

# APWU

St. Paul, MN Area  
Local APWU AFL-CIO

# POSTMARK

## Associate Offices

### Minnesota:

- Afton
- Bayport
- Bethel
- Braham
- Cambridge
- Cannon Falls
- Castle Rock
- Cedar
- Chisago City
- Circle Pines
- Cottage Grove
- Dalbo
- Dennison
- Farmington
- Forest Lake
- Grandy
- Grasston
- Hampton
- Hastings
- Hugo
- Isanti
- Lakeville
- Lindstrom
- Marine on St. Croix
- Mora
- Nerstrand
- Newport
- North Branch
- Northfield
- Owatonna
- Pine City
- Randolph
- Red Wing
- Rosemount
- Rush City
- St. Paul Park
- Scandia
- South St. Paul
- Stacy
- Stillwater
- Vermillion
- Welch
- Willernie
- Wyoming

### Wisconsin:

- Amery
- Beldenville
- Clayton
- Clear Lake
- Deer Park
- Ellsworth
- Glenwood City
- Hager City
- Hudson
- New Richmond
- River Falls
- Somerset
- Star Prairie
- Willson

As I sit here on June 1, 2020 and prepare to write this month's article, I can not imagine a more difficult time for us as Postal Workers. We have spent the last 12 weeks with the fear and anxiety over a deadly pandemic which has personally impacted each and every one of us in its depth and disruptions to our lives and family members. In the murder of a black man, George Floyd, by a police officer in Minneapolis; our community has been affected with the outpouring of demonstrations which devolved into riots where looting and arson destroyed our neighborhoods including destruction of two Post Offices in Minneapolis and interruption of mail delivery and processing as the state of emergency limited the ability to safely move the mail in the Twin Cities. Add to this, we are staring down the largest financial crisis we have ever had at the Postal Service. Last, the appointment to Postmaster General, an individual who has a history of not respecting workers from the private sector.

These events have created a perfect storm where our existence as we know it is under the extreme threat of the ideology of postal privatization and degradation to workers which follows. While it appears, we have bi-partisan support in Congress to provide the relief we need to move forward in this emergency. The President of the United States and his leadership have demanded any meaningful help for the Postal Service be taken out before they will sign legislation. The destruction of the Postal Service is on the horizon as we are told money will run out in September. In the impending emergency, the "Shock Doctrine" will allow the forces advocating the privatization of the Postal Service to exact the concessions they believe necessary to degrade even further the workers wages, benefits, and union rights. This is the most extreme threat to our quality of lives in the last 50 years.

Postal Workers are a diverse group of people who tend to not get involved and rely on the few who step up to represent to advocate for them. This type of belief someone else will protect me will not provide the necessary voice to protect us. This moment in time we need each and everyone of you to get involved call your US representatives and demand the Postal Service be put on firm financial footing while protecting the dignity and quality of

life for its workers. We also need to you to have these conversations with your family and community and ask they become involved. The National APWU website has many places you can easily connect with our representatives.

Saving the Post Office will not be enough if they let the dedicated workers lose their quality of life in the process. We can only survive this storm together and your involvement is a must. The St. Paul Area Local has always been a leader because of its dedicated members and retirees. Please do not sit on the sidelines and wait for the storm to pass. Get involved today to protect our communities and families. The United States Postal Service is a necessary means of communication for every citizen and the most trusted federal agency. Our strength is our dedication to our communities and delivering important correspondence and packages to every address every day.

Todd Elkerton  
President



Call your representatives and tell them to support the Postal Service! It's quick and easy!

**Capitol switchboard**

**202-224-3121**



# HELLO BROTHERS AND SISTERS

As I write this article we are wrapping up four (4) days of protests in the Minneapolis & St Paul area. These protests served as an avenue for the public to voice their displeasure for the wrongful death of George Floyd, a black man at the hands of a police officer. Unfortunately, these protests went from peaceful to anarchy in a blink of an eye. The aftermath resulted in the destruction of local businesses, vehicles, housing, community municipalities and yes several Postal facilities and Postal vehicles were burnt to the ground. The protests even ended up shutting down the Minneapolis Main Post Office Saturday afternoon thru Sunday morning.

As usual when things got tough, Postal workers stepped up and did what was needed to ensure the mail was delivered to the hardest hit communities Sunday. This included employees at the St Paul P&DC taking all mail that was inbound for the closed Minneapolis P&DC and ensuring it got processed for our customers in a timely fashion. These deliveries are essential to so many in the community as this is how they receive medications, correspondence from loved ones, paychecks and even food and supplies.

These unfortunate times have once again shown the im-

portance of the US Postal Service in our communities across this nation. The Postal Service is going to continue to be a vital service to those hardest hit while we rebuild Minneapolis & St Paul. Now is the time for Postal employees and their families and friends to contact our elected officials and urge them to support legislation that will insure the Postal Service continues to serve all communities well into the future.

Hopefully lessons will be learned from this weekend and the inequities in our society will be lessened and communities will heal and become stronger than ever before. Change is achievable if we open our hearts and minds.

**“Only in the shattering can the rebuilding occur”** (Credit: Barbara Marciniak)

Solidarity,  
Dave Cook  
Vice President

## New Members

Curt S. Cooper Clerk  
Lisa Curry PSE Clerk  
Roles Guzman Motor Vehicle  
Taramattie Hay PSE Clerk  
Michael A. Hofland PSE Clerk  
Max A. Medcqm PSE Clerk  
Trinh Nguyen Le PSE Clerk  
Hyun Oh PSE Clerk  
Abby Ponath PSE Clerk  
Richard Savrageav MVS  
Jason Truax PSE Clerk

## Recent Grievance Settlements

The Union settled grievances for a total of \$15,620.

The Union is working hard for you, both in the grievance procedure and in the fight to Save America's Postal Service.

We need you to step up to the plate! If you know a non-member, please ask them to consider joining, we all need to pull together to protect the Postal Service. The Local is approximately 90% organized.

# MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICES

It's about that time, to keep you well informed. Management has yet to follow the book or even start to conform. They sign the settlements saying it shouldn't happen again.... laughing hysterically, I said I won't hold my breath nor put down my pen. Grievances are denied and the Reps don't know sh\*t, they should do us a favor...punch out then quit. We're expected to follow the directives and rules...the problem with the rules is they were written by fools. Management never listens when we give them advice...it's in one ear and out the other and they pay the price.

We just had a grievance heard at Step 2...it was about removing rotating days off that affect me and you. We gave them warning we didn't like 6 of the runs...they said nothing to us and never changed a run. They denied it early, in fact right at Step 1...So it's off to Step 2 and this should be fun. Once again, they have not chance or a clue... so hopefully it will be Out

Of Schedule Premium paid to you.

Here are the issues being battled for you, some settled in one day and some in two.....

- \* Overtime bypass is a constant issue ...
- \* Yearly bidding still being dealt with (Removing Rotator Bids)
- \* Signing Personal Health Release Forms at D.O.T. medical test site... There is a national waiver giving an extension on expired Med Cards until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 (If you meet certain criteria)
- \* Trying to get a Full Time Driver Safety Instructor assigned to St. Paul
- \* Still dealing with steward release...that'll be a short battle
- \* Trying to get rid of Postal Fleet once and for all .... Dave K. (MVS Dispatch) came up with a good idea and plant manager Marvin Rainwater Ok'd it and the mail is getting to the plant earlier... thanks to both of them!!!!

There are other issues like usual but yet to be filed.....

As we work our as\*es off taking care of our families, friends and significant others through the Covid-19 chaos...remember to and take care of yourself. Make sure your getting enough sleep, eating the right food, getting enough exercise...pretty much everything I don't do..lol... Stay Healthy

Fighting For You... Fighting For Us....Fighting To Win...

Adam Godes

MVS Craft Director



## Solidarity Kid's Theater

I hope you will join us on June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Solidarity Kids Theatre as they celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> year.

The group was started by Greg Poferl and friends to help educate people about the importance of unions and labor history. I hope you will be there to help us celebrate this important occasion. It will be fun and educational.

**East Side Freedom Library**

**1330 Conway Street**

**St Paul, MN 55106**

**Noon to 5 PM.**

# Attention Labor Custodians

By now you all should have received many standup talks regarding COVID-19 and how to reduce the spread of viruses that cause respiratory illness, such as influenza (flu) and coronavirus (MMO-031-20).

Following the cleaning requirements in Handbook MS-47 will ensure a safe and healthful work environment under normal circumstances. However, there are requirements in MM-310-20 to perform certain actions on daily and tourly basis, most of which are already in the regular CTC light duty and restroom routes.

Every day since March 5, 2020 in maintenance capable sites, new work orders regarding the completion of additional work hours needed to be in compliance with CDC requirements as spelled out in MM0-310-20. This should be on the employee's EAWS as "PERFORM ALL REQUIRED ACTIONS TO COMPLY WITH DAILY AND TOURLY TASKS IN MMO-031-20 ATTACHMENT (2)." If this work order is not on your EAWS, ask your supervisor for new EAWS with it on there. If they refuse, request a steward. If you need or want a copy of MMO-031-20 ask your supervisor for one. COVID-19 cleaning is a requirement, not an option. The health of all employees comes first, and daily compliance with MMO-031-20 is critical.

In order to conduct the required cleaning procedures for facilities where a positive case COVID-19 has occurred HQ Maintenance Operations in coordination with HQ Asset Management have developed two (2) response Rubbermaid Carts (COVID-19 Carts). One is a PLANT Response Kit Cart and the other is a DISTRICT Response Kit Cart dedicated to support facilities outside the plant (station/branches, associate offices (AO), Ve-

hicle Maintenance Facilities (VMF's), annexes, etc.). The COVID-19 Carts must be stocked by the plant with necessary cleaning materials (Locally procured CTC cleaning materials, face masks, goggles, disposable gloves, disposable coveralls, shoe coverings, etc.) stored in a secure location and used specifically when cleaning up any COVID-19 incidents.

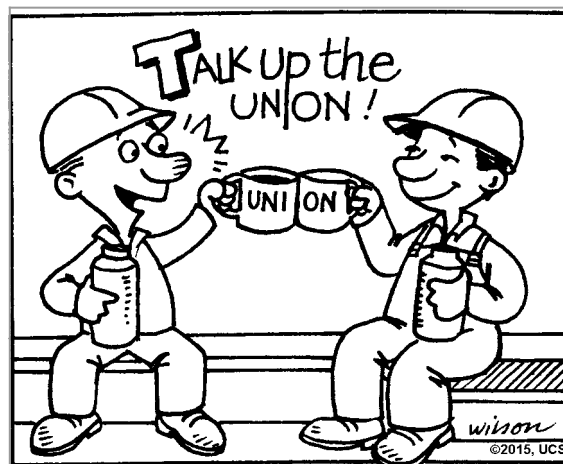
When there is a confirmed COVID-19 case and you're being asked to clean up the specific area(s) by management, ALWAYS follow the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CD) for the proper donning and doffing specialized Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worn while conducting cleaning and disinfection in facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases. Follow all instructions regarding cleaning and disinfecting COVID-19 area(s). if for some reason management refuses you the COVID-19 Cart request a steward ASAP!

You have the option to decline to do the necessary cleaning out of personal concern. However, the Postal Service may utilize contract cleaners to ensure that the facility has been properly cleaned in accordance with the Center for Disease (CDC) guidelines and related Management Orders (MMOs). Following such cleaning, postal custodians will be utilized in the facility for normal cleaning (MMO-031-20 and MS-47, TL5).

Any questions ask your supervisor or request a steward.

Matthew Garcia, MCT

T-2 Maintenance Steward



# Clerk Bid Process

Since we don't have a postmark in July or August this will be my last article for the summer. It's been a couple hard months dealing with COVID19 and now the riots from George Floyd's death. Last night (5-30-2020) has been the first night the police have made an attempt to stop the looting and fires.

Tomorrow will be the first day stores start opening up again and we can get back to a little bit of normalcy. Hopefully with social distancing and face masks we won't see large spikes in the numbers but only time will tell.

With that said I will focus this article on issues that will be coming up this summer or maybe the fall depending on the grievance process. As you know management has been reverting bids as they become vacant for about a year now. So each unit is down bids, some more than others. Terri and Bruce have been fighting hard and grieving each bid that has been taken. We have some at step 2, some at step 3 and we have an arbitration date scheduled if needed. So, bids should be coming back at some point.

So I am going to explain the clerk bid process (all three crafts we represent have a different bid process). We start off with a vacant bid, this would have happened from someone bidding out of it, retired, quit, being removed or newly created. Prior to it being posted Management has to meet with the Union to discuss if they are going to post the bid as is, make changes to the bid or revert the bid.

The bid is posted on a "St Paul Clerk Vacancy" or what's better known as the bid sheet. Each station, branch and plant should be posting it for 10 days. Once it closes (Friday at 10:00am) Management is required to meet with the Union to confirm it is correct. Seven days later the award notice is posted. There are a couple of things to look for on the award sheet. The first is, on occasion Management has to pull a bid off the bid sheet, instead of just stating this bid was pulled, on the award sheet it states "no successes bidder". Then on the cover sheet it states this bid was pulled and will list the bid number. We get phone calls in the Union office all the time on this issue.

The second thing to look for is at the bottom where it shows the successful bidder it also says effective date. This will either have a date which will be the first day the employee starts the new bid

or it will be blank. If it is blank it is for two different reasons. The first one is the employee has restrictions on file, so it has to be determined if the employee can do the core functions of the new duty assignment. The second reason would be that the employee has some kind of requirement. This could be something as simple as showing proof of a valid driver's license or a little more complex like two weeks of training in Norman Oklahoma.

If there isn't an effective date you should look at the cover page of the award notice. It has all the phone numbers to call for whatever requirement the bid has. It's also very important to know that you only have 10 days to sign up for this required training. Failure to call within the 10 days will forfeit the bid. It is also important to know that failure to qualify during or after training will be restricted to bid on similar duty assignments for 90 days.

The next item to bring up is a Tuesday Bulletin. This is posted in the same area as the bid sheet and award notices. A Tuesday notice applies to a couple different situations. The first two apply to what was discussed above. Once an employee can show they can do the core functions of the duty assignment or if an employee provided or completed the requirement it will come out on a Tuesday Bulletin.

Another couple examples that an employee will be on a Tuesday bulletin would be a PSE being converted to regular, an employee that eReassigned, an unassigned employee that has been placed into residual duty assignment or if a previous bid that an employee has bid on now drops to them. With that said the last information I would like to pass on in this article is a live bidder form. A live bidder form is used when basically you get a bid, let's say your 5<sup>th</sup> choice but you still want your 1<sup>st</sup> choice if it drops to you. There are three questions you have to answer yes to, to be eligible to fill out the form.

Have a great summer,

Jason Stevens

Industrial Relations Director

**ST. PAUL AREA RETIREES CHAPTER APWU**  
**NOTICE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the St. Paul Area Retirees Chapter APWU at Article 5, in its entirety, as follows:

Election of officers shall be held by secret ballot at the May 20, 2020 regular meeting of the Chapter. Officers are elected to a two (2) year term. To be eligible for office the candidate must be a member in good standing for three months preceding the election.

Offices to be filled and duties related thereto are:

President: Shall preside over all membership meetings and meetings of the Chapter's Executive Board; shall be a member of all committees, except the Election Committee

Countersign all checks drawn against the funds of the Chapter.

Appoint all standing committees and special committees of the Chapter, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

Report to the membership regarding the progress and standing of the Chapter, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

The President is responsible for filling vacant offices, both general and administrative, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

Recording Secretary:

Keep a record of the proceedings of all Chapter meetings and all Executive Board meetings.

Countersign all checks drawn against the funds of the Chapter and perform as the Executive (sic, Board) may require.

Treasurer:

The treasurer shall receive and receipt all funds of the Chapter as well as prepare and file annual IRS tax forms.

Trustee:

Will form an audit committee of Officers from the St. Paul Area Local to conduct a yearly audit of all expenses and revenues of the Chapter. In the absence of the President they shall preside to the business of the Chapter.

**HELLO BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

The 5 Reversion cases that were settled at step 2 should be on the next bid sheet so look for them. Once I see that they are on the bid Sheet, I will send a Flyer out showing the Bids to look for because these 5 bids will have out-of-schedule pay attached to them.

The back pay goes back to 6-8-19, a full year of pay, which means a person that bids on these bids that are a full 8 hours of out-of-schedule could receive, if at top scale, \$31,000.00 in back pay.

We have hit another road block. Management does not want to settle the other reversion cases so back to step 3 and maybe arbitration. Wish we could have come to a reasonable resolution but the Senior Plant Manager did not want to give anything up..

A lot of people are retiring this summer. As a reminder, please make sure you give the post office and the union your current phone number and address so if a grievance gets settled we can get ahold of you, otherwise that money could go back to the post office.

I hope everyone has a safe summer.

Bruce Gutzke

Clerk Craft Director

*Check, out the new website [stpaulapwu.org](http://stpaulapwu.org) for the meeting schedule!*

## NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ST. PAUL AREA LOCAL APWU

### RETIREES CHAPTER

The next meeting of the St. Paul Area Local Retirees Chapter will be held on July 15th at 11 AM at the St. Paul, MN Area Local's office, 2261 Waters Dr., Mendota Heights, MN 55120.

The \$50.00 dollar drawing at the May meeting was won by Nancy Haberman. The drawing is held at each meeting. You must be present to win.

We did not have a quorum for the May meeting; however, we had some interesting things to discuss:

May was our election of officers' month. Since there was no quorum, there was no election.

Proposed change to our Retiree's Constitution, to provide for a Vice President, was discussed. The Constitution Committee consists of Treasurer, Dan Bless and Secretary, Joe Marino. The proposed change has been sent to them for their input. If they recommend the change, we will address that matter at the July meeting before the election. If the proposed change passes, we will elect a President, Vice President, Re-

cording Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee. Nominations will be from the floor. To be eligible for office a member must be in good standing for 3 months prior to election. Official notice will appear elsewhere in this edition of the Postmark.

The House has passed a bill proposing financial help for the Postal Service. Unfortunately, the bill has little hope of passing in the Senate. If the Senate did pass the bill, Trump has said repeatedly that he will not sign it. This crisis was created when the Congress passed a law requiring the Postal Service to pay retiree benefits for 75 years in advance. It has been exacerbated by expenses incurred regarding how the Coronavirus has impacted the Postal Service.

SO!!!!!!To repeat my plea in every article; PLEASE call your congressional representatives!!!! Let them know what you think about how the Covid-19 pandemic is being handled, what you need for your safety and health and what must be done to keep the Postal Service alive. The Capitol switchboard number is 202-224-3121. Ask your family members and friends to call also. We

must hold them responsible for their decisions about how this extremely serious disease is handled. Our lives and the lives of our loved ones depend on it.

I hope you and all your loved ones are safe and healthy.

As always, you may contact me via my Email address lreed6112@aol.com. You can also call the union office at 651-778-1637 or visit the Local's website at stpaulapwu.org . The union office can give out my home phone number. I welcome your contacts.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. The July meeting will end with our summer picnic. Potato salad, hamburgers, hot dogs, polish sausage and lots of other goodies will be on hand. If you feel like bringing something, please do so. You are welcome to bring a guest.

Lola Reed Langford, Chapter President

***The Local has learned of the death of the following members.***

***We offer our deepest sympathies to their friends and families.***

***Robert Gehring Retired***

***Carl Huset Retired***

***Jesse Lopez Retired***



ST. PAUL, MN AREA LOCAL  
APWU AFL-CIO  
PO Box 21128  
St. Paul, MN 55121  
2261 Waters Dr  
Mendota Heights, MN 55120

Phone 651-778-1637

**OFFICERS**

- Todd Elkerton .....President
- Dave Cook .....Vice President
- Jason Stevens .....IRD
- Shelley Fleming .....Secretary
- Tim Strong..... Treasurer
- Bruce Gutzke.....Clerk Craft Director
- Jim Pierce.....MNT Director
- Adam Godes ..... MVS Director
- Kim Richardson.....Trustee Chair
- Terri Griner ....Trustee Clerk
- Matt Garcia .....Trustee MNT
- Gary Walsh.....Trustee MVS

The new website is up and running!  
Check it out !  
Stpaulapwu.org

**General Membership Meeting**  
**Schedule**

January 28 - DAY MEETING 11:00 a.m.  
February 25 - 6:15 p.m.  
March 24 - 6:15 p.m.  
April 28 - 6:15 p.m. CANCELLED!!!  
May 26 - 11:00 a.m. DAY MEETING  
June 23 - 6:15 p.m.

**Pizza and Refreshments**

We're on the Web!  
stpaulapwu.org



Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Twin Cities, Minnesota  
Permit, No. 65

Return Service Requested

**Due to Covid 19 restrictions,  
Check the local's website before coming  
at Stpaulapwu.org  
to be sure the meeting is still scheduled**

If attending the Union meeting and you need an ASL interpreter please notify the Union  
the Tuesday before the meeting.  
**651-778-1637**