

News and Views



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July-August 2020

We are Making a Difference

By: Trisa Mannion-President

Do you ever wonder if we are making a difference? A few weeks ago, Bonnie received a call from a fine man that wanted to help rescue the Postal Service from the political games of the day. He had a friend that called me within days after the first call, and he, too, wanted to help save the Postal Service. They are very accomplished in their fields and very politically active. They do not have direct ties to the Postal Service.



They were searching the web for a way to become active in the fight. They are now both Auxiliary members, and we are looking forward to working with them. Jon and Richard, we welcome you both to the Auxiliary and the fight to save the Postal Service.

Here is another success story to help cheer you up. We had a local and state that were on their last legs and had given up hope of rejuvenation. A new leader, Janeil Payne unexpectedly responded to the call for help to the delegates at the convention and has revitalized the state to the point that they had a contested election this year (via ZOOM). They have a full slate of officers and are doing very well now. A local could not find a person to be treasurer, so we broadened our search for the

**YOU ARE MAKING
A DIFFERENCE
EVERY day**

needed person to fill the position. Letters went to each member of the local and requested help. A new treasurer volunteered, and the local is still working. Another local had not been active in many years and reorganized this year with a full slate of officers and will receive their Charter very soon. Debra Stewart, District Coordinator, encouraged a wonderful group of people into rebuilding Oklahoma City.

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Voting by Mail is Safe, Secure, and Democratic

By: Janice Gillespie— Legislative Aide-Editor

Five states before the pandemic struck the U.S., Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, conducted their elections using a vote-by-mail system. Only five. As many as thirty states allowed voters to vote-by-mail in certain circumstances, such as providing a reason for their request. Many state lawmakers are relaxing their laws on voting by mail due to the Coronavirus. The advantages of mail-in voting are numerous, so why are we not voting this way nationwide.?

The Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act (NDEBA), offers a safe way for all Americans to vote. A group of Democratic senators introduced this new legislation to decrease the spread of COVID-19. The NDEBA, which would also provide \$3 million to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to help with the costs, is led by Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.). They have raised concerns about the health of the American people if they have to show up at the polls.

Edgardo Cortes, an election security adviser at the Brennan Center for Justice, says that several states that postponed their primaries saw an increase in voter turnout with mail-in ballots. The Brennan Center is urging Congress to provide as much as \$2 billion in federal grants to help with transitional costs. Congress instead provided states with \$400 million out of a \$2 trillion economic relief package. To help prepare for elections affected by the pandemic the House of Representatives

passed H.R. 6800 in May. H.R. 6800 is the Heroes Act that also includes funds for the post office. The White House has stated that it would veto this bill.

“More money will be available” in the fourth economic stimulus package, according to Senator R Blunt (R-Mo). I would certainly hope so.

Let’s compare. Congress has given \$60 **billion** for the airline industry and only \$400 million to spread among fifty states to boost their election infrastructure. That shows where the priorities are.

Data collected by the Vote at Home Institute showed that so far this year, the top six states and thirteen out of the top fifteen in terms of turnout saw a sixty percent increase in votes cast by mail for the primaries. That’s huge.

The November elections are fast approaching. Our lawmakers need to act now. Election officials desperately need funds for additional staffing and equipment and to ramp up “voting by mail.”

State officials would not have to be scrambling around trying to make changes in their jurisdictions if they already had vote by mail. The five states I mentioned above do not have to make changes.

It should not have to be difficult, unhealthy, dangerous, or for some nearly impossible for the people in the United States to be able to vote for their leaders. Vote by mail is a safe, secure, fair, reliable, and easy way to cast a ballot.



Advantages of Vote-By-Mail

⇒ Safe-Secure	⇒ Reliable	⇒ More time to fill out ballot	⇒ Increases participation
⇒ Convenient	⇒ Fair	⇒ Healthier during a pandemic	⇒ Reduces political influences
⇒ Cheaper	⇒ Easy	⇒ In-person voting is available	⇒ No standing in line

Save the Postal Service, for Both Young and Old

By: Joyce Tanguay-National Secretary

The following article shows us how important the United States Postal Service is for All generations in unexpected ways.

Abram (age 2.5) runs to the window or the gate when we are outside to greet our Mail Carrier, Marybeth Goldman, every day! Just so happened she wasn't working one day, and he had a full-blown meltdown because he didn't get to see her! After Ms. Goldman heard about Abram's meltdown, the next day Abram got this sweet little gift in our mailbox with a note that read: To Abram... From Your Mail



Lady. He carries this little truck around every day, and as you can see, he is pretty proud. Marybeth has become a daily visitor for my children and the children in my preschool program! "Mail time" might just be our favorite part of the day! This heartwarming incident was shared by Amy Merrill, Three Little Birds Childcare, Scarborough Maine. (Abram is the great grand-nephew of National Secretary, Joyce Tanguay and the 3rd cousin of Scott Adams, President, Portland Maine Area Local 458).



Buy Union-Made

Are you ready to get out of the house, maybe go on a picnic or camp-out? Here is just a brief list of food and drinks that are union-made. For more ideas just google union-made, it's that simple. Have fun and remember your masks.

Chips	Beer	Hot Dogs	Ice Cream	Wine	Misc.
Fritos	Budweiser	Ball Park	Ben and Jerry's	Gallo Estate	Sara Lee Buns
Lays	Coors	Hormel	Breyers	Turning Leaf	French's Mustard
Doritos	Pabst	Oscar Mayer	Good Humor	Black Label	Heinz Ketchup
Ruffles	Sam Adams	Butterball	Prairie Farms	C.K. Mondavi	Pepsi

Cont. from page 1

Shirley Hluchan has agreed to be President, and they are now doing wonderful things.

Nice stories, right? How does it relate to your local or state? Keep trying, keep extending the ideas and message, and people will join us in the battle, even when it appears bleak, and the President of the United States calls us a joke. The Postal Service is a great institution in the United States Constitution and should remain the most trusted federal agency. The Auxiliary was formed in 1917 and is still making a difference today, and so can you. We each need to help fight this. Saving the Postal Service may be a fight by the people who are predominately on our side



to save one of the veterans' largest employers. Do not let people bad mouth the Postal Service, and please do not do that yourself. We need to write our representative, write Letters to the Editor, and share the posts and defend the Postal Service and our workers on social media. Since we are needed in this fight, let's step up. Thank you to each of you doing whatever you can to ensure that funds are made available to keep the Postal Service operational. No act is too small and is making a difference, as you will see in this edition of the News & Views.



Book of Memories



Auxiliary to the American Postal Workers Union

In Memory of: _____

Last known residence: City: _____ State: _____

List any titles held in APWU or Auxiliary:

Please list name **EXACTLY** as you want it to appear in the Book of Memories

Submitted by: _____

Local/State APWU, Auxiliary: _____

Address: _____

Send Acknowledgement card to (if different):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Is this a COVID-19 related death? Yes

\$10.00 Minimum Donation Suggested

Amount Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to:

Auxiliary to the APWU

Mail checks to:

Bonnie Sevre

2836 Highway 88

Minneapolis, MN 55418-3243

All proceeds go to the Nilan Scholarship

Please Print or Type



Display Your Ribbons!

By: Janice Gillespie-Legislative Aide-Editor

COVID-19 has hit the Postal Service. The Post Service relies solely on the sale of its postage and services. Many people may not know that the United States Postal Service does not receive tax dollars. Many factors that are related directly to the pandemic have caused the mail volume to drop. Costs are up as well for safety measures and many COVID-19 factors. The Postal Service needs relief from Congress and help from the public.

The first economic stimulus bill worth \$2.2 trillion passed in April of 2020 and, in part, gave aid to large companies hurt by this contagion. The House passed the "Heroes Act" in May that is worth another \$3 trillion. The "Heroes Act" includes \$25 billion for the Postal Service. The Senate has already promised to kill this bill, and the current administration has said it will veto any bill that provides funding for the Postal Service. Why? This administration has plans in place to fatten up the profitable areas of the Postal Service and sell them to large corporations. Large businesses would profit while the American people would suffer.

Postal employees, their families, many of which are Auxiliary members, and retirees would also suffer due to employment and income losses. We would lose our unions which would adversely effect the pay scale of all American jobs.

Everyone, please, tie a red, white, and blue ribbon on your mailbox, a tree, or another appropriate object to show your support of the United States Postal Service and the dedicated essential workers.

Why red, white, and blue? The Postal Service is as American as it gets. After all, it is part of the United States Constitution.

We need your help. Write, call, and e-mail your Senators today.

(844) 402-1001

Window Clings

1 Cling	\$ 2.00
3 Clings	\$ 5.00
10 Clings	\$ 15.00
50 Clings	\$ 75.00
100 Clings	\$140.00
101 +	Call for Pricing



Prices include shipping

They are USA and union made

A great way to show your support for the United States Postal Service. They are a 6X6 cling that can be placed in a car or house window and will remove easily. If you need larger quantities you can contact Treasurer Bonnie Sevre for pricing details. bsevre@apwuauxiliary.org

Send Checks payable to: Auxiliary to the APWU 2836 Highway 88 Minneapolis MN 55418

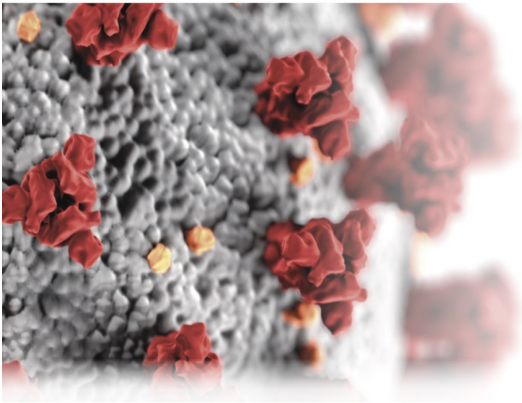
National Convention Update

The APWU National Executive Board has announced the dates for the National Convention. The new dates are October 4, 2021 thru October 7, 2021 at Bally's /Paris, Las Vegas, NV. Post convention workshops will be October 8, 2021. This will be held immediately after the All-Craft Conference which is scheduled at the same location September 30, 2021 thru October 2, 2021.

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/



WWW.APWUHP.COM
(800) 222-2798



The Health Plan will:

- ✓ 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



*To all who have lost
loved ones from this
pandemic. *****

#SaveThePostOffice

June 23rd was the National Day of Action for the USPS. Union and Auxiliary members, retirees, members from other unions including the American Federation of Labor, politicians, and the general public all joined together in a sign of solidarity. All across the country, supporters of the Postal Service formed caravans and informational walks to help educate, inform and urge everyone to call their Senators. Over two million petition signatures demanding funding for the postal service were delivered to Congress.

The public loves the post office but often takes it for granted. Postal customers don't think about life without the post office for the very reason that they have always been able to rely on the mail service.

Why caravans? The postal service needs to be a part of the Heroes Act, but not at the expense of anyone's health. The Covid-19 threat has not gone away, nor will it anytime soon. Wearing masks, social distancing, and staying in our cars was a good way to keep people safe while eliciting support.



Minneapolis Minnesota



Saint Charles Missouri



Des Moines Iowa



Waterloo Iowa



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!



Dues Notice Reminder

Bonnie Sevre, Treasurer

Covid-19 has affected our lives in many ways. We were unable to hold state conventions and seminars, which is where the Auxiliary could interact with members and collect dues. Because of these unusual circumstances, per the Auxiliary Constitution, I sent dues reminders to Auxiliary members who owe their dues or will have their dues expire on July 1st. Dues paid to dates are on the News and Views mailing label several times a year. I asked that you pay your national dues for two years. **Also, if you have state and local dues, don't forget to send those dues to your state and local treasurer.** Feel free to call or email me if you have questions or concerns.

If you have already mailed your dues, thank you for your continued membership.

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