

## 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

I apologize to the custodians.

In the May 2021 Postmark, I wrote an article about safety in the workplace and discussed the conditions in the bathrooms of the facilities we represent. This offended some of our Custodians we represent and they have called and made it known they believed what I wrote was an indictment of how they do their jobs. I told them I would publicly apologize in this month's article. I want to explain further and hopefully dispel the rumor I was knocking on the custodians and the job they do. For many years now since the start of CTC our bathrooms have become dirtier and dirtier. I have asked management repeatedly at Labor Management meetings to increase the cleaning frequencies to keep the bathrooms clean because of the traffic that moves through these bathrooms.

Also, I understand the chemicals which are intended to be used do not deal with the hard water we have here in MN/WI. I have also repeatedly asked they petition to be able to use chemicals that clean hard water deposits. Management claims they have made the requests and said no they will not get the added frequencies which are badly needed.

I have not stopped there. Every time I get to speak with the National Maintenance Craft Officers, I talk about the failure of CTC and the degradation of our bathrooms and floors and ask for help from them. So far none of this has produced results. At our last Labor Management meeting in the Processing and Distribution Plant the Plant Manager

directly said an increase of cleaning frequencies was needed and ordered the Maintenance Manager to get this taken care of.

I hope to hear at this month's Labor/Management meeting that they have taken the necessary steps to make this happen.

I want to say I believe the Custodians are doing the best they can to keep the bathrooms and floors clean, despite the lack of resources and time to accomplish it.

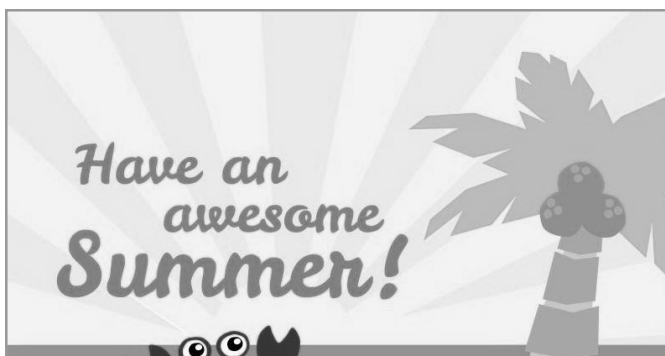
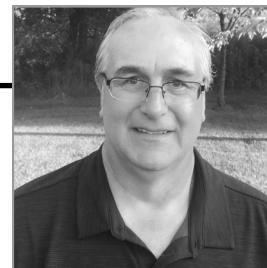
Every time I walk into a bathroom right after it has been cleaned they have done the cleaning according to the requirements of CTC.

For those of us who are not custodians we need to help them by being respectful of the space and making sure our trash ends up in the trash.

At the end of the day, we need to all work together to provide a safe and clean environment so we can come to work, be safe, and return home safely to our families

Todd Elkerton

President



# Have You Been Diagnosed with Covid

Brothers & Sisters,

Have you been diagnosed with Covid 19? If so the below information might be of interest to you.

The recently signed *American Rescue Plan of 2021* makes it easier to file Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA) claims for COVID-19. The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) wants Federal and Postal employees to know that anyone who is a "covered employee" can file a COVID-19 claim.

A covered employee is someone whose job requires contact with the public or co-workers. If you qualify and are diagnosed with COVID-19, you qualify for FECA coverage. Even if you had COVID in the past, OWCP is encouraging postal workers to file a claim now in case you need covered care in the future. You are covered if you were diagnosed with COVID-19 while employed in the Federal service at any time during the period of January 27, 2020 to January 27, 2023.

You are only required to establish that your duties included a risk of exposure to COVID-19 (contact with coworkers or the public). You **do not** have to prove you were engaged in high-risk employment; that you were actually exposed to the virus; or that you were exposed to someone who had the virus while performing your duties.

You can quickly and easily file a CA-1 claim for COVID-19 through the Employees' Compensation Operations and Man-

agement Portal (ECOMP) online. You can access ECOMP at [ecomp.dol.gov](https://ecomp.dol.gov). It will ask you to create an account and then walk you thru the claims process by filling out the online CA-1 form. I personally initiated a injury comp claim for myself a week ago as I had Covid in December 2020. The only medical documentation I had to upload was a copy of my Covid positive test results. The process was smooth and I immediately received confirmation of the processing of the new OWCP claim. It only took a few days and my claim has been approved.

Why file a claim you might ask? In the event you develop a consequential injury, impairment or illness later as a result of your COVID-19 diagnosis, timely filing your claim now will facilitate the processing of any future claim for any such consequential condition or impairment. If you wait until you experience a consequential injury or illness to file your COVID-19 claim, your claim may be subject to time limitation and you will have to establish both the initial COVID-19 claim and the consequential condition claim before benefits can begin. Protect yourself and file a claim now. (Credit: Department of Labor and APWU website)

In Solidarity,

Dave Cook

Vice President

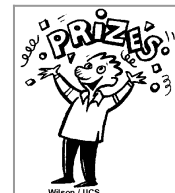
## New Members!

Jamie Brooks PSE Clerk  
Ahmed Billinger PSE Clerk  
Anthony Mueller-Prantner MVS  
Richard Sears - PSE Clerk  
Ayodeji Bewaji - PSE Clerk  
Sandra Prince-Black - PSE Clerk



## General Membership Meeting Drawings

May



**You must be present to win!**

**Susan Johnson - not present**

**\$300**

**Matt Garcia**

**\$50**

## Trustee Report

Hello Brothers and Sisters

On May 6, 2021 the Trustees and myself conducted Quarter 1 2021 Audit. We reviewed the January, February, and March Statements. Most items were accounted for, with just a few items that have not come back yet. There were few questions for Treasurer Strong, he was able to answer them. Second Quarter 2021 Audit will be in July but has not been scheduled yet.

I would like to thank the Membership for the steward gift and appreciation dinner that was held on May 14, 2021.

Last, but not least I would like to give Sheila Kissling a shout out. Congratulations on your retirement. Thank you for your many years of dedication to the Membership, Stewards, and Officers. You truly will be missed.

Enjoy your summer and be safe,

Shelley R. Fleming

Steward/Trustee Chair



## Clerk Craft Update

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to wish everyone a good and safe summer.

PSE's - if management tells you that you have to drive between stations, make sure you put in a mileage request to get reimbursement. Management owes that to you. If they don't want to pay you, ask for a steward.

Also if you get any discipline, make sure you ask for a steward right away. Even if management tells you it is too late, the Union needs to know what Management is doing.

PSE'S - make sure you turn in a 3971 if you are requesting annual or LWOP. If you think you are getting treated differently ask for a steward (it may be a grievance or not but please ask).

Make sure you have day care needs for your kids. Management does not have to approve a Change of Schedule, it is totally up to them to sign them.

Do not work alone - if you do make sure you give the Union a statement, these statements help you to get converted.

I am hearing a rumor that people are getting denied annual

leave when the quota is open. Please file a grievance if this happens. Also let me know so I can talk to upper management.

We keep on getting residual bids so we will be converting more PSEs in the future.

Everyone - I also want to remind you that if you work different hours then what your bid says you are owed out of schedule pay. If management does not pay you ask for a steward. The only person that does not get the out of schedule is if your bid is a NTFT flexible bid.

Bruce Gutzke

Clerk Craft Director

# Maintenance Report

Hello Maintenance

I want to remind all of Maintenance Craft of the MOU RE: Use of Privately-Owned Vehicles (POV), in a nutshell you have the ability to use your own private vehicle or you can inform Management that you do not want to use your own POV while on the clock. If you choose not to use your POV, Management will have to provide some sort of Transportation for you to move between facilities.

I want you all of you to know that Management cannot coerce or intimidate you to use your POV, if you feel that is the case, you must request to speak to your Union steward so we can put a stop to this improper action. This issue is more of an issue for the Laborer Custodial PS-4 employees, assigned to the Saint Paul Installation, to include the Stations and Branches, where some supervisors are pressuring the employees to use their POV because there are no vehicles available to use.

I need to stress to all Maintenance craft employees that it is the responsibility of Management, to ensure that transportation is available, to those employees that have informed Management that they do not want to use their own POV, it is not the employee's responsibility.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
AND THE  
AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO  
Re: Use of Privately Owned Vehicles**

The parties agree that the following represents the policy of the U.S. Postal Service and the American Postal Workers Union concerning the furnishing of privately owned vehicles (POV) by employees of the crafts represented by the APWU: No craft employee represented by the APWU may be coerced into furnishing a vehicle or carrying passengers without the employee's consent. The use of a personal vehicle is the decision of the employee and it is not the intent of the parties to discourage such use of personal vehicles when transportation is needed from one postal facility to another or in the completion of the employee's assignment. When an employee begins his/her work day at one postal unit and is provided transportation to another unit to complete his/her tour of duty, that employee will be provided transportation back to the unit where his/her tour began if transportation is needed. If the employee ends tour at the new location the return trip will not be on the clock but transportation will be provided promptly by management upon request.

**Date: July 21, 1987**

If you let your supervisor know if you do not want to use your POV and they attempt to coerce or intimidate you into using your POV, request to speak with a Union Steward to put it to a stop.

Jim Pierce

Maintenance Craft Director

## The Local has learned of the deaths of the following members:

**Tom Becker, Retiree**

**Dennis Crounse, Retiree**

**Lloyd Ackerknecht, Retiree**

**Franklin Berget, Retiree**

**Ronald Britton, Retiree**

**Kerry Jewell, Clerk**

**Dale Horning, Retiree**

**Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends.**



## 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 7/21/21 at 11 a.m. at the St Paul MN Area Local's office, 2261 Waters Dr, Mendota Heights, MN 55120.

We will have our usual picnic at this meeting. Each member is welcome to bring a guest. If you can help cook, bring stuff, etc, please contact me. If I do not hear from anyone, I will get the stuff we need and get it to the picnic.

We will have short meeting before the picnic. Since we did not have a quorum at the May meeting, we will again attempt to get some business done at the July Meeting. Thanks again to the Local's president, Todd Elkerton, for keeping us up to date with postal issues. One issue of much interest is President Biden's selection of nominees for the USPS Board of Governors. One of APWU's longtime friends, Anton Hajjar, has been appointed. He is familiar with postal issues and will be a good addition to the Board.

The \$50 door prize for the May gathering was won by Dave

Moen. The door prize is held at each meeting. You must be present to win. Even if there is no quorum, we will have the drawing if anyone shows up.

So, to repeat my plea in every article, PLEASE call your congressional representatives! The Capital 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 have a safe, healthy and happy summer.

Lola Langford

Chapter Prescient



### Annual Retirees Picnic!

July 7/21/21

11:00

**Each Member is Welcome to bring a guest.**

**Let Lola know if you can help cook, bring stuff, etc!!**

## Recent Grievance Settlements

The Union settled grievances for a total of \$42,437.

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.

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  
Camille Tucker .....Secretary  
Tim Strong..... Treasurer  
Bruce Gutzke.....Clerk Craft Director  
Jim Pierce.....MNT Director  
Adam Godes ..... MVS Director  
Shelley Fleming.....Trustee Chair  
Sue Rodriguez ....Trustee Clerk  
Matt Garcia .....Trustee MNT  
Ray Koser .....MVS Trustee

We're on the Web!  
[stpaulapwu.org](http://stpaulapwu.org)



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

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| January 26 | 11:00 a.m. |
| February   | 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**

#### **General Membership Meeting June 22 6:15 p.m.**

Due to Covid 19 restrictions,  
The General Membership meeting will be over Zoom. Please contact the  
Union office and we can email you the link to join the meeting.  
No meetings in July or August

#### ***Annual Retirees Picnic!***

2261 Waters Drive

**July 21st**

**11:00**

Each Member is welcome to bring a guest.

Let Lola know if you can help cook, bring  
stuff, etc!!

