



NEWS & VIEWS

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Get Organized! - Get Active!

By: Kathy Danek, President

No, we're not talking about your closet – your cupboards or your car – we're talking about your local and state Auxiliaries. We need to focus on the growth and activity of our Auxiliary. The first place to start – set a goal and mission. Identify why we need an Auxiliary – not just at the state level – but at the local level – We are the consummate volunteers - and our major focus is the enhancement of the working conditions and visibility of the American Postal Workers Union. It is no easy task to establish a new local organization. Aside from the obvious task of recruiting members, there's the additional responsibility to get individuals to volunteer as an officer, establish and adopt a local constitution, obtain an Employee Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS, set up bank accounts. All of this is coupled with establishing meeting times and places, and setting goals and objectives to help them achieve success as a new local.

To be effective we don't need to be enormous, but we need to be focused and vocal. Here's an example of our

mission – taken from the organizing flyer of the auxiliary:

The Auxiliary – A grassroots organization of volunteers serving out of a deep abiding commitment to our American Postal Workers Union and its members. United by the common goals and interests, Auxiliary members are engaged in the kind of community and civic involvement that is necessary to present the best possible image of labor to the American people. The Auxiliary stresses both political and philanthropic work.



Without their help, the APWU would be unable to carry out many of the time consuming “nuts and bolts” ACTIVITIES ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR UNION. In a nutshell – we UNITE FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND RETIREES.

Because the Auxiliary so strongly believes in the recruitment of more engaged members, we are stressing a national focus on membership. Local and state organizations should engage their membership. A campaign for membership will begin immediately to include the following:

1. Officers at the state, local and national level should engage their membership, first making sure that they collect dues to make sure all members on the rolls are current. This enables you to communicate with them, gets them on the mailing list for News and Views, and door to camaraderie..

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National Earth Day - April 22nd, 2017

By: Bonnie Sevre

In the wake of the Viet Nam war protests U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, the “Father of Earth Day” initiated and promoted environmental actions and activities beginning in 1962. He continued his pursuit of environmental awareness and in 1970 proposed a National Earth Day. It was the first nationwide environmental protest to shake up the political establishment. On that Earth Day, April 22, 1970 an estimated 20 million Americans took to the streets in support of the environment and to protest harmful environmental practices. This effort brought about greater awareness that our planet has limited resources and that our eco-system was self contained and finite. The things we were putting in the air, water and earth are impacting us.

As we approach the celebration of the 47th Earth Day

Getting Organized

President’s Article - continued

2. We must look for ways to inspire, encourage and recruit new members. Don’t stop with collecting their dues. Invite them to a meeting. Take them to coffee or lunch to build a friendship. We tend to respond best to people who have similar interests and issues. Recognize activity and the growth of your state and local organizations.
3. Work to organize and activate additional local Auxiliaries. According to the Constitution and Bylaws, it takes at least four (4) members to create a local Auxiliary. To be a chartered Auxiliary you must have the following: an EIN number, elected officers, and a Constitution. The national Auxiliary does have a template of a generic Constitution.
4. State organizations are significantly stronger if they have active local auxiliaries. They bring the entire state together and discuss long term activity, innovation, new organizations, increases in membership, special projects and involvement in any or all of the five Auxiliary objectives. If we are all engaged in similar activities, it aligns us in a universal effort. The glue of our organization is the APWU and the jobs we have at the USPS. It is a common thread that guides many of our actions. And the USPS is the thread that links our work with the community. Everyone is touched by the work of the USPS.

But it is not just about signing up new members – it’s about recruiting, retaining and rewarding excellence/ dedication to our organization. We’re encouraging activity in the five points of the Auxiliary star. Pick a point – get motivated and let us know what we can do to

it’s a good time to look at ways we can improve the earth by making good choices. One way is to ban the use of plastic checkout bags. Many cities are banning or limiting the use of plastic bags. Rather than plastic use reusable tote bags. Another cause of pollution to the environment is plastic bottles. For the first time, ever, bottled water is expected to outsell soda in 2017. (Source: Bloomberg News) Great for our health but not especially great for our landfills. Again, try using a reusable container instead of plastic. Brown bag it without the plastic bag. The earth loves when you bring your lunch to work in a reusable container.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was formed as a direct result of the first Earth Day in 1970.

Notice:

The Nilan Continuing Education Scholarship has been suspended pending further review.

help you. Membership flyers and envelopes are available from the National Secretary Patricia Lewis. Membership lists are available from the Treasurer or the President.

When signing up new members: Get their name, address, including city, state, & zipcode; email; telephone number and the person who “sponsors them” in the Auxiliary. National dues are \$5 per year – Don’t forget to add on your state dues and local dues – if you have a local Auxiliary.

Dues and membership lists should be sent to Treasurer Trisa Mannion; 3038 Cloverdale Court, Grand Junction CO. If you only have a state convention or meeting every other year – and that’s where you do your organizing – consider asking for two years dues. Send a copy of your membership list to Kathy Danek so they can be added to the membership list immediately – that way they will be added to the News and Views mailing list.

Your district coordinators are excited to work with you, your state, and your local. Keep in contact with your district coordinators – get familiar with their email address and telephone numbers. Ask for their help – they can link you with other members in your region to deal with problems, successes, activities, etc. Building those relationships and friendships inspires and empowers growth – but more importantly – they add some fun. AND – recognize excellence -- Every one loves to be told they are doing a good job – they love that somebody noticed. If you are from District 5, contact any of the general officers. While your district does not currently have a coordinator, we will make certain that you are served as members of our Auxiliary.

So – get active –get organized - and have fun!

It is Time to File the IRS 990N For This Year

By: **Trisa Mannion**

It is time to file the IRS 990N again for this year

Form 990-N is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. **You cannot file the e-Postcard until after your tax year ends.** Remember, failure to file this annually will result in the loss of the not for profit status of your organization. That means you are required to file forms as a business and pay taxes. Sending a copy of the "accepted" form to the national treasurer for filing helps protect your organization. You can send this via email or mail.

If you are having trouble with your passwords and did not file last year, you will need to reset your password and user name. The IRS migrated to an IRS site last year.

The following link is the IRS site to use when filing your 990-N.

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirement-for-small-exempt-organizations-form-990-n-e-postcard>

Or you can go to www.irs.gov and then use the search and type in 990N.

This form is simple to complete and after you register, it only requires about 10 minutes for completion.

I can help you file this form and register, if you need help, just call. (970)245-3912



Buy Your Tickets Today - \$5 each

Win an Apple® - 9.7-Inch iPad® Pro with Wi-Fi + Cellular - 256GB *Value approximately \$1,000*

Drawing will be held at the 2017 All Craft Conference
in Las Vegas Nevada
October 2017

Make checks payable to: Auxiliary to the APWU

Need not be present to win

Tickets may be purchased from any National Auxiliary Officer or by contacting Trisa Mannion, Treasurer, 3038 Cloverdale Ct, Grand Junction CO 81506 or on the Auxiliary website: www.apwuauxiliary.org Follow the links to buy tickets.



All proceeds go to the Auxiliary to the APWU Equipment Fund (Risograph copier)

The Right Organizations Can Change the World

By: Rebecca Kingsley

The right organizations can change the world. With people and a purpose a movement can be made. What exactly would you need? Who would you need? How will it be done? When do you start? Hopefully this article will not only inspire you but give you the key components to help you, me, your local, your state and your community to make that difference.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

There are so many non-profits and organizations out there that all have a purpose. What makes each one different? How are they the same? How do some have too many helpers and others have just a few that carry on the whole program? Keeping and recruiting those who will make that difference, those who will help carry out the word of the program, and those who simply help are key issues. What about drama, political differences, personality conflicts and negative people who want to help? And then there are so many who have done it their way for so many years and see no reason to have new people join. It's easy to say, “I don't understand why people don't do anything” when there are many reasons for them to say, “I don't understand why people do those things.” So how do we get more people involved? Following are some ideas that may help!

1. Ask – Yes – just that simple. However, if you ask the same people over and over you may get the same answer. So where do we ask, who do we ask and when do we ask?
 - A. Where – at a local or state picnic when family members are invited to participate. Invite all members to bring a spouse, family member, or friend. Or at a local or state union luncheon or dinner where spouses or family members are attending. Have a table set up where you have information to share before the event begins. Walk around and speak with the guests and introduce yourself. You are more likely to get a yes from a person who knows you than from a stranger.
 - B. Ask union members if they have older kids, a partner, or family member that they could sign up. Don't forget your retirees.
 - C. Ask at appropriate times. Stay away from meetings that involve elections or if you know it's going to be a heated meeting.
 - D. Remember those you meet. After seeing them a few times you may feel more comfortable asking them to get involved.
2. Focus – The Auxiliary may be confusing with the many activities in which we are involved. Mention one or two things they might be interested in, rather than

overwhelm them with all that is going on. Ask them if they would like to help or volunteer with a project.

3. Know your audience – Know who you are asking. Get to know people. Remember that quantity isn't always quality. In order for a tool to work you have to have the right parts. If you know your crowd, it's easier to get those quality members. Don't waste time on a person who will never say yes.
4. Educate yourself – Get to know your organization's goals. The Auxiliary deals with legislative issues that affect postal workers. What are the issues? Have you been to a rally or attended a town hall meeting? Do you keep up with postal issues? Human relations projects?
5. Values, morals and manners – Remember that we are asking people to volunteer their time in a variety of ways. It may appear to be a thankless job. So, we need to remember to say please and thank you. Offering donuts and coffee at a meeting can make a difference. Be pleasant – being hard to work with will deter those “great volunteers” from ever joining. Treat people with kindness. Simple gestures such as a pat on the back or saying, “Great job,” can do wonders. Don't exclude people. We should have common values, common morals and good manners. Treat all people with respect. With that you will have faithful members.
6. Communication – We are all guilty of this – out of sight, out of mind. If you meet someone new, send a card. If a family member has a tragedy, remember them with a card. If your local is having a picnic, pick up your phone and ask, “How can I help?” Find a common ground with people and talk. Conversation may lead to asking why a person hasn't been involved. Their answer might be, “Because you never asked.” So, don't be afraid to ask!
7. A new member joins the Auxiliary – now what? Share your passion, your stories, your experiences. Let them know about the various projects and find out where their interests are. They may get involved in a project and become passionate about it and find that inner drive to be involved.
8. Be a team – As a leader learn to delegate, to guide, to focus, to set the pace and to reward. Lead by example. Encourage your team to take on leadership roles. Keep your team abreast of current issues and provide feedback that can be helpful.

Hopefully this will give you a few ideas on how to go out and recruit new members into the Auxiliary to the American Postal Workers Union!





Join the Auxiliary to the APWU

~ Each one – Reach one ~

We will place a ticket with your name on it in a drawing for each new member that you sign up.
The drawing will be October 2017 at the All Craft Conference.

1st Prize \$250

2nd Prize \$100

Another **\$50 drawing** will be held for each member that joins or pays dues.

Who can join? Family, friends, retirees, and APWU members may join the Auxiliary to the APWU.

Why Join?

- ◇ Be a part of a team ~ a cause ~ a family
- ◇ To help make a difference in your community, politically and socially.
- ◇ Spread the word for our postal members about better postal jobs, better benefits, a better environment.
- ◇ Speak to our friends, family, community, and local/state government representatives about why the United States Postal Service is important to us all. It is in the United States Constitution because it is a service to our family, businesses (small and large), and our communities.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP Auxiliary to the American Postal Workers Union

Name			
Address			
City	State	ZIP	Phone()
Email Address			
Sponsoring APWU Member Name			
Local Name			

Local Dues _____
 State Dues _____
 National Auxiliary Dues \$5.00/year
 Total Amount Enclosed _____

Member Signed by: _____

Make checks payable to: *Auxiliary to the American Postal Workers Union*

Mail to: Auxiliary to the American Postal Workers Union
 3038 Cloverdale Ct
 Grand Junction, CO 81506

Or: www.apwuauxiliary.org
 Follow links to join or pay dues
 National dues - \$10 for 2 years *or* \$5 per member per year

Ask Tina? *About the Health Plan*

The Express Scripts Mobile App

The Express Scripts mobile application (app) is an innovative tool that helps you make better decisions for healthier outcomes – anytime, anywhere. The app is compatible with most iPhone®, iPad®, Android™, Windows Phone®, Amazon and BlackBerry® mobile devices. To download the Express Scripts mobile app, search for “Express Scripts” in your mobile device’s app store and download it for **free**.

Replace a
pharmacy trip
with a tap.



Features and Functionality

Features

The Express Scripts mobile app includes many features:

- Refills and renewals
- Order status
- Transfer to home delivery
- Price a medication
- Medicine cabinet
- Locate a pharmacy
- Drug information
- Claims and history

The Express Scripts mobile app offers you the ease and convenience of managing your prescriptions and pharmacy care anytime, anywhere. It provides clear, simple functionality enabling you to instantly access your personalized medication information – download the app for **free** by searching for “Express Scripts” in your mobile device’s app store.



www.apwuhp.com



(800) 222-2798

Functionality

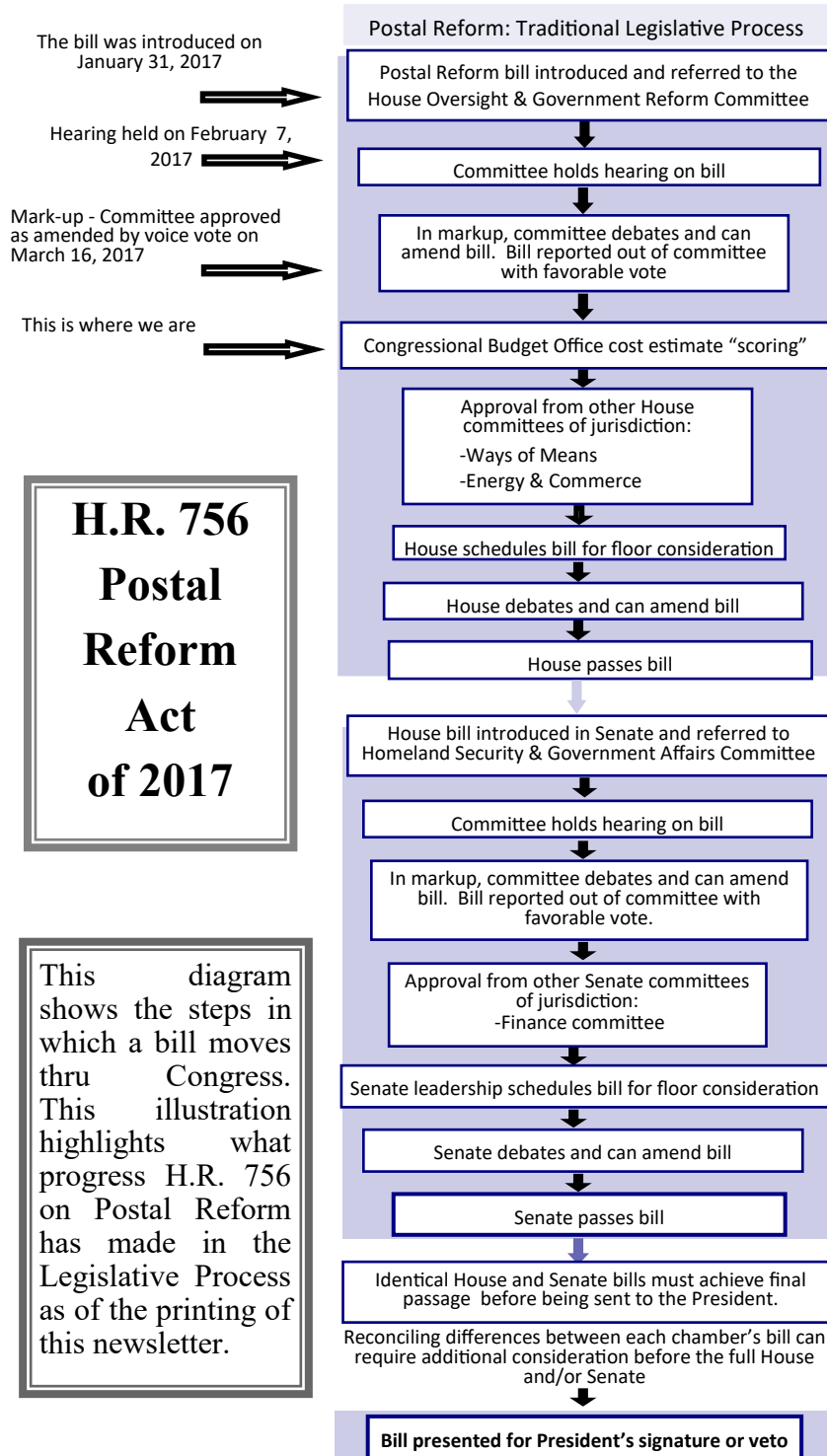
- **Registration** – Register in the app and immediately begin using all of its features, and use the same username and password to access the express-scripts.com website. To register, you’ll need your Member Number or SSN.
- **Refills and Renewals** – Quickly and easily refill and renew your Home Delivery prescriptions.
- **Order Status** – Track the status of Home Delivery prescription orders. The order status feature displays tracking information at each step, including when orders are received, in process, and shipped.
- **Transfer to Home Delivery** – Request Home Delivery for medications taken on an ongoing basis that are currently obtained from a retail pharmacy.
- **Price a Medication** – Find the lowest-price for a medicine by comparing Home Delivery from Express Scripts Pharmacysm with retail pharmacies.
- **Medicine Cabinet** – The medicine cabinet feature automatically syncs with your prescription drug history. You can easily manage multiple prescriptions with:
 - Automatic updates to medication history with notifications of possible health risks related to medications.
 - Reminder alerts that can be set up to notify you when it’s time to take medications, helping you to stay on track with your prescriptions.
 - Notifications when you are running low on your medications and need to order refills. These alerts are sent to you when our records indicate the remaining medication level reaches intervals of 0, 5, 10 and 15 days.
 - Automatic drug interaction checks for over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and supplements, which can be added by you at any time. You can also set reminders and alerts to be notified if there is a potential drug interaction with these items and your prescribed medications.
- **Locate a Pharmacy** – You can search for the nearest in-network retail pharmacy using your current location or by entering an address or zip code. Available pharmacies can be displayed in a list or map view, and you can view contact information and obtain directions.
- **Drug Information** – You can search detailed drug information by medication name, condition or drug category, and see potential side effects, drug interactions, pill images, proper usage and more.
- **Claims and History** – You can review your past prescription activity and payment details for up to a 24-month period, as well as obtain detailed account information. Claim information can be displayed for retail and Home Delivery prescriptions for you and all eligible dependents.

Postal Reform Act of 2017 Moves Forward

Reprinted from APWU Web News

The APWU supports **H.R. 756** advancing through the legislative process and will continue to provide updates and work with lawmakers and allies to ensure a robust future for America's public Postal service.

The American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
Postal Service Reform Act of 2017, H.R. 756



H.R. 756
Postal Reform Act of 2017

This diagram shows the steps in which a bill moves through Congress. This illustration highlights what progress H.R. 756 on Postal Reform has made in the Legislative Process as of the printing of this newsletter.

After H.R. 756 was introduced in January, President Dimondstein and APWU's Legislative Department requested clarifying language to ensure that prescription drug benefit coverage under FEHB would not decrease through Medicare integration.

Another concern the APWU voiced with lawmakers is the unintended consequence of certain postal annuitants who could not benefit from Medicare Part B. On this issue, Chairman Chaffetz and Rep. Lynch committed to further investigate and consider any necessary revisions going forward to address this.

The Committee also adopted an amendment by Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) requiring the Postal Service to give members of Congress advanced notice if a postal facility in their district would be subject to closure, consolidation or a reduction in service. As we have seen in past efforts to shutter post offices and mail processing facilities, members of Congress can be key allies in rallying community support in the fight against such counterproductive cuts.

H.R. 760

The *Postal Service Financial Improvement Act of 2017* (H.R. 760), introduced by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) and Rep. David McKinley (R-WV), was marked up and sent out of committee on March 16th as well.

The bill is intended to be companion legislation to H.R. 756. If passed, it would require the Department of Treasury to invest between 25-30% of the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund (PSRHBF).

Under current law, the PSRHBF is only invested in Treasury Bonds with very low-yielding returns. Medical inflation rises much faster than Treasury Bonds which results in projected unfunded liabilities. If the PSRHBF could be invested in higher yielding funds, like those used for the Thrift Savings Plan, it would produce returns that would help keep up with medical inflation at a much faster pace. This frees up postal funds that could be directed to improve service and strengthen infrastructure.

2016-2018 Human Relations Project

By: Joyce Tanguay - Human Relations Chair

"People who give will never be poor" ~Anne Frank~

Child Inc.

As was mentioned in the March issue of the News & Views, the Auxiliary Executive Board visited Child Inc. Headquarters while at our board meeting in Richmond, Virginia in February. Reading about all that Child Inc. does and actually talking to the ones who make it happen gave me a whole new appreciation for this project. We live in America. This is supposed to be a "land of plenty." No child should ever have to live in poverty or go hungry or be in need of clothes, shelter or an education. And yet, there are seven states (VA, WV, KY, MI, LA, AZ, NM) plus the District of Columbia who have areas of poverty and a need for our help. Renee Kube, Director of the U.S. Programs, has been with Child Inc. for 32 years and shared many stories with us. Their ultimate goal is to get these children off welfare. And that is where we come in. For many of the state and local Auxiliaries, donating to any cause is not possible because of budget constraints. But there is always a way. At each meeting or convention pass around a Child Inc. basket and ask each member to donate at least one dollar. You will be pleasantly surprised at how fast your goal of \$50, \$100, or more will add up. By doing this you will not be draining your budget and you will all have had a part in helping the children out there who need us.



Please take the time to go to <https://childrenincorporated.org> for more testimonials and information. No donation is too small (or large) and checks may be made payable to *Auxiliary to the APWU* and sent to:

*Trisa Mannion, Treasurer
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3038 Cloverdale Court
Grand Junction, CO 81506*



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