

ELECTION TIME AGAIN!

For
**Local Officers and
Delegates to Conventions**
of the
**St. Paul, Minnesota Area Local
APWU AFL-CIO**

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

Nominations will be accepted at the

Tuesday, February 23rd

General Membership Meeting for the following:

- ⇒ **President**
- ⇒ **Vice President**
- ⇒ **Director of Industrial Relations**
- ⇒ **Secretary**
- ⇒ **Treasurer**
- ⇒ **Clerk Craft Director**
- ⇒ **Maintenance Craft Director**
- ⇒ **Motor Vehicle Craft Director**
- ⇒ **Trustee Chairperson**
- Clerk Craft Trustee**
- Maintenance Craft Trustee**
- Motor Vehicle Service Craft Trustee**
- (4) At Large Delegates to National and State Conventions**
 - ⇒ Positions serve on the Local Executive Board

The President, Vice President, Industrial Relations Director and the three Craft Directors are automatic delegates to the State and National Conventions. The three Craft Trustees are automatic delegates to the National Convention.

Alternate Convention Delegates will be elected from the At Large Delegates.

Have you been Injured on Duty? Know the Basics

(This article first appeared in the January -February 2005 issue of The American Postal Worker magazine.)

Understanding basic information regarding the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) claims process can be beneficial in expediting an injured employee's claim approval and receipt of benefits.

Five Requirements for Claim Approval

Civilian Employee: USPS employees are civilian employees covered by the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA).

Timely Filed: Claims for traumatic injury, occupational disease or illness and death must be filed within three years of the injury or onset of the condition or in cases of latent disability three years from when the claimant became aware of the medical condition was caused by employment. "Recurrence claims" have no regulatory time limits.

Fact of Injury: In order to have a fact of injury there must be an event (an accident or performing duties qualify as an event) and a resulting medical condition.

Performance of Duty: Performing assigned duties or engaging in an activity that is reasonably associated with the employment, whether on or off premises. Breaks and lunch taken on the employer's premises are also covered.

Causality: The work environment or working conditions caused or contributed to the claimed medical condition. Aggravation, acceleration or precipitation of a pre-existing condition can also be considered causal. Simply being at the worksite

or on-the-clock does not necessarily make your medical condition causal to your employment. Consequential and intervening injuries may also be covered.

Demonstrating causality is the most common obstacle to a claim's approval. Causality must be demonstrated through a medical narrative. Treating physicians must provide their medical rationale, definitively indicating how they came to the conclusion that employment factors contributed to or caused the condition. Claimants whose doctors state only that a condition "was caused by" specified employment factors and fail to provide their reasoning can expect to have their claim denied for failure to prove causality regardless of their impressive credentials or satisfying other required elements of the medical report.

Medical Reports

In addition to medical reasoning regarding causality, the medical report should also include dates of examination and treatment, history of injury given by the employee, physical findings, test results, diagnosis, course of treatment (given and recommended), work limitations due to injury, non-work-related conditions to be considered in alternative duty assignments, and prognosis for recovery.

Types of Claims, Forms

The period of time it takes the work environment to cause the medical condition determines which claim to file.

Traumatic Injury / CA1: Caused by a specific event or incident or a series of events or incidents within a single workday or shift. The employer is also required to issue Form CA-16

"Authorization for Examination and / or Treatment" to the employee when notification is given within 7 days of the injury date.

Occupational Disease or Illness / CA2: Caused by a series of events or incidents over a period longer than a single workday or shift.

Recurrence / CA2a: Spontaneous worsening of an accepted condition without an intervening event (performing work duties is an event) or when a limited duty or rehabilitation assignment is withdrawn (partially or in-full). If a condition worsens due to a work event – even if it was a previously accepted condition (same diagnosis, same body part), it is considered a new injury, disease or illness (determined by the duration of time specified above). It is not a recurrence.

It is the employer's obligation to make CA forms available to employees. Upon receipt from the employee, the employer has 10 business days to forward the CA forms to OWCP.

The USPS and its designees (Injury Compensation or Shared Services) have limited roles in the claims process. They are not an extension of OWCP. Only OWCP has the authority to approve or deny your claim.

If you have any questions please contact a steward for more information so we can help get your claim started out right.

Solidarity

Dave Cook, Vice President

Recent Grievance Settlements

The Union settled grievances for a total of \$34,454 in January.

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.

Standing up for safe jobs!

As we quickly approach one year of the threats of COVID19 we need to stay vigilant in protecting ourselves and co-workers to the best of our abilities. We are deemed essential workers and required to face these threats while at work. All of us are required to wear a face mask while we are at work. We are also required to socially distance and maintain 6 feet separation between individuals. The USPS has issued orders to increase cleaning frequencies. Last if you are sick or showing signs of illness please stay home and protect your co-workers.

The vaccinations have been approved and are being distributed to each state to follow the directions of who gets the first shots. As Postal Workers we have been identified as being in line in the near future. The choice to get the vaccination is a personal one and it has been decided management can not require you to get it. I will be waiting in line when it becomes available to me in hopes of protecting myself and others be safe.

It is the responsibility of all of us. Getting away from COVID19, it is our responsibility to report unsafe issues and management is obligated to abate the issues as soon as possible. The PS Form 1767, is how you report an unsafe condition. The directions are on the form. The PS Form 1767 must be readily available in your workplace. If you report a unsafe condition and management does not take care of in a timely manner, contact the Union office so we get it the attention it deserves.

To provide a safe workplace takes us all working together. Be active in your workplace and work safely.

Todd Elkerton

President

Motor Vehicles Services

Here's a nice short Article for you to enjoy. For starters ... I DO NOT HAVE A FAVORITE 204B. I personally think 204B's are a waste of people's time. They can't issue discipline, their ego's swell due to thinking they are better than who they work with, and sooner or later they need to come back to craft to avoid losing their bids and guess who's there to greet them when they return...NOBODY!!! They are basically a Supervisors doormat, a scapegoat when problems arise and all for that whopping 5% more pay. I needed to get that out as the last article somehow made it sound as if I appreciated them or I had a favorite... (excuse me I have to puke).

Anyways, let me tell you who I ap-

preciate. I appreciate my fellow postal employees, in all the crafts and on all the tours. Without all of US performing the jobs we do, without all of US coming to work, Without all of US.... This place would fail, so thank you for doing the job you do and being part of a kick ass team. To the Brothers & Sisters at the VMF. Thank you. Without you our trucks wouldn't run, without you the LLV's wouldn't move and without you people's safety would be at risk so again Thank you for doing what you do.

Here's what Ray & Myself are working on.... Supervisors doing bargaining unit work, 204B's doing bargaining unit work, Customer Service performing MVS work, Overtime By-

pass Violations, Bidding Circumvention, Improper Bidding Procedures, Steward Release, Overtime Violations... It's a continuous wheel of death and when you think you made a dent...You didn't...But protecting our members and our work is something I thoroughly enjoy doing on a daily basis. Hopefully this article makes it past the editors...

Fighting for You...

Fighting For Us...

Fighting To Win...

In Solidarity,

Adam Godes

MVS Craft Director

Are you looking for information about the Post Office, the Union or Retirement?

Are you looking for information about the post office, the union or retirement?

There are lots of sources out there that most people don't know about.

Listed below are just a couple. I am currently on two mailing lists, one of from the APWU and the second is 21cpw (21st Century Postal Worker). I usually get at least one email a week with 1 to 5 different topics.

The latest one I received had 4 articles

1) USPS – Board of governors to meet on

Feb 9.

2) Postal Bulletin – February is Ergonomics awareness Month.

3) USPS OIG: Property Condition reviews and

4) APWU – President Biden issued an Executive order on Protecting Workers safety. If I'm interested in any I just click on the link and it brings me to the full article.

Union sources - APWU.org, NALC.org, NPMHU.org, NAPS.org and AFLCIO.org

Postal news – 21cpw.com, postal-news.com, postalreporter.com and postal-mag.com

Retirement – liteblue.usps.gov >eRetire, TSP.gov and OPM.gov

(OPM is the agency that authorizes early outs)

Jason Stevens

Industrial Relations Director

Hello Brothers and Sisters

I want to remind everyone that choice Vacation is coming up in March. Management should give you your choice vacation slips by March 1 and you need to return them to management by March 21. Then management has until March 31 to get them back to us approved or disapproved. If that does not happen ask for a union steward.

I have heard that some employees have concerns why people are getting paid 2 or 3 times in reversion cases. The reason for this is Management was supposed to post all the revision grievances at the same time but management messed up again. So this allows employees to cash in twice or three times if they have a lot of seniority. The union can not stop that from happening. Management is responsible for their bidding process. The union also can't stop non members from bidding money bids either. But that is up to our members to talk to the non members to join the union. We have had some money bids go residual and some lucky PSE that is getting converted will be paid. There are still 4 more money bids left to be posted so watch for a flyer.

I believe Discipline is going to ramp up and make sure you are

punching your BT OI and IL and a ET. Also be on the right operation number that is very important. Make sure if the supervisor tells you to do something follow the order and then ask for a steward to grieve it don't ignore the order that can get you into trouble.

PSEs make sure you look at your schedule every day. My suggestion is to take a picture of your schedule every day before you leave so management can't change it after you leave. I also want to congratulate the PSE's that are getting converted. We will have some 14 PSE's getting converted on 2/27/21 and 36 PSEs on or before 3/13/21.

We do need stewards on T-3 and T-1 if no one steps up that could hurt the representation on those tours. A lot of the current stewards and officers are getting close to retirement. People need to step-up so they can get trained in before people retire.

Elections are coming up in February please make it to this next GMM on 2/23/21.

Bruce Gutzke

Clerk Craft Director

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE ST. PAUL AREA LOCAL APWU RETIREES CHAPTER

When you get this issue of the Postmark, our newly elected President will have been in office for about 3 weeks. They are off to a good start, in spite of lack of cooperation from Republicans. Republicans are preaching cooperation, but what they really want is capitulation.

Our new leaders have many huge problems to address, life and death issues must be at the top of the list. The pandemic and the many problems it has caused must be at the top of the list. However, I hop changes at the Postal Service aren't too far down the list. Getting rid of DeJoy and putting some people on the Board of Governors who care about the Postal Service would be a good start to restoring the "Service" mandate to the Postal Service.

Since most of us will have been vaccinated by the time March gets here, we will try to have a meeting on March 17th at 11:00 a.m. at the union office. If we have a quorum, we will address the proposed changes to our Constitution. Be sure to check the Local's website for meeting information. You can also contact me at lreed6112@aol.com

There are many things that we need to discuss with our congressional representatives.

Their response to the pandemic

The disgraceful events on January 6th

The need to move forward with or without support of republicans, etc.

So, to repeat my plea in every article:

Please call your congressional representatives! The Capitol switchboard number is 202-224-3121.

As always, you may contact me via my email address lreed6112@aol.com. You can also reach me through the union office at 651-778-1637 or you can visit the local's website at stpaulapwu.org. You can get my home phone and cell phone numbers by calling the union office. I welcome your contacts.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Lola Reed Langford

Chapter President

General Membership Meeting Drawings

January

\$50 - Nate Johnson

\$300 - Ken Vang

You must be present to win!



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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- 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.....Vacant

Retiree Dues for 2021 are due!

With death benefit— \$18.00

Just membership - \$12.00

Send to:

PO Box 21128

St. Paul, MN 55121



General Membership Meeting Schedule

- January 26 11:00 a.m.
- February 23rd 6:15 p.m.
- March 23 6:15 p.m.
- April 27 6:15 p.m.
- May 25 11:00 a.m.
- June 22 6:15 p.m.
- No meetings in July or August**
- Sept 28 6:15 p.m.
- October 26 11:00 a.m.
- November 23rd 6:15 p.m.
- No meeting in December**

Retiree Meeting

March 17th 11:00 am

Union Office

Please Check the website before coming. We hope to meet in person.

Stpaulapwu.org

**February 23
6:15 p.m.**

Due to Covid 19 restrictions,
The January General Membership meeting will be over Zoom. Please contact the Union office and we can email you the link to join the meeting.