

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

COVID19 Impacts us all

I hope the version of the Postmark finds you and your family members healthy. This year has been a difficult one so far in regards to advocating a safe and healthy workplace for the members of St. Paul Area Local.

In February, I started a conversation with the District Manager to start getting together a plan for responding to an invisible threat which had the potential to impact our workforce. This discussion was started before anything started to be affected here, just was challenging them to be ready if it were to occur. By this time the supply chain to receive the necessary supplies was struggling to provide the supplies. Soon after this, the first case of postal workers infected was happening in the State of Washington and the supplies rerouted to affected areas. It seems like since this time, new agreements and cleaning processes have been evolving to respond to growing threat.

I want to thank the members of St. Paul APWU Local, the officers and stewards as they have faced this worry and anxiety each of us are facing. The St. Paul Area Local has relied on its members to reach out to us and provide information concerning their work area. We are committed to responding and try and help each and every time and employee recognizes an issue. There have been a lot of creative ideas implemented and we are better for the suggestions. We continue to the need this communication so we can represent you our members.

At the writing of this article some eight weeks after the first diagnosis in MN and WI we have not had a single positive test reported from our members. I'm still amazed at this fact. I certainly believe it will happen sooner than later and will respond by having management provide a full accounting of how they intend to provide the safe and healthy work environment agreed to in our Contract.

I would like to publicly thank District Manager Tony Williams. He has without hesitation stepped in to help us provide safe and healthy environment where we are struggling with a facility's supervisors or Managers at every turn we have needed.

At the end of March when the Governor of MN is-

sued his shelter at home order, our Local office needed to sent our secretaries home. We worked together and they were able to accomplish a great deal of their work

from their homes. As of today, and following the Governor's order we have developed a plan for them to return to work and have a written plan in place that provides the necessary cleaning and physical distancing required.

Right now, our General Membership Meetings have been cancelled due to the no more than 10 people gathered together prohibition. It is anticipated this will also impact the May meeting also. Please watch the Local website and Flash Bulletins we send to your office to announce the next meeting whether is scheduled or cancelled.

Stay safe!!! Remember if you're sick stay home!

Also, if you are tested stay home until the results are given to you. Protecting your co-workers is also vitally important.

We are in this together.



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.

New Members

Daniel McDowall
Maintenance

Tenzin Yougal
PSE Clerk

Desirae Coleman
PSE Clerk

Recent Grievance Settlements

The Union settled grievances for a total \$27,933.

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.



NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ST. PAUL AREA LOCAL APWU

RETIREEES CHAPTER

The next meeting of the St. Paul Area Local Retirees Chapter will be held on May 20th at 11 AM at the St. Paul, MN Area Local's office, 2261 Waters Dr., Mendota Heights, MN 55120. As of this time, we are planning to meet as scheduled. If plans change it will be posted on the Local's Website. Probably a good idea to check the Local's website before going to the meeting.

I hope you will join us on June 21st at the Solidarity Kids Theatre as they celebrate their 25th year. The group was started by Greg Pofert 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. The celebration will be held at the East Side Freedom Library 1330 Conway Street 55106 from noon to 5 PM.

May is our election of officers' month. We must have a quorum to take care of this important matter. We must elect a President, Recording 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.

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 and what you need for your safety and health. Support current employees by encouraging our representatives to support the postal service financially and by providing protective gear for employees. 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 as well as my cell number. I welcome your contacts.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. We'll do a little business and finish off with food. It really is fun to catch up on what our retiree friends are doing

Solidarity Kid's Theater

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The group was started by Greg Pofert 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.

*Check, out the new website **stpaulapwu.org** for the meeting schedule!*

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

With everything that's happening at such a rapid pace I thought it would be interesting to compare where we started, where we are now (March 22) and where we will be when you read this article. On March 1 we were told that one of the 1st postal employees from the Seattle NDC was diagnosed with COVID19. At that time there were only a couple hundred confirmed cases in the country. The Dow and S&P had been dropping from their all time highs for about a week (29,423 and 3,386) but everything else was pretty normal. The next two weeks were still pretty calm even through the cases continued to rise. There was definitely a shortage of hand sanitizers, Clorox wipes and surprisingly toilet paper.

Then around March 14 everything escalated quickly, governors started implementing business to close down which included; movie theaters, gyms, dine-in restaurants.... Also no meetings, gathering or events of more than 10 people, everyone should stay 6 feet apart. Schools are suspended until April 3, the postal service starts instructing employees if you're sick: stay home. Several agreements between the postal service and the Union are signed and we are getting service talks and updates.

As I write this article it is March 22, 2020. Global cases are now at 300,000 with

13,000 deaths. The United States currently has 27,000 cases with 300 deaths. The Dow is now at 19,174 down 33% for the year and the S&P is at 2,304 or down 29%. You still can not get hand sanitizers, Clorox wipes and toilet paper. Now stores close earlier for restocking purposes and most stores are low or out of meats, can goods, pastas, breads, rice, eggs and milk. Gas price have dropped almost a dollar and is at \$1.55 a gallon. Currently there is no postal employee in the St Paul bid cluster or Northland district that has been confirmed to have COVID-19. There are currently 6 states that are on lockdown. The government is debating given everyone 1,000 to 2,000 dollars each.

NOW as you read this article, Forecasters are saying the job numbers that come out on April 3, 2020 will be between -500,000 to -5,000,000. The worst month of job loss during the financial crisis was in March 2009 at -800,000 jobs. My predictions are I think the stock market has continued to drop, several employees in the Northland district including St Paul bid cluster will be confirmed as having COVID-19. I think most or all of the states will have some kind of lockdown in place. I think the stores will be restocked but there will be limits on the quantities. I think the kiddos will finish their school year at home working from the computer and the number of

COVID cases is still rising.

Jason Stevens

Industrial Relations Director

To be continued:

Well I did not know that COVID-19 would effect the Postmark which it did. So as of April 30, 2020 this is where we are now. Global cases are at 3,272,000 with 231,310 deaths. The United States currently has 1,076,089 cases with 62,378 deaths. The Dow is now at 24,266 and the S&P is at 2,902 which has recovered about 2/3 of its loss. You still cannot get hand sanitizers or Clorox wipes but everything else is mostly available. Currently there is no postal employee in the St Paul bid cluster that has been confirmed to have COVID-19. We have had a couple employees family members or people they have been in contact with have it but luckily, they quarantined and it did not spread. Minneapolis has just confirmed it's first case and we will be in contact with them to see what happens over there. After about 6 weeks of shut downs they are now opening the state and country back up. So now what's going to happen?

Jason

Hello Brothers and Sisters

I would like to wish you all well through this difficult time of Covid-19. I also would like to thank all members at the stations and plant who have been turning in statements of either management performing bargaining unit work; crossing craft statements of the Carriers/CCAs performing clerk duties; and mailhandlers/MHAs performing clerk duties. Please call the Steward Office with any questions 651-224-2639.

In solidarity

Shelley R. Fleming

Secretary/Steward

Contact Your Members of Congress

tell them to **include postal funding**
in the **next stimulus**

VISIT:

apwu.org/covidletters

Now is the time for urgent action to **save the United States Postal Service** from the devastating financial impact this crisis is having on its ability to operate and serve the American people.

Postal workers are essential workers who proudly step up everyday and serve the country by processing and delivering the mail, lifesaving medical supplies and prescriptions, critical information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and absentee ballots.

We are calling on Congress to add these provisions in the next stimulus bill:

- One-time funding of at least \$25 billion;
- Funding of the difference between postage revenue and actual operating costs;
- Compensate the USPS for paid sick leave;
- Hazard pay for USPS workers;
- No strings attached for money borrowed by the USPS.

We are asking for everyone's help to ensure that this pandemic does not destroy the U.S. Postal Service, a true national treasure and a vital part of America's response and eventual recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tell Congress: Support Our Public Postal Service

As Congress prepares further legislation to address the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, it is crucial to contact all our representatives and urge them to provide the financial support the Postal Service desperately needs.

To write a letter to your House Representative and Senators, go to:
apwu.org/covidletters. Share this with your friends, family, and co-workers!

APWU
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
www.apwu.org

Mark Dimondstein, President
Judy Beard, Legislative & Political Director

JB:mnwzpeku#2//aficio



POST AND DISTRIBUTE

**For up to date Covid 19
information see APWU.org
Information updated daily.**

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

**Capitol switchboard
202-224-3121**



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 ElkertonPresident
Dave CookVice President
Jason StevensIRD
Shelley FlemingSecretary
Tim Strong..... Treasurer
Bruce Gutzke.....Clerk Craft Director
Jim Pierce.....MNT Director
Adam Godes MVS Director
Kim Richardson.....Trustee Chair
Terri GrinerTrustee Clerk
Matt GarciaTrustee MNT
Gary Walsh.....Trustee MVS

The new website is up and running!

Check it out !

Stpaulapwu.org

We're on the Web!
stpaulapwu.org



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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**

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

Pizza and Refreshments

Retiree Meeting!

We meet every other month, on the third Wednesday of the month, with a get together luncheon on the off months, all are welcome!

Retiree Meeting May 20th

11:00 a.m.

St Paul Area Local Union Office

2261 Waters Dr

Mendota Heights MN 55120

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

651-778-1637