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Western Arkansas Area Local

The Paper

Volume 28

July 2003

President's Report

Greetings,

I hope you are enjoying the summer and hope you have gotten an opportunity to have some time off. Most of you have read about the recommendations of the subcommittee of the presidential commission. The text of the adopted recommendations from the business model and private-sector partnership subcommittees can be found at www.treas.gov/offices/domestic-finance/usps. Via the "final report and recommendations" link.

The commission has recommended to repeal any existing statues that limit the postal services' flexibility in regard to closing and disposition of post offices. Another recommendations of the subcommittee is to "maximize the use of private sector." In other words, they do not want to be bothered by the public or congressional leaders when making decisions to close or consolidate post offices and they want to put post offices in mall and shopping centers and let the mall and grocery store employees run the post offices.

The other subcommittees will turn in their recommendations the last two weeks of July with the final report by July 31. I know some are getting tired of hearing this from me but please contact your congressman and senators concerning these issues. Also get your family and friends involved. We can make a difference in this battle.

As most of you know several window/ window relief and distributions jobs have been abolished. Since that time I have received notification of supervisors s performing bargaining unit work. If this is happening in your office please notify a union steward. We can not allow the postal

service to abolish positions and then the supervisors perform the work. Long lines at the window is not justification to perform clerk work. The long lines at the stamp window were caused by management—not the union.

Several grievances have been filed on the abolishment's as well as the Tour 2 manual clerks being forced to work the flat sorter.

One final note. I will be selecting an election committee in September. Our local elections are in November with nominations being at the October meeting. If any one is interested on serving on the elections committee please contact me.

Dennis Taff

Next Union Meeting

**August 24th
1:30 pm**

Cavanaugh Pizza

Blame Management!

I know that there has been a lot of disruptions on the workroom floor as of late. Jobs being changed, jobs being abolished, and employees being forced to work outside of their bid jobs. This has caused employees to be upset--and you should be.

But put the blame where the blame belongs. It belongs on management--not the union. The union never has abolished or reverted one single job. The union does not force you to operate a flat sorting machine when it is not on your bid. The union does not change your work hours.

We are doing everything in our power to deal with this management crap. We are filing grievances on all of these issues. But unfortunately the grievance procedure takes time. Management knows this and they violate the contract knowing full well that they will be in another location when the grievance is upheld. So please be patient with your union officers and complain to the people who are to

Blame--MANAGEMENT!

Dennis Taff

Opinions expressed by the writers of articles in this paper are those of the individuals and not necessarily those of *The Paper*, APWU, or local 1211.

Vice-President's Report

I recently met with Ron Ramsey on one Step 2 concerning the bid job that T. Carr vacated. This bid is the only 03/08 SPR position that the GMF has. It is also the primary back door caller for the GMF. If you noticed, none of these descriptions were listed on this bid job. More than likely he'll send it up to Step 3. The Step 2 also contained a DBCS operator listed on a flat sorter bid. We have argued this unsuccessfully so far. The new "mail processing clerk" does not include flat sorter operator as part of the description.

Most of you that are eligible to retire should have received your statement of interest by now. Did you notice Question 3 in the Questions and Answers?

Question 3: *Are all employees who meet the above requirements eligible?*

Answer: *No, only those employees who are in specific locations where there is substantial delayering, reorganization, reduction in force transfer of function, or other workforce restructuring or shaping, and who are likely to be separated or subject to an immediate reduction in the rate of basic pay or are identified as being in positions that are becoming surplus or excess to the agency's future ability to carry out its mission effectively."*

It sounds to me that if any of us are eligible it means our office is subject to reorganization. This is my opinion. That brings me to my suspicion as to why this OIC is here. He has no regard for the collective Bargain Agreement. He is changing the way we do our jobs. If you are told to do something outside the realm of your principal assignment area let your steward know immediately. And, give to COPA, to help fight the big wigs in DC from taking our jobs away from us.

Chris Hagen

Minutes from Meeting

July 13, 2003 1:35 pm

Officers present: President, Vice-President, Editor

Dennis and Chris gave their reports. Reading of minutes and financial report waived due to Randy's absence.

Old Business: None discussed (without minutes).

New Business: Discussions on the Boozman/Lincoln letters, grievances of clerk jobs, and early out.

Convention in Las Vegas is October 27-29. No delegates were elected. Dennis Taff and Thomas Henry being sent by state.

Dennis won \$50.00 drawing.

Date of next meeting: August 24th, 1:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Just a Thought!!!

As Dennis stated in his article, this is an election year for your local union. You can run for president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer, or editor. No one has told me officially whether or not he or she will run again. I can say for myself I will not be running for or appointed editor this time, so I know that position will need to be filled.

I'll be happy to assist anyone that would like to do this job, although my knowledge is very limited.

I hope there are some who will consider running for office. We need our strong leadership to continue.

Kerry

Thank you so very much for the beautiful Bible. And thanks for your sympathy after by father's and my grandmother's deaths.

Sincerely,
Lane Culbertson and family

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Dennis Taff...President
Chris Hagen...Vice-President
Randy Cope...Secretary-Treasurer
Kerry Botteicher...Editor

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Window Services	
Chris Hagen	484-6371
Mail Processing Tour 3	
Karla Shaffer	484-6371
Mail Processing T1 T2	
Randy Cope	484-6384
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