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Western Arkansas Area Local

The Paper

Volume 25

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President's Report

Greetings,

Well, the tri-state convention is over and once again the members of our local put on a great convention.

We had over 200 hundred delegates at the tri-state and I heard nothing but praises from all the delegates who attended. The national officers who attended also told me what a great convention we put on. This was no easy chore. Our convention committee put in a lot of thought, preparation and work. It took each and every one of us to put our talents together to make this such a success. I do not believe that our local can be topped when it comes to putting on a convention. I want to thank everyone who had a part in making it happen. I could not have been any prouder to say that I am the president of the Western Arkansas Area Local.

If you have not checked out our web page, please do. There are numerous pictures of the convention on the site. We are also going to send some of the pictures to national headquarters to be placed in the national magazine. It is hard to pick out one part of the convention that is tops on my list because it all went so well. But I did really enjoy the informational picket at the downtown station. We had 200 plus APWU union members walk from the hotel to the post office. We covered the sidewalks in front of the post office from the entrance on Garrison Ave. to the entrance on Rogers Ave. It was great sight to behold.

My article last month concerned the function 4 audit and the discrepancies that I found. The only discrepancy that has been changed is the amount of vending machines that our SSPC clerk services.

The discrepancies concerning the mail volume count and walk in revenue has not yet been corrected.

Full reports concerning these false figures have been sent to the area level for discussion between our union officials at that level. Hopefully those false figures will be corrected and hopefully our OIC will not try to displace our senior employees by abolishing full-time positions.

Although Vice-president Chris Hagen has asked you numerous times, I want to reiterate the importance of clocking over to the proper operation code and also punching in to the appropriate pay location if you go to another pay location. For us to properly document grievances we need for you to clock in correctly. It will make our job easier to have the proper documentation need to win these grievances.

See you at the next meeting and one more thank you to all who helped with the tri-state convention.

Dennis





Vice-President's Report

What a month! Working with the tri-state committee, and watching all the hard work of everyone involved with the committee come together, and enjoyed by all the delegates from the tri-state area. A job well done by all those involved!

Our speakers, Cliff Guffey and Jim McCarthy, both emphasized the need to encourage all non-union members to join the struggle along side their counterparts, we the members. The struggle continues and is getting worse. We need to build our union to its fullest. The WAAL 1211 received a plaque for the most members in a local. This is a great accomplishment, but we need to be at 100% for the onslaught of what management is trying to do to all of us, member or not. I can't say this enough, but some of the excuses that are used to not be a member are far fetched. This is just what they are, excuses. There should be no excuses. The union is here to stop the ridiculous theories that management is using to close post offices, revert/abolish bid jobs, and keep pfts-ptfs.

You have to ask yourself if this is what you want further down the road. Do you want a non-union working environment? Do you want your supervisor working along beside you? Do you want to do all the jobs in your area? Do you want any more raises? Our local is at 92% right now. The members, you, need to get these non-members to sign up now! You will need all the support you can get to fight management every step of the way. The union is your future. It is what you make it to be. You are only as strong as your membership. You need to protect your rights. In actuality, the longer you wait the stronger management gets. Do not let the future of your union slip through your hands, sign that non-member up now!

Most of you know that Dennis and myself have been meeting at Step 2 on a lot of grievances. I

don't know if this is good or bad, but at least we are having Step 2 meetings. Remember before, Amel

would not even meet with us at the Step 2 level. If any of you have filed a grievance and I have sent it to Step 2, I will let you know the outcome when I receive a decision.

See you at the meeting March 16th, 2003. Please make a note to attend and see what your union is doing to prevent a management takeover. The meetings are only once a month. Surely you can make time for 1 hour once a month. Check it out this month and show your support, Who knows, you might even win the drawing.

Chris Hagen

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Chris Hagen...Vice-President	
Randy Cope...Secretary-Treasurer	
Kerry Botteicher...Editor	
Stewards	
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Chris Hagen	484-6371
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Karla Shaffer	484-6371
Mail Processing T1 T2	
Randy Cope	484-6384
Maintenance T1 T2	
Thomas Henry	484-6384
Maintenance T3	
Kerry Botteicher	484-6344
CFS	
Bob Harp	785-5200
Window/customer svc	

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.



Meeting Minutes February 23, 2003

Meeting called to order at 1:30.

All officers present.

Dennis and Chris gave reports.

Minutes were read and accepted with changes.

Financial report read and accepted.

We did receive the check from the State for the ads in the paper.

Convention Committee gave report. Randy had to order 50 more bags because of the number of pre-registered delegates.

Safety Committee meeting held; not much discussion, most dealt with carriers. There is another one planned; if anyone has something that needs to be brought up please notify a member of the committee or your steward. D. Lewis did say he would get everyone a safety lanyard that wants one. When we had to start wearing the badges he asked all the PM's how many would be needed and Ft Smith did not respond. Dennis asked that the committee see about the members going around to the stations and checking them for cleanliness.

Dennis has been to the DT Station checking on the hours but is having a hard time getting proper clock rings to file on. If anyone goes DT, hit the right work code on the clock so Dennis will get the necessary paperwork to file for some of the reverted jobs.

Dennis discussed the Function 4 that was done. There were a lot of discrepancies in the mail count, vending and the LEC 48. Dennis met with the PM and discussed this. Little Rock sent a revised Function 4 that just addressed the SSPC/

vending discrepancies. The PM said they had not addressed the rest of the discrepancies. Dennis thinks they will try and cut more customer service jobs. Dennis forwarded the report on to Terry Stapleton and he is to meet with the PS over this issue.

There was a long discussion about calling into the 1 800 number for multi days off on sick leave. Members are being told to call everyday when the Dr. has told them to stay home (x) days. Dennis said that if you call in and tell management you expect to be off for three (3) days, you've done your part. If they make you call in everyday tell your steward and file a grievance for OT for having to call in again. Also, he said do not sign their faxed 3971, fill out your own copy and turn in to your supervisor. Dennis also suggested that , even though you are not required , call your supervisor and tell them you have told attendance control you will be off (x) days. If you are having trouble with attendance control, see a steward. Keep it short when giving information: rank, SSN, and duration of absence, then hang up. Also, you are not required to turn in an appointment card if you have a doctor's appointment.

Dennis discussed the picket we are planning for Friday at the DT station during the convention. We will go at 1:00 and be back to the hotel before 2:00. Dennis will look at the route. He has also talked to the police, we do not need a permit to march and the chief said he would send an officer down to help with traffic. Dennis thanked everyone for their help on the convention.

Discussion on the paper work that was sent to employees about getting the radiation pill.

We have not heard anything from National about the early outs.

Next meeting will be March 16, 2003, at Cavanaugh Pizza, 1:30 p.m. \$50.00 drawing.

Randy Cope

Just a Thought!

The convention was a success. There was a lot to do and I thank everyone involved. I hope those who attended learned a little and had a lot of fun. The people from IA, MO, OK, TX and of course, AR were great and we appreciate their support in our picket around the downtown post office.

The general theme of the meeting was a little bleak. There are going to be more changes in our future than most of you realize. I know many of you have no interest in getting involved with general operations of the local union. But just being a member may not be enough in the months or years to come. There is and will be a great need for more members to become active. New leadership will have to happen, Dennis won't be here forever (unless we can talk him into it). Just being informed helps. Learn what you can about postal issues we face on a local, regional, and national level. It's all of our futures and livelihood, so let's stand as one.

The local web site has some pictures from the convention, with more being added every few days. Go visit it and find a familiar face. APWU1211.com.

If you have any questions about what was discussed at the convention just ask any attendees or come to the next meeting.

Kerry



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If you have a name or address change
please let us know.

We will try to have convention pictures in
the next issue of *The Paper*.