensions, to appease them. However, they also had militia on hand to quell any incidents that might occur.

After the violence of 1877 the Knights of Labor

decided they needed proper leadership and organization. They abandoned their semi-secret ways and opened their doors to both skilled and unskilled workers and their membership grew. Violence was curbed.



The Haymarket Riot was the aftermath of a bombing that took place at a labor demonstration on Tuesday May 4, 1886, at Haymarket Square in Chicago. It began as a peaceful rally in support of workers striking for an eight-hour day and in reaction to the killing of several workers the previous day by the police. An unknown person threw a dynamite bomb at police as they acted to disperse the public meeting. The bomb blast and ensuing gunfire resulted in the deaths of seven police officers and at least four civilians; scores of others were wounded.

After the Haymarket Riot, big industrialist defined union leaders as Communists, socialists and anarchists. The result of the corporate and government repression was a complete defeat of the Knights of Labor and the organization collapsed over the next few years losing 90% of its membership. The main reason for the collapse of the Knights of Labor appears to be the unusual strength and unity of American employer associations.

(Source: The Rise and Fall of Labor Unions in the U.S. From the 1830s until 2012 (but mostly the 1930s-1980s) by G. William Domhoff)

(More on Why Do Workers Want Labor Unions? next month)

2016-2018 Human Relations Project

By: Joyce Tanguay - Human Relations Chair

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

Bits of the following taken from the Children Incorporated website:

Is There a Future for Today's Children in Magoffin County? The first question Shelley Oxenham, U.S. Projects Specialist for Children Incorporated, asked Michael Helton, Child Inc's volunteer coordinator at Magoffin County High School, on her recent visit was what he saw for the future of the county and the region. Michael sighed and quietly said, "No matter what anyone says or promises, coal is never coming back. This area will continue to decline unless another industry moves in and creates jobs." Magoffin County has the highest unemployment rate in the state of Kentucky. As of this year, unemployment is at 18.9 percent.

With unemployment that high and jobs being scarce, it is sometimes difficult for parents to make a living; very often just barely having enough to provide for their children.

Jonnie Risner, a coordinator at South Magoffin Elementary School, says Children Incorporated helps out with getting clothing for children in need, but a lot of what she buys for her students is soap, shampoo, conditioner and laundry detergent.

When you go shopping and need those items don't you just put them in your shopping cart without thinking twice about it? They seem like such little things but when you live in a depressed area and are struggling to provide for your family sometimes there is no room in your budget for such items.

At North Magoffin Elementary School, Shelley met with Carrie Allen, the Family Resource Center Coordinator, and her assistant, Deana Branch. Carrie and Deana are both long time veterans of the center. They are so kind, and really care about the well-being of all of the students in their care. Carrie said that the children mostly receive clothing, shoes, and school supplies with funds their sponsor provide.

So whether you decide to donate to help Child Inc. purchase clothing, soap, shampoo, conditioner or laundry detergent along with the many, many other provisions needed or whether you just might want to sponsor a child, your help is desperately needed. Not just in Kentucky but in the other areas of the country where Child Inc. helps out. Please take the time to check out the website, Childrenincorporated.org and you will find many interesting stories shared by the children and the adults who help them. No amount is too small (or too big). And checks may be made out to Auxiliary to the APWU and sent to Trisa Mannion, National Treasurer, 3038 Cloverdale Court, Grand Junction, CO 81506

2017



2016– 2018 National Officers

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