

# Michigan MESSENGER



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## PRESIDENT

# Great Convention



by  
Michael  
Mize

There are so many things to say concerning this convention in Marquette Michigan. As your State President, I must start with the Host Local. The 498 – 499 Area Local hosted this convention. I know Marquette may seem a bit out of the way and certainly not

ficers teach and we greatly appreciate the hard work they put in to impart their knowledge to our delegates. The thing that has most impressed me and from the things I heard from delegates, them as well, is the other trainers. We had Keith Combs our HR/Injury Comp. Director teach a class on OWCP. We had Rico Cameron our Motor Vehicle Craft Director teach for the MVS Craft. Joe Gordon, 480 – 481

for stewards, what impressed me is the number of comments I received and that some were from veteran stewards. So, I must give a round of applause to all our trainers, but a special one to our people that don't do this all the time and stepped up and above for our delegates.

During the Conventions, we always have numerous things to raise money for the APWU

gree water. We may be crazy but when the delegates put up the cash, we went for a swim, eight people in the two days. The third day weather was a little bad for such a challenge, we were working on it but being under 40 for air temp and a cold rain seemed a bit much. A round of applause to Health Plan Director and past MPWU President, John Marcotte, Industrial Relations Director, Vance Zimmerman,



the big cities we have in the Lower Peninsula. However, the Local made sure that our delegates would have the ability to see and enjoy the area. There was something for everyone and I had many delegates tell me what a great job had been done. Every member in the Local should be proud of the hospitality our delegates felt. As I expressed on the final night, I again want to give a big round of applause for a job well done. Thank you to the Local and special thanks to President Yuhasey as I could see how much she put into this.

Then I must go to the training itself. We had National Officers, State Officers and some of our own teach classes this year. It's common to have National Of-

Area Local Secretary Treasurer taught a class on preparing for retirement. We also had a class taught by Roscoe Woods, 480 – 481 Area Local President and Amy Puhulski, Western MI Area

***“Every member in the Local should be proud of the hospitality our delegates felt. As I expressed on the final night, I again want to give a big round of applause for a job well done.”***

Local President. I had the most comments about this Class. The class was a stewards training with mock grievances. Roscoe and Amy did a fantastic job and taught many stewards a ton about the grievance procedure. I believe we will be asking them to do this again in the future. It was no surprise to me that they had knowledge that would be great

Committee on Political Action, COPA. The MPWU delegates and guests are the best. We broke our previous year's record by leaps and bounds. We raised over \$7,400 for COPA

during this event. Auction items, raffle items, Retiree Pizza night, 50/50 drawings and challenges all added up to this astounding total. The challenges amounted a large amount of this. Since we were in Marquette and Lake Superior was just down the road it only makes since to have the delegates raise money to get Officers to jump in the 36-de-

Maintenance NBA, Curtis Walker, MPWU Legislative Director and 480-481 Area Local President, Roscoe Woods, 480-481 Area Local Maintenance Craft Director, John Diem, MPWU Executive Secretary, Mike Long, MPWU Secretary/Treasurer, Darren Joyce and myself for getting cold and wet. COPA and I thank you for your sacrifice.

Thanks to everyone that made it possible and if you were not mentioned it is only because I cannot name each person. Finally, as I stated above a big thanks to the delegates. You all came and made this Convention a huge success, your dedication to learn and represent the membership is what keeps us going.



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EDITOR



by John Greathouse

# The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

As we start the summer, please keep in mind the risk of heat illness and take precautions, especially with young kids and the elderly.

### APWU Elections

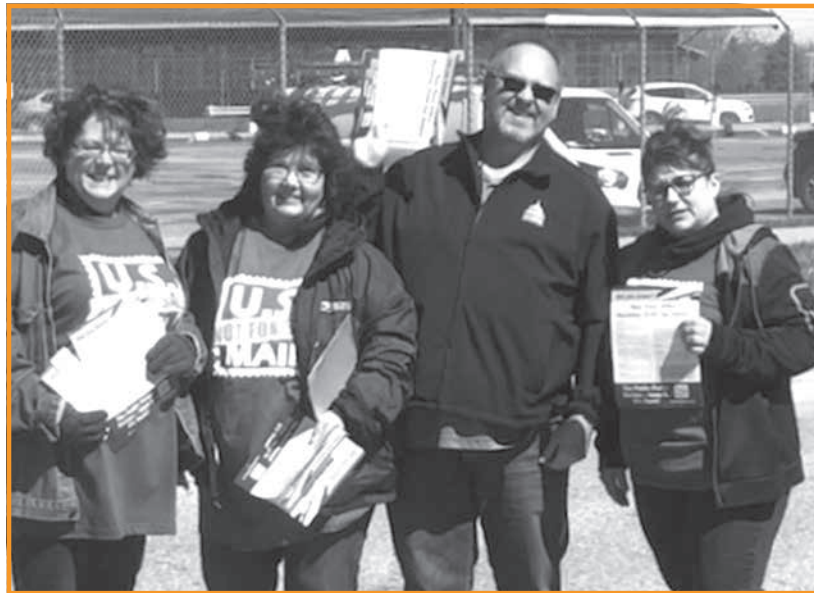
There are a good number of candidates who are jumping in, both current and new, that are running for national or regional offices across the country.

Your challenge is to learn as much about each of them and that is the hard part. In my research to learn more, I found a Facebook page, **APWU Elections**, that has most, if not all of the current candidates who are running. You can ask question of the various candidates or just read what others have posted. You will need to answer a couple of questions to be granted access to it.

I encourage everyone to vote this

election so your voice can be heard!

**2019 PPA Conference**  
 The Biennial PPA National Con-



a great deal of information for your paper.

### Self-Driving Trucks

We almost had to know that with Tesla autopilot and the mix results of their system as well as the self-driving taxis, semi trucks were not very far behind.

The USPS has jumped in with what is being published as a two-week trial of hauling mail from Phoenix to Dallas. There is no word if the test will be extended or not. My thought is they will continue to do so and start the process to launching this across the country.

ference will be held on July 31 - August 3rd in Das Moines, Iowa at the Meadows Event & Conference Center at the Prairie Meadows Hotel, Racetrack & casino in Altoona, Iowa.

If you are the editor or associate editor for your local, you should make plans now to attend. You will learn

The main push behind this is labor cost and the shortage of drivers they claim will only be getting worse in the next few years.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.

In Solidarity!

## Contract Mediation Ending

On Monday, June 3, APWU Officers informed the National Executive Council (NEC) that the mediation process was unsuccessful in leading to a voluntary collective bargaining agreement. The NEC was provided a full update and given the opportunity to question the Chief Negotiator and Spokesperson fully about the mediation and negotiation process.

The APWU began the mediation process by meeting with the mediator, appointed by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), to receive an overview of the mediation process. The meeting, held at APWU headquarters, included all the mem-

bers of the APWU core negotiating committee (President, Vice-President, Industrial Relations Director, and the three Craft Directors) as well as the Secretary-Treasurer and the Assistant Craft Directors. Anyone who could not physically attend the meet at headquarters could participate via teleconference and some did so.

Mediation then began with joint meetings with the mediator and the chief spokespersons of both the USPS and the APWU present. The mediator would meet independently with each party as necessary during the sessions. Following these day-long meetings with the chief spokespersons, the individual

Craft Directors and their assistants met in separate day-long sessions with their Postal Service counterparts and the mediator.

After five full days of mediation, the mediator declared that the two parties were too far apart in their demands and positions. Since the parties were so far apart, the mediator did not believe further discussions would lead to a new collective bargaining agreement and further mediation would prove to be unsuccessful.

The APWU, while hopeful that mediation would have been successful, has been vigorously preparing for interest arbitration. The APWU team of your national officers, attorneys, staff members, and members-from-the-field have and are working hard to develop the case and supporting evidence to support our demands.

The USPS and the APWU will now move into the next stage of the process of jointly selecting an arbitrator to chair the three-member panel who will hear the case for a new contract. Once the arbitrator has been selected and appointed, the parties will ask the chairperson to provide dates she or he has available to begin hearing the case.

— APWU, edited

The Michigan Postal Workers Union proudly represents the Members at Large within the Great State of Michigan. The following locals have also affiliated with the MPWU for training, education and information sharing between their members, stewards and officers of their own local and others throughout the state and nation:

Battle Creek	480-481	Jackson	Stevensville
Central MI	486-487	Ludington	Traverse City
Cheboygan	498-499	Muskegon	Troy Local
Detroit District	Gaylord	Roger City	Western MI
Farmington	Great Lakes Area	Sault Ste Marie	
Flint	Mail Haulers	Southwest MI	

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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Editor, the MPWU, the APWU or the Postal Press. Articles and correspondence to the Editor may be sent to MPWU - Michigan Messenger, John Greathouse - Editor, PO Box 27303, Lansing, MI 48909-7303. Articles must be signed to be printed (your name may be withheld upon request). Articles may be edited to fit the confines of this publication.



VETERANS' DIRECTOR

# Veteran News



by  
**John P.  
Smeekens**

### Women In The Military

As of March 2019, according to the Department of Defense, women make up 20 percent of the Air Force, 19 percent of the Navy, 15 percent of the Army and almost 9 percent of the Marine Corps, with about 16 percent in the Coast Guard. TV star Bea Arthur was a truck driver in the Marine Corps during World War II. Queen Elizabeth II is the only sitting head of state to have served in World War II, as a mechanic/driver in the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service when she was still a princess. Navy Capt. Rosemary Mariner was one of the first eight women selected to fly military aircraft in 1973, and a year later became the Navy's first female jet pilot. At her graveside service in February 2019, nine female pilots from Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia performed the "missing woman" formation for their predecessor — the first all-female crew to do so.

### Women Veterans Call Center

The VA has added a text-messaging feature to the Women Veterans Call Center, providing another way for women to seek information about VA benefits, healthcare, and available resources. Women Veterans can now text 855-829-6636 to receive answers and guidance about VA services.

### Freedom Memorial

The ground was broken on April 13, 2008. The memorial was completed and dedicated on July 13, 2008. The memorial is located in the Sunset View Cemetery in Jonesville, Michigan. The memorial is dedicated to **all past, present, & future Veterans**. The memorial has granite stones of all service branches. It has a lighted walkway to the memorial. Each flag and stone is lighted as well.

### New Orders For Blue Water

VA was recently ordered to lift its hold on Blue Water Navy appeals as a result of the recent Procopio v. Wilkie court decision. The Procopio decision clarified that Blue Water Navy Vietnam War veterans are eligible to receive presumptive disability compensation benefits for health conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange. After the decision was issued on January 29, 2019, VA requested a stay, which places a hold on Blue Water Navy claims and appeals while the agency deliberated whether to appeal the decision. VA's request to stay Blue Water Navy claims was denied and VA is now forced to start taking action on appeals. This means Veterans affected by the Procopio decision may see activity on their appeals in the near future. All Veterans, who are Blue Water Navy Veterans, who receive notice of action on their claims,

should contact an accredited Veterans Service Officer through their County Veterans Service Office, or one of the Veterans Organizations. The Department of Justice still has until April 29, 2019, to formally appeal. Moreover, the Procopio decision still leaves certain questions unanswered for Blue Water Navy veterans and others exposed to Agent Orange. This is why many Veterans Organizations continue to urge the swift passage of H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. Urge your members of Congress to **cosponsor and support passage of H.R. 299**.

### PFAS Needs Support

Veterans with health problems caused by exposure to toxic chemicals known as PFAS would be eligible for federal health care services under legislation proposed in Congress.

The bill introduced recently, would require the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to cover treatment for ailments related to PFAS, or per — and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

The chemicals are used widely as a water, stain and grease repellent. They're also a key ingredient in **firefighting foams used for training exercises** on military bases. Experts say they are linked to cancers and numerous other illnesses. Among lawmakers sponsoring the bill are **Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters and Rep. Dan Kildee of Michigan**.

They say many veterans have been **exposed to the chemicals**, along with people living near bases who may have **drunk contaminated water**.

### Same Day Access

As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) efforts to provide

the best mental health care access possible, VA is reminding Veterans that it offers all Veterans same-day access to emergency mental health care at any VA health care facility across the country.

They are providing same-day 24/7 access to mental health crisis intervention and support for Veterans, service members and their families. This is very important that all Veterans, their family and friends know that help is easily available. VA's Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention is the national leader in making high-quality mental health care and suicide prevention resources available to Veterans through a full spectrum of outpatient, inpatient and telemental health services. Veterans in crisis — or those concerned about one — should call the Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 and press 1, send a text message to 838255 or chat online at **VeteransCrisisLine.net**.

### Code Of Support via Patriot Link

The Code of Support Foundation provides essential and critical one-on-one assistance to struggling service members, Veterans and their families with the most complex needs. One of their goals is to integrate service members, Veterans and families into a searchable, vetted, on-line platform called PATRIOTlink that makes direct connections to resources and services.

PATRIOTlink enables any user free access to vetted, direct, cost-free, Veteran services. PATRIOTlink users can login, browse, and use hundreds of resources available to them. Veterans, caregivers, family members and providers can sign up for a **Free Account** and start searching today!

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Experience Office signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Code of Support in December 2018. Together, the VA and Code of Support hope to improve the access to and navigation of resources in local communities to best serve Veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors. Code of Support provides case coordination, education and engagement, and a navigation platform that allows service providers to reduce the amount of time it takes to find resources to meet their clients' needs. VA cannot do it alone and partnerships like Code of Support help to augment and supplement VA services and benefits where needed. VA is providing Code of Support the most up to date resource and contact information to access and navigate VA services and benefits that includes caregiver support services, suicide prevention and homeless coordinators, Vet Centers and domiciliary units. One of VA's goals is to ensure that access to services and benefits is easy, efficient, and creates positive experiences in receiving care and support where they live. Veterans and their families should not have to struggle with finding resources and services, so VA encourages Veterans and their families to use the free services from partners like the Code of Support Foundation for easier access and navigation support.

To learn more, visit Code of Support and PATRIOTlink

### Veteran Of The Day

Everyday, a Veteran is highlighted on VA Social Media. Often, friends and former battle buddies find each other on the #VeteranOfTheDay! Follow VA on Facebook to see them all, and remember you can nominate a Veteran!!

AREA 8 DIRECTOR



by  
**Wendy  
Kempke**

## Why Are PostPlan Violations Still Occurring?

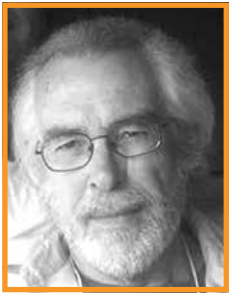
This has become managements way to get around violating the 1260 15 hours allowed in their level 18 offices. An emergency is not a staffing issue or scheduling emergency.

We continue to see this happening and are filing on it. This is not the clause for them to approve AL. Do not let this

go on unreported. Please contact your steward if you know of this happening and the use of RMPO PSE is being used to fill in at any office outside their 4-hour RMPO. We cannot continue to let these violations continue and lose or not fill PTF/FTR vacancies.

In Solidarity.

**— DEADLINE —**  
**for articles for the next issue  
of the Michigan Messenger  
is August 9th, 2019**

**RETIREE PRESIDENT**

by  
**Paul  
Browning**

# Education And Action

The 2019 MPWU Education Assembly was a great success for both still working and retiree members. The 498-99 Area Local did an outstanding job as the Host Local. Local President Michelle Yuhasey was everywhere as was MPWU Research and Education Director Lisa Borschardt who set up classes and assigned space. The two of them also combined to provide transportation from and to the old Sawyer Air Base for the numerous National Officers, including National Retiree Department Director Nancy Olumekor, who flew in to act as instructors and provide answers to many questions from the members. It may be a rough weather Spring in all of Michigan but the camaraderie of those in attendance in Marquette provided a warm friendship for all.

The State Retiree Chapter sponsored classes in Preparing for Retirement, Medicare Information, and TSP Management. Attendance for the three classes combined was almost 100. It was most gratifying to me as Chapter President to see the many retirees and soon to be retirees participating. Putting on these classes would not be possible without Retiree dues income and the complete cooperation of our State Union organization. Besides Michelle and Lisa, Chapter Executive Board

members Jane Duggan, John Canfield, and Teresa Williams were invaluable to me in all aspects of coordinating everything. The three of them also acted as “gatekeepers” for our Chapter’s annual Pizza for COPA (Committee on Political Action) night. \$1295 was raised during the evening from the numerous generous contributions by the Assembly attendees who enjoyed pizza and lively conversation. The house was packed as they say. In addition, the funds raised will go to our National Legislative Department to be spent electing candidates to Federal office who support legislation that provides for fair treatment of postal employees and retirees.

As I have written so often before as to be a broken record, I have to say once again — We are all in this together! As retirees, we cannot be complacent just having that monthly pension check/Social Security/TSP amount deposited in our bank accounts. Constant news media reports

of the billions of dollars the Post Offices loses in operating funds every year have created a political climate in which postal workers and retirees are the whipping boy for many Washington

for the health care benefits of postal employees not even born yet! In the present Congress a bi-partisan bill, H.R. 2382, the USPS Fairness Act has been introduced which would forgive the multibillion-dollar debt incurred from the pre-funding burden. If passed, this bill would result in close to at least a break-even margin for USPS—the way most retirees remember it used to be. While the bill is only in preliminary Congressional Committee hearings, it cannot do anything but help for us to contact our House of Representatives congressperson to let them know we urge them to



D.C. politicians who believe our pay and retirement benefits are too generous. Few members of the public let alone politicians read past the numbers to see that such losses were created by the onerous pre-funding requirement of paying for postal employees health benefits 75 years into the future. That’s right, USPS has spent billions paying

support this bill. A call to phone # 844-402-1001 will get you patched through to where you can ask to speak to your Congressman/woman and tell them you want them to support the Postal Fairness Act, H.R. 2382. Put this paper down and do it right now!

In Solidarity.

## Trump Dishonors Marine Corps On It’s Birthday

by **Dan Sullivan**

Isn’t it ironic that Donald J. Trump chose the 243rd birthday of the United States Marine Corps to dishonor the Marines and soldiers buried at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial in France?

Arriving in typically grumpy fashion, Trump showed up in Paris a few days ago, immediately insulted the host nation’s President with a tweet before landing, and topped it off by canceling a scheduled appearance to honor American soldiers and Marines who died in France during the First World War.

True or not, the White House said the President’s absence was “due to scheduling and logistical difficulties caused by the weather.”

Of course the very same weather and scheduling difficulties faced Emmanuel Macron of France, Angela Merkel of Germany and Justin Trudeau of Canada, all of whom managed to

find a way to attend the ceremonies honoring their nation’s fallen warriors. Nor did a little rain deter former Marine and current White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and Marine General John Dunford from honoring those brave Americans who died during the Great War.

I doubt Trump is aware of the history made by those Marines and soldiers buried at the Aisne-Marne Cemetery. Why would he know or care? But for anyone interested, historian C. N. Trueman described how they ended up there in his book “The Battle of Belleau Wood.”

“During the Spring Offensive, the Germans had come dangerously close to breaking the Allied lines protecting Amiens and Paris . . . the German push, ironically, was so successful that those at the front — Stormtroopers who had done so much damage to the Allied front line — could not be supplied and their advance slowed to a halt short of Amiens.



Along the line of advance, however, the Germans had constructed heavily defended positions that while in place threatened cities such as the major rail hub at Amiens and Paris itself. One such place was Belleau Wood.

“The task of clearing Belleau Wood

was given to the 2nd and 3rd Divisions of the US Army. Half of the 2nd Division was made up of units of the US Marines (the 4th Marine Brigade, which comprised of the 5th and 6th Marine Regiments).

*continued on page 7*

# —Passengers—

by Mike Mize

What is a passenger? A traveler on a public or private conveyance other than the driver, pilot or crew. So, what is a Union passenger? Someone that is along for the ride. There are two types of Union Passengers, fare paying and non-fare paying. Why is this important?

Unions are at a point where we need passengers to get engaged. There are many out there that would have us dismantled if they could. We need to stand strong together and stop the

attacks against us and our Brother and Sister Unions. We created and are the middle class. We move the mail build things and make this country run. It is time that we get back to our basics and represent our best interest.

We need to work together to convince the non-payers that we want them to join us. The only way we get stronger is by our unity. We need everyone to be a passenger and more. It is in everyone's best interest to pay his or her fare so our bus can keep

moving down the road. If we run out of passengers, then the bus will not run. Please ask these individuals to join us and be a part of the greatest team, the APWU.

Then we all need to determine how we can become engaged and be part of the crew or a driver. If a sailboat is to sail and operate, it needs more crew than passengers. Imagine what our APWU boat can do if we have twice as many crewmembers as passengers. This does not mean you have to be

a steward. It means that each person works with the drivers, the leadership, to find what their place is. When we need to perform an informational picket, you could find volunteer or maybe just be one. Be on a committee for you Local. Be on an email list to reach out to our legislators when we need to. The jobs that are available to be part of the crew are plentiful. What I am asking is that you help us to find you a place on the crew. Being a passenger is great, but the times urge everyone to be more.

## Don't Let the Postal Service Take Your Pulse!

It is that time of the year when the Postal Service wants to take your pulse! Like previous years, the 2018 Postal Pulse survey showed the USPS what we already knew: Your work environment is not good; your supervisors treat you poorly and morale is low. The mean score changed by less than one-tenth of a point—suggesting nothing has changed at the Post Office. One statistic that trended in the right direction in the APWU's opinion, was employee participation in the survey. It went down from 46% in 2017 to 42% in 2018. The APWU's goal is a zero-participation rate.

The APWU implores you once again: Do not participate in the 2019 Postal Pulse Survey. You are probably being flooded with emails, post-cards to your home, stand-up talks, posters on time clocks, and other tactics to try to get you to take the survey.

So, what has the Postal Service done in the last year? Have things improved since the survey was first put out and found that the USPS ranked low in every category? The reality is, the steps the Postal Service took to make the workplace "more engaging" are meaningless. You still have difficult supervisors and you are having more demanded of you, putting your health and safety at risk. Staff is being reduced, people are being excessed and morale is being decimated.

And now, in 2019, the survey is being pushed immediately before the APWU will begin interest arbitration with the Postal Service to establish a contract. There is more than a good chance that the results of this survey will be utilized, as has been done previously, in interest arbitration against you.

The Postal Pulse and any initiatives to get you to participate are not in your best interest. Participation in these programs will not fix the issues. Postal management has not listened to your direct pleas to your supervisors, either in your grievances or in meetings at the local, area and national level. Only collectively, de-

manding compliance of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and speaking in one voice, will we force management to change their ways. Stand united – and do not be fooled by these "wolves in sheep's clothing" initiatives created to divide us.

Management may also ask people to join focus groups and participate in management-initiated events to

make the work place more "engaging" or more "efficient." These are not sanctioned nor approved by the union. They were not negotiated and use of them violates the union's right as the sole representative of the bargaining unit employees under Article 1. Don't do it!

We have a negotiated grievance process and a negotiated labor-

management cooperation process to address workplace issues. Management needs to start following our contract, dealing with the grievances already filed and making sure the hostile frontline supervisors are dealt with. Your union knows the "pulse" of those we represent. If a local supervisor or manager cannot see the problems without a survey, then they are part of the problem.

### AREA 9 DIRECTOR



by Lisa Borchardt

## The Educational Assembly

I want to thank everyone for attending this year's Educational Assembly! I think we put together a variety of classes with a little something for everyone. I can't Thank enough, the Marquette Local, the COPA queens, Mike, Mike and Darren, Dessa Long, Lucy for sharing all her tips and talents, all the National Officers that

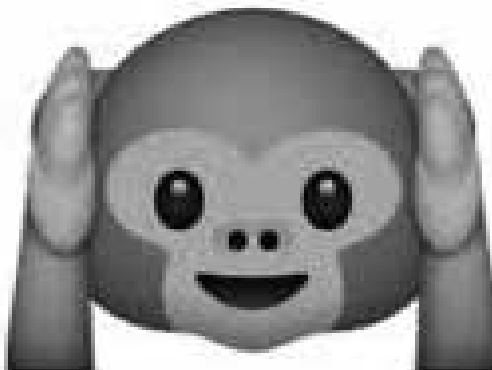
attended and last but not least the teachers!

I was panicked in March when I only had one or two classes scheduled. However, Mike, Mike and Darren assured me that everything would work out! And it did! I hope everyone learned a lot and enjoyed themselves in the great UP!

I appreciate getting back the questionnaires. I will take the feedback and incorporate it into the next training classes. One thing I wished we had asked was how did everyone like using the tablets? Drop me an email and let me know about the tablets and I will let our IT guy know! [lisa.borchardt@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.borchardt@gmail.com)

Have a great summer!

## Do As I Say, Not As I Do!



Can you imagine working for a company that has a little more than 500 employees and has the following statistics?

- 29 have been accused of spousal abuse
- 7 have been arrested for fraud
- 19 have been accused of writing bad checks
- 117 have directly or indirectly bank-

rupted at least two businesses

- 3 have done time for assault
- 71 cannot get a credit card due to bad credit
- 14 have been arrested on drug related charges
- 8 have been arrested for shoplifting
- 21 are currently defendants in lawsuits

- 84 have been arrested for drunk driving in the last year

Can you guess which organization this is? Give up yet? It's the 535 members of the United States Congress. The same group of Idiots that crank out hundreds of new laws each year designed to keep the rest of us in line.

AREA 3 DIRECTOR



by Robin Ely

# The Importance Of Contributing To COPA (Committee On Political Action)

I wanted to write this article to inform our APWU members of the importance of donating to COPA.

We need to support the political candidates that support protecting our jobs. We need to win the battle of saving the People's Post Office. We work for the American Public and we need to continue to serve the Public with secure mail delivery. From the moment a package, letter or flat enters the mail stream it is important that we treat that mail just like it was our own.

We need to help support all sides of the political parties. It does not matter if you are a Democrat or Republican. We need COPA donations to help support the candidates that support our causes as postal employees. We need all the help we can get to save our jobs, wages, benefits and retirements as part of the Federal Postal Service.

All contributions large or small all help to get the funding to help support the political candidates that will help us win the war of privatizing the Postal Service. We need strong voices in the campaign against the elected officials that oppose our US Postal Service which is an independent agency of the Federal Government. We need the support of both parties to help keep the mail Federally protected from the time it enters the mail stream all the way until the customer

removes it from their mail box.

in being COPA matic.

So yes donating to COPA is important to keeping our jobs secure. Please sign up for COPA and join us

If you need a COPA matic form please call your Steward or Your Local President.

We need each and every one to help fight this fight. Help save your jobs and retirement

Your Union Sister.

## To Contribute to COPA through PostalEASE

(Employees may designate three payroll allotments.) Follow the instructions below:

1. Add your Social Security number to the 8-digit COPA account number (29320001) in line 11 on this form. This 17-digit number (no hyphens) will enable the APWU to identify this contribution as having come from you.
2. Dial 1-877-477-3273 (1-877-4PS-EASE).
3. Press #1 for PostalEASE.
4. When prompted, enter your employee identification number.
5. When prompted again, enter your USPS PIN number. (If you do not have a USPS PIN or cannot remember your PIN, follow the instructions on this form, under "Don't Have Your USPS PIN?")
6. When prompted, choose option #2 (to select payroll allotments).
7. When prompted, choose option #1 (to select type of allotment).
8. When prompted, press #2 to continue.
9. When prompted, press #3 to "add" the allotment.
10. When prompted, ad routing number: 054001220.
11. When prompted, enter the COPA account number: 29320001 \_\_\_\_\_, followed by your Social Security number (no hyphens, 17 digits total). Press #1 if correct.
12. When prompted, press #1 for checking.
13. When prompted for the dollar amount of the allotment, enter \$\_\_\_\_\_.00, your choice for a biweekly allotment. Press #1 if correct.
14. When prompted, press #1 to process. At this point, you'll be provided with a confirmation number and the start date of the allotment. Record the confirmation number \_\_\_\_\_ and start date \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Press #1 to repeat, or press #9 to end the call.

### Don't Have Your USPS PIN?

To obtain your PIN: Call 1-877-477-3273. Press #1 for PostalEASE. When prompted, enter your Social Security number. When prompted for your PIN, pause, then press #2. Your PIN will be mailed to your address of record the next business day.

## To Contribute to COPA via Electronic Fund Transfer

Please fill out this form and mail with a voided check or a copy of a check to:  
APWU COPA • PO Box 630759 • Baltimore, MD 21263-0759

The COPA fund will automatically deduct the amount you choose to contribute, with no fee to you.

I hereby authorize my bank to deduct from my checking account the sum of:

\$1  \$2  \$4  \$6  \$10  \$\_\_\_\_\_

per pay period and forward that amount to the American Postal Workers Union, Committee on Political Action (COPA).

I make this authorization voluntarily and may revoke it at any time by notifying the APWU COPA Committee in writing.

If you are currently contributing to COPA through EFT and want to change the amount of your deduction, please check this box:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # or Employee ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Local: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form and mail with a voided check or a copy of a check to: APWU COPA • PO Box 630759 • Baltimore, MD 21263-0759

## To Contribute to COPA by Check or Credit Card

Please fill out this form and mail to:  
APWU COPA • PO Box 630759 • Baltimore, MD 21263-0759

My check in the amount \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  
(Please make your check payable to APWU COPA)

I would like my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ charged to my:  
(Check one)  MasterCard  Visa  American Express  Discover Card  
(Check one)  Monthly  Quarterly  One-time Only

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize COPA to charge my contribution to my credit card.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # or Employee ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Local: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_



This COPA solicitation is paid for by the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, 1300 L. St., N.W., Washington, D.C. (202) 842-4200; it is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Contributions or gifts to COPA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. COPA will use the contributions it receives for political purposes, including making contributions to candidates for federal, state and local offices and addressing political issues of public importance. Contributions to COPA are voluntary. More or less than the suggested amount may be given, and the amount given or the refusal to give will not benefit or disadvantage the person being solicited. Federal law requires political action committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.



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**It's your move . . .**

**Protect your job.  
Protect your future.  
Get involved in your Union!**

# The Good Old Days

Working conditions stink. Things couldn't be worse. Sound familiar? Comments I hear on the workroom floor every day — that I have heard every day since I hired in, back in 1961.

Well, let's examine these statements.

Please bear with me because I rely strictly on memory and some statements might miss the mark by a bit, but not by much.

When I hired in you were known as a sub. PTFs to you newer employees. I subbed for just under five years. I think the rate of pay was around \$1.89 an hour. NO OVERTIME PAY! You might work as many as 76 hours, or as little as 12 to 20 hours (no guarantees). This was all done at straight time, NO OVERTIME!

You were required to make yourself available by phone every day, no starting time (if any) until you were called. You might work as little as two hours or as many as twelve hours. At a minute or two before the hour, a supervisor would come up and tell you, "Go Home", or "One more Hour".

Your work schedule consisted of 13 days on and one day off per pay period, with every other Sunday off. In actuality, you would probably work upwards of two or three months without a fun day off. Subs worked afternoons. Every other Saturday you reported at 4 a.m., no matter if you had worked until 12:30 or 1:30 in the morning the previous night.

I hired in with a group of 24, ALL MEN! No women were hired at that time. The only women working at the Post Office at that time were a group that had been hired about the time of the Korean War (early 50s). Your indoctrination began with City Schemes to learn. This amounted to three City Primary Schemes and at least two Secondary Schemes. You were not allowed to work "city side" until you had learned ALL of the city primary. To learn your schemes you were given a deck of cards and were required to fill them out and study them at home on your own time. You were required to learn 18 cards per day and review your progress each day in scheme study class. Flunk your scheme and you were history right now!

When you reported to work, you worked the "outgoing section". When outgoing mail was worked up you reported to "incoming mail" and worked city mail (unless you haven't completed your city schemes, in



which case you went home).

No breaks! The union had no standing under federal law at the time. The union couldn't even represent you unless management allowed it! Get on the wrong side of a supervisor and he simply made it so miserable for you that you either punched him out or quit. Either way, you were done in at the post office.

The Break Rooms were a joke. Filthy and drab, few employees used them. The restrooms were likewise a joke. There were no doors on the toilet stalls! After all, there's no way of telling what illegal acts you might be up to while in there. Inspector's

windows glared down on you as you performed your bodily functions. At this time we were just closing out the Eisenhower administration. Eisenhower had vetoed seven out of eight federal pay raises. (At this time you were paid according to the dictates of Congress and the President.) The one raise we received under Eisenhower was slipped through by Congress by giving everyone in federal employment a step increase instead of a percentage raise thus bypassing a probable veto. (We were the Level 4 clerks.) When Kennedy entered office one of the first things he did was to give the union officials standing under Federal law. This was the true beginning of the Fed-

how bad conditions are today. BUT, things are by no means as bad as they were. However, if you wish to return to conditions such as I have related, don't support your fellow employees when they have a grievance that doesn't directly affect you. If you think you can make private deals with management, and not weaken the contract which is your only protection from management dealing with you as it sees fit, you are sadly mistaken. "Those who do not learn from history, are doomed to repeat it."

That's all I have to say.

— Black Swamp Outrider

## Trump Dishonors Marine Corps On It's Birthday

*continued from page 4*

"To get to the woods, the Marines had to cross wheat fields and meadows. The Germans had placed their machine guns in a way that they could continuously sweep these fields with accurate and high intensity fire. The Marines had to launch six attacks on German positions in Belleau Wood that were for the most part difficult to identify in an initial attack because they were so well positioned. The wood itself was also made up of closely packed trees that made any advance difficult in the extreme.

"Caught in the open fields or in the densely packed wood, French officers advised the Marines to turn back. This they refused to do. US Marine Captain Lloyd Williams said in response to this, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here."

"US Marine casualties were the highest in the Corp's history up to that date. However, once units got into the woods, the trees that hindered a swift advance also became a source of protection. Marine snipers could

pick-off German machine gun posts with some ease. Once a machine gun fired, it gave away the position of the machine gun team. General Pershing was to state that "the deadliest weapon in the world is a Marine and his rifle." Even a post-battle German report stated that the Marines marksmanship was "remarkable".

"By June 26th, the Marines confirmed that they had taken the entire woods. To clear the woods in their entirety, the Marines had frequently resorted to hand-to-hand fighting with bayonets and knives. Such was the ferocity of this that the Germans gave the Marines the nickname "Teufel Hunden", which roughly translates as "Devil Dogs".

"The success of the US Marines in clearing such a strategically important place came at a cost. Out of the 9,777 US casualties, 1,811 were fatalities."

Contrast Trump's devotion to duty with that of US Marine Captain Lloyd

Williams who, when it was suggested he retreat in the face of superior forces replied, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here."

Of course Trump had also just arrived in France, but he was facing bad weather and scheduling difficulties.

And I am sure that his fans will cite that in his defense, as well as the fact that President Obama didn't show up today for the ceremonies either. And that Trump even had the courtesy to send a U.S. Marine veteran as a stand-in to pass along the President's regrets, thoughts and prayers.

All of which may be true. But I've got one question for them and the President. If you're going to spit in the face of our honored dead, couldn't you at least have picked some other day than the Marine Corps birthday?

*Dan Sullivan is a former steward and editor for the Southwest Michigan Postal Worker Union from 1975 – 2008.*

# Hatch Act

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency. Their basic authorities come from four federal statutes: the Civil Service Reform Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Hatch Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment & Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA).

The Hatch Act is a federal law passed in 1939. It prohibits federal employees, including postal workers, from engaging in political activity while on duty or in a federal room or building. For purposes of the Hatch Act, political activity is defined as activity directed at the success or failure of a political party, partisan political group, or candidate for partisan office. This prohibition is broad and encompasses more than displays or communications, including in-person and via email or social

media that expressly advocate for or against President Trump's reelection. For example, while on duty or in the workplace, employees may not: wear, display, or distribute items with the slogan "Make America Great Again" or any other materials from President Trump's 2016 or 2020 campaigns; use hashtags such as #MAGA or #ResistTrump in social media posts

or other forums; or display non-official pictures of President Trump.

Some of the things you MAY NOT do are:

- May Not engage in political activity;
  - May Not wear or display partisan political buttons, t-shirts, signs, or other items;
  - May Not make political contributions to a partisan political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group;
  - May Not post a comment to a blog or social media site that advocates for or against a partisan political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group.
- Some of the things you MAY do are:
- May be a candidate in a nonpartisan election;
  - May register and vote as they choose;
  - May assist in voter registration drives;
  - May contribute money to political campaigns, political parties, or partisan political groups.

Any employee who violates the Hatch Act is subject to a range of disciplinary actions, including removal from federal service, reduction in grade, debarment from federal service for a period not to exceed 5 years, suspension, letter of reprimand, or a civil penalty not to exceed \$1000.

In October of 2016, there were 2 postal employees both from the office in Ashtabula, Ohio, who were suspended for violating the Hatch Act. The first employee violated the Hatch Act's prohibition against engaging in political activity while on duty and in the federal workplace when he brought campaign signs promoting a presidential candidate into the post office. He had obtained them from his union to distribute to other union members, but was advised not to distribute the signs at work. Nonetheless, he announced

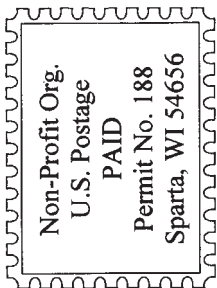
during a morning staff meeting that the union had endorsed the candidate, and he had signs in his workspace for anyone who was interested. In a settlement agreement, he agreed to serve a 30-day suspension for his violation. The next morning, post office employees received a briefing on the Hatch Act. The second employee, who supported a different presidential candidate, then filmed himself inside of his postal vehicle and posted the video to Facebook. In it, he identified himself as a

postal employee, criticized the presidential candidate whom the union had endorsed, and praised the candidate he supported. He concluded by stating, "I don't care about this Hatch law. If I lose my job, so be it. But I want my country back." OSC also discovered that the second employee had posted several other messages that either supported or opposed a presidential candidate while he was on duty or in his postal vehicle. The settlement agreement provides that he will serve a 60-day suspension for his knowing and willful Hatch Act violations.

It would be best to leave ALL of your political gear at home and not wear it inside the workplace. Not only would it be a violation of the Hatch Act to promote your political candidate who is or will be running for a partisan office, it would also prevent creating a hostile work environment. Not everyone has the same views as you on political candidates. If you have any questions on the Hatch Act, please contact your Union Steward or visit [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov).

<sup>1</sup>39 U.S. Code § 410

<sup>2</sup>For further guidance, please see OSC's Latest Guidance Regarding Pictures of President Obama in the Federal Workplace Now That He Is Officially a Candidate for Reelection



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