

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

The Struggle is real

The USPS has many years of being recognized as the most trusted agency in the Federal Government. The strength of this relationship is the backbone of what we do. Over the last several years a law passed in 2006 the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act which was designed to create a financial crisis for the USPS by capping our rates, the only way we can generate revenue and additionally require the USPS fund it retiree health care 75 years into the future. The APWU rightly called out the problems of this legislation. It has taken a pandemic to bring it to a crisis point. The last few weeks as the new Postmaster General appears to be degrading service even further has created the backdrop for an attack on USPS workers. The POTUS has said on many occasions over the last few weeks. "The USPS is a joke."

All of these actions of discrediting the workers and degrading mail service is a calculated planned attack on our relationship with the public. There is a need to for us to communicate our issues and what is needed to provide first class service despite the attack. The relationship we have with the public means everything if we are to maintain quality jobs and benefits.

So, this summer in the midst of a pandemic, an unprecedented economic crisis the United States Postal Service has found it in a political mud fight. As Postal Workers it is not where we feel comfortable to be in. For more than 245 years we have worked hard to bind our nation together in the best ideals of democracy. Over the years, the USPS has become the center of a supply chain to the distribution of products to every address in the nation. This universal requirement to deliver mail to every address in the United States six days a week. When the pandemic started there was a series of legislative bills which provided help to business to keep moving forward. The USPS was part of these bills, however, the White House negotiators required in all the bills submitted to them to strip the help to the USPS out of the bills which was done.

The pandemic has pushed us to the political front due to the desire for many states to pursue mail in voting. This issue has become political because it

appears the POTUS is against this type of voting. He claims it is a process which is unsafe and will result in a tainted election process. There

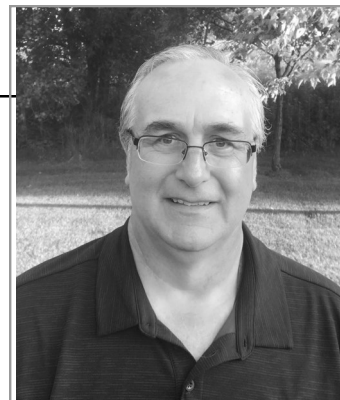
is no evidence using the Postal Service to deliver ballots has been unsafe. In states where mail in balloting has been how they votes it show increased voting and has bipartisan support. So, as this political process takes place, we need to just keep doing what we do.

Since the new Postmaster General has started, he has made a series of mandates and decisions which will create much difficulty in meeting the service standards. The most troubling is the removal of 7 letter sorting machines in the St. Paul MN Processing Center. The unprecedented reduction relying on numbers of letters during the summer months of an economic downturn could have devastating effects on our ability to process the mail.

We need each other to survive this storm. Don't be afraid to stand up for the USPS with your family and friends. Call your representatives and let them know a public post office is important to us as American's. Last get out and vote as if your job depends on it. If we don't vote to protect our jobs, we lose the ability to take care of ourselves and families.

Todd Elkerton

President



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

Capitol switchboard

202-224-3121

The Threat Is Real

As a Postal employee I am sure you are all well aware of the attacks on our jobs and bargaining rights by our postal executives and political leaders. The Union movement as a whole is also under attack. These attacks and threats on the working class are real, make no mistake about it. Our sitting POTUS has single handedly advanced the attack on worker protections and rights by filling vacancies and making appointments to key Federal agencies (NLRB, DOL, Federal Reserve, Treasury, Supreme Court, etc). These appointees all have one thing in common, a record of supporting big business and exploiting workers to the benefit of the company. Some of these attacks include:

- Encourage firms to classify employees as "independent contractors" to reduce bargaining rights.
- Loosening wage protections for tipped workers to include taking tips from employee and giving them to the employer if paid minimum wage. This would result in billions of dollars going to the business owners not the worker.
- Relaxing OSHA standards to the detriment of the workers safety
- Executive order to reduce the rights of Federal Unions to represent members on government time, charge unions rent for office space within federal facilities and rely on performance rather than seniority when determining lay-off's.
- Banning fair share fees for public sector Unions forcing them to provide services for free to nonmembers.
- Rules enacted denying overtime benefits to lower income earners
- Forgive employers who violate wage and hour laws without any penalties
- Permanent tax cuts for corporations (eventually as much as 80% reduction) vs majority of families paying more in taxes.
- Using executive power to reduce working families access to affordable health care markets and denial of benefits for pre-existing conditions.

- Delaying laws that require retirement advisers to act in best interest of client
- Trying to greatly reduce careers with defined pensions
- Increase the minimum age for maximum retirement
- Slowing down mailing standards affecting reliability of timely mail delivery
- Tying to privatize the US Postal Service

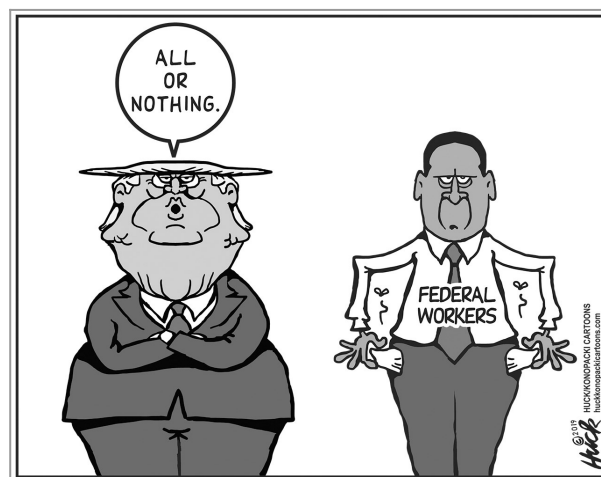
Folks, this November is going to be one of the most important elections for middle- and lower-income workers. We can not afford another 4 years of erosion of Union and workers' rights. A review of our current POTUS's record clearly shows he is not fighting for us blue collar workers. He is fighting for corporate and big businesses interest, more money in their pockets and less in average workers.

These corporate cronies are who has appointed to the Federal departments and agencies tasked with fighting for workers rights. This election we cannot vote solely based on personal beliefs and rights. You must vote for the candidate that will lift up the working women/men and slow the expansion of corporate greed.

As your Vice President it is my duty to fight for the working class and uphold the Union values. This is the oath I took and I take this responsibility very seriously and will not allow my personal beliefs to get in the way. It is with the utmost respect that I implore you to vote to protect your job when the time comes this November. Your job as you know it depends on your decision.

Solidarity,

Dave Cook, VP



MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICES

Summer is coming to an end and unfortunately, we all know what's coming next. Time to pull out the warm gear, winterize the summer toys, clean the garage, get the ice fishing equipment ready....It makes me ask myself every year "Why do I live in this state when other states stay warm year round". This article will address some issues that I feel need to be brought to the table and hopefully my goal of clarification will be achieved.

As your Craft Director I have sworn by oath to uphold the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Having to make choices that affect the craft as a whole can be very nerve racking...For example, take TTO yearly bidding... some people are upset so here's why I made the choice to not to agree to bid.

204B circumvention (bring a 204B down for a day to bid and then right back to 204b, clear directions are written in the contract for them to follow to avoid this mistake.)

Failure to fix runs (start times, arrival/depart, driver info, etc.) then provide the union a copy for review. I basically got 3 days to review every run Monday-Friday/Saturday/Sunday...it takes management 6+ months to write them and I get 3 days.

Accused me of strong-arming them for more work..I wanted to acquire some Rochester & LaCrosse runs. At the time we had performed over 300 runs for the contractor at the time.

Management is trying to incorporate the "New Work" into our current runs instead of doing what the DAS award directs them to do, which means more runs and more conversions of PTF's if done properly.

Bid yearly runs at the wrong time (should be December)

Our choice vacation bidding was so screwed up I had to meet with JD and get an MOU signed.

-4 runs had no actual job/bid numbers and at the time had no description so whoever was converted into that position was going into it blind...I was told the postal job numbers would come once we started bidding...

. They were supposed to remove rotator runs...that didn't happen either.

So, after all that and catching management lying on more than one occasion I chose what I thought would be best for the craft...not 1 or 2 people but the craft as a whole. I know this has frustrated some of you but not once have I done anything out of spite or anger towards our craft OR as much as I'd like to...towards management, and how many times has management told you something and it still doesn't happen...(we're getting new trucks, we're getting new phones, new scanners, etc).

Roughly 6 months ago I filed a grievance Supervisors Doing Bargaining Unit Work and was victorious. Part of the settlement was stop using the made-up title "204B Dispatcher" and use "Supervisor Transportation Operations". You think it would have stopped after paying every driver \$80.00 but it didn't, in fact it actually got worse and then a STEP 4 Settlement from APWU National came down.

That brought even more of a problem for MVS management, in order for management to abide by the Step 4 settlement MVS MUST HAVE A CLERK VEHICLE DISPATCHER ON ALL TOURS and if management decides to have a postal doormat (204B) on the same shift there won't be a problem since the bargaining unit position (Vehicle Clerk Dispatcher) is protected from being worked by a Supervisor.

In plain English (which I prefer) compared to Contractual language here's what it means... If any Level 17 is dispatching they are in violation of the national contract and the Step 4 settlement. I brought the Step 4 settlement to MVS management's attention in the middle of May basically giving them a heads up..... But we all know management can guarantee one thing for sure and that would be "FAILURE"...they increased the amount of Level 17's to perform the dispatching of MVS from 2 to 5 with a possibility of even more. I filed a grievance and this time 2 of the higher-level detailed employees and received criticism. I've explained the situation and violations that occur and the possible outcome when they work Level 17.

As the MVS Director, I spend a great deal of my own time doing union work taking care of the members I represent, making sure each diver and mechanic doesn't get screwed by management, who continues to try to pull the wool over our eyes, like they've been doing for years. I want only the best for the hard working people of MVS and won't settle for anything less. If it makes you feel good to throw me under the bus, let me tell you what makes me feel good. I get to represent you, and I haven't lost a single grievance to date and that payoff is worth every minute.

I have a job to do, nothing is personal. Everyone gets the same treatment no matter who it is, whether I like it or not OR whether you like it or not...PERIOD !!

Here's what I've been working on.....

Trying to win a DSI position for the St. Paul Bid Cluster

Attendance Issues

Grievance Compliance

Protecting Jobs

FIGHTING FOR YOU, FIGHTING FOR US, FIGHTING TO WIN...

Adam Godes

MVS Craft Director

Recent Grievance Settlements

The Union settled grievances for a total of \$88,475 for June, July and August.

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.

New Members

Steven Davison Maintenance

Beka Deressa PSE Clerk

Alisha A. Dralle PSE Clerk

Marle Dugger PSE Clerk

James Felegy Maintenance

Joseph A. Fimon Maintenance

Dawn Gherty PSE Clerk

Trent Goods PSE Clerk

Samuel Hanson MVS

Robbin Hedberg PSE Clerk

Monae Hunter PSE Clerk

Susan Jerry PSE Clerk

Michael Jeockel MVS

Fehewerk Kasa PSE Clerk

Awgichew Negatu MVS

Hyun H. Oh PSE Clerk

Hayley M. Plant PSE Clerk

Jonathan P. Pot MVS

Mark E. Rignill PSE Clerk

Robert Sandberg PSE Clerk

Emmily Anne Schroeder PSE Clerk

Ronald L. Studer MVS

Olvin E Tabora MVS

Stefanie M. Weiland PSE Clerk

Thomas E. West Maintenance

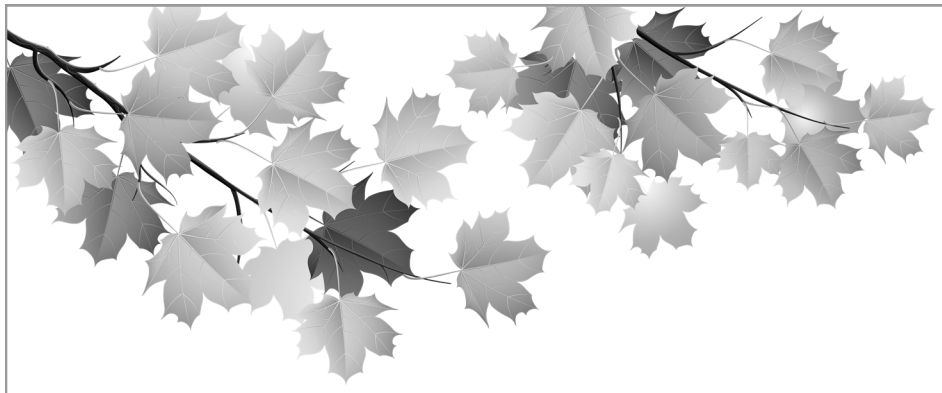
Shibiru Woyecha PSE Clerk

Peng Xiong PSE Clerk

Jeanette L. Yanez PSE Clerk



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



HELLO MAINTENANCE

The summer months are coming to an end and with it the warm weather is going to be replaced by cooler weather. It is inevitable that change is coming as it is with the way Maintenance here at the Postal Service is changing. It is up to every one of us to ensure Management makes changes that are in-line with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, to include the Handbooks and Manuals. The Union is only as strong as its members that is why it is called a "Union".

I know that everyone has their own beliefs regarding the election this coming November, either way we as the Maintenance Craft still have to ensure that Management complies, with the agreed to contractual obligations to ensure compliance or what is the point. Currently there are only two Union representatives, down from the three we had, handling all of the Maintenance grievances and our case load is huge. Even so a lot of issues may be falling through the cracks because employees are not reporting when Management violates the contract to meet their end goal.

We are looking for Maintenance employees to step up to represent their fellow Union brothers and sisters and to become Union stewards to help ensure Management complies with the contract. First and foremost, we have jobs and contractual rights that we must protect, and Union stewardship is the only way to accomplish this.

At this time, I want to take this opportunity to thank Matthew Garcia and Roderick Renner for stepping up and representing the Maintenance Craft as Union stewards. Roderick Renner is in the process of closing his cases and he is stepping down as a Union steward at this time and I want to thank him for his dedication and hard work he has put forward in representing the members.

I cannot thank Matt Garcia enough for his hard work and dedication he puts forward in representing our members. Matt, has taken a great load off my back to allow me to concentrate on getting the Step 2 cases worked through. Matt has shown great leadership and knowledge of the contract that is evident in his settlements and the way he interacts with the members on a daily basis. I merely ask that if you see either of these two, that you thank them for their hard work and their dedication to you the members.

The Union representation for the Maintenance Craft would not be as strong as it is without Matt Garcia and the help Rod Renner provided when he was a steward. If you are interested in becoming a Maintenance Craft Union steward please contact me.

The Maintenance Craft consists of many individuals, with individual beliefs, but as a Union I believe we have to check our political

beliefs at the front doors, and keep in mind that we have to think within the contractual boundaries. When each of us accepted our jobs at the Postal Service, we knew there were contractual rules we must adhere to, we may or may not like these rules, but when we got hired we agreed to comply with them. This is the same for Management; granted Management does not comply with the rules very well, which is evident in the numerous grievances filed on a regular basis. I implore all maintenance employees to report to your Union representative when you witness Management violating our contractual rights.

I want to let each and every Maintenance Craft employee within the Saint Paul Areas such as, those Maintenance employees that work in the 540, 550 & 551 areas that the APWU Maintenance Union Stewards are here to FIGHT for you, all you have to do is reach out and we are here to help you with your contractual rights, you are not alone.

Do not allow the outside pressures of the political unrest deter you from being united as brother and sisters of the APWU. It is too easy to let the outside influences to bleed into our daily work environment, which can have a negative impact on our work environment. We need to stand together to get through this trying time more than ever.

With all of the changes that are happening with the Stations, Branches and the Associate Offices I implore you that if you notice contractors or non-postal people in your facility performing Maintenance work, please contact the Union office. Management is subcontracting bargaining unit work without notifying the Local Union prior to awarding (hiring) subcontractors to do our work, if you see it report it.

Jim Pierce

Maintenance Craft Director



HEALTH NEWS

Help Your Kids Navigate School Amid a Pandemic

FRIDAY, Aug. 14, 2020 (HealthDay News) -- This school year comes with special challenges for kids as the United States grapples with a coronavirus pandemic, but experts say parents can help their children navigate the tough emotional terrain.

Whether returning to a school building, continuing online learning or adjusting to a hybrid school environment, it is normal for children and adolescents to have some stress or anxiety about going back to school, said Samanta Boddapati, a child clinical psychologist and prevention coordinator at Big Lots Behavioral Health Services at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

Fears of getting sick or following school safety protocols for COVID-19 may make the transition even more difficult.

In a survey of parents by Nationwide Children's, 2 out of 5 said they had concerns about their kid's social and emotional well-being.

Very young children can suffer from separation anxiety about being away from family and in new environments. For these children, experts recommend making a special goodbye part of your routine and reminding your child when you will see each other again. Some kids like a transitional object -- an item that reminds them of mom or dad while at school.

Older children being in a classroom might be uncomfortable.

"Maintaining a routine is important, especially for families who are continuing to do online learning full-time. Create a part of your child's day that is structured and a part of their day that has some flexibility," said Parker Huston, a Nationwide Children's pediatric psychologist.

The hospital's experts offer these tips for parents and caregivers:

Tell your child there are a lot of unknowns, but that you and others are there to help them.

Discuss fears and talk through options and alternatives.

Model coping skills to your children, so they know how to respond to unknowns and build resilience.

Help them understand special procedures in schools such as wearing a mask and undergoing temperature checks.

Find out what resources are available at school for your child, such as social-emotional support or counseling.

"A certain amount of stress is normal, but parents, caregivers and educators should look out for drastic changes in functioning or behavior," Huston said in a hospital news release. "Sleep changes, mood changes, inability to engage with social environments or friends, increased anxiety about things that they maybe weren't nervous about in the past are changes you want to talk to your child's pediatrician about."

More information

For more on kids going back to school, see the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

-- Steven Reinberg

SOURCE: Nationwide Children's Hospital, news release, July 29, 2020

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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 September 16 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 July meeting was won by Pat McCarty. The drawing is held at each meeting. You must be present to win.

We did not have a quorum for the July meeting (we were short one member) and were not able to have election of officers as planned. We will try again at the September meeting. If we have a quorum, we will also address the proposed changes to our constitution.

We did have a good picnic. Thanks to Nancy Haberman and Ray Moore for procuring and cooking

the food.

Have you tried to contact your congressional representatives regarding support for the postal service and destruction of service standards by the current postmaster general? You know, the man who has enormous investments in competitive companies! I wonder how much he would profit by helping destroy the postal service.

SO!!!!!! To repeat my plea in every article; PLEASE call your congressional representatives!!!! 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. Our lives and the lives of our loved ones depend on it.

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

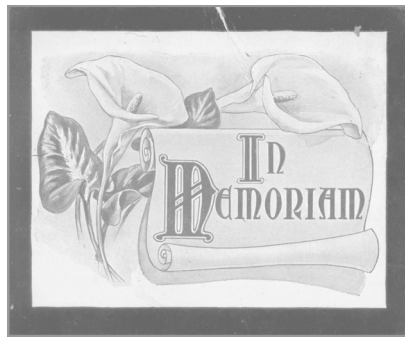
As always, you may contact me via my Email address **lreed6112@aol.com**. You can also call the union office at **651-778-1637** or visit the Local's website at **stpaulapwu.org**. The union office can give out my home phone number. I welcome your contacts.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

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.



*Edward Taleen
Retired*

*Erwin Weeks
Retired*

*Forrest Renick
Maintenance*

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

We're on the Web!
stpaulapwu.org



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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

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.
No general membership meetings in
July or August
September 22 6:15 p.m.
October 27 11:00 a.m. DAY MEETING
November 24 6:15 p.m.
No meeting in December

Retiree Meeting

September 16 11:00 a.m.

2261 Waters Drive

Due to Covid 19 restrictions,
The September GMM will be a virtual meeting over Zoom.
Watch the website for login details.