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Western Arkansas Area Local

# The Paper

Volume 30

September 2003

## President's Report

Greetings,

As most of you know we had a great turnout at our last meeting. I want to thank each of you who took the time to attend. It would be great if we had attendance like that at every meeting. And of course it would be great if we were discussing the distribution of \$700,000 each meeting. Seriously, I do hope that those who do not regularly attend our union meetings would make the effort to attend a meeting once in a while.

I realize that Sundays are normally a day of family time and relaxation. And to be very honest with you there are numerous times when I would rather be doing something other than attending a union meeting. But I accepted the office of president and it is my duty to chair the meetings. But it is also your duty to attend at least once in a while. And while we are talking about meetings, don't forget that we are nominating officers at the next meeting who will serve for the next two years. If you are interested in running for local office here is your chance.

I again want to thank Chris Hagen for the great job she did on the casual in lieu of grievance. She put a great deal of her own time into this case. I know that she was applauded at the meeting but each of you should personally thank her for her hard work. Her hard work put over \$5000 in your pocket. Also thanks to Kim Mussett-Myers and David Botteicher for helping to chart the hours for the grievance, and to Kerry Botteicher for her help in notifying our retirees concerning the award.

As discussed at the meeting, I hope that payment to our members will come within the next two or three pay periods. Then at that point I can submit the names for distribution of the remaining funds.

An while I am on the subject of funds, I want to remind you to please make a contribution to our COPA fund. I challenged everyone at the meeting to

contribute \$25.00 to COPA. And after you saw the video of APWU President Burris you should clearly understand why everyone needs to contribute to COPA.

I was pleasantly surprised when several APWU members gave me a check made out to COPA before they left the meeting. I hope the remainder of our members who have not yet contributed will do so in the near future. You can contribute by check, credit card or electron transfer. A contribution form is printed in this issue or a copy can be picked up from the union office. You can mail the form in yourself or return it to a union officer and we will send them all in together. The \$25.00 should be easy for you to give since it only amounts to .004% of the money you receive from the casual award. Besides contributing to COPA, everyone should also take the time to contact our legislative leaders. We can win this battle if we all get involved.

More good news. The postal service settled the maintenance Act of God case concerning the ice storm a couple of years ago. Those that could not make it to work will be compensated. I expect the postal service to also settle the clerk craft case on the same issue. You see it always pays to be a union member.

Check out our website, APWU1211.com. Corky has done a great job in updating the website.

Again, thank you all for attending the last union meeting and hope to see you at the next.

Dennis

**Columbus Day**

**October 13, 2003**

# Your COPA donation is desperately needed!

## Please fill out and mail today!!

**To Contribute to COPA by Check or Credit Card**  
 Please fill out this coupon and mail to:  
 APWU COPA • PO Box 96542 • Washington, DC 20077-7120



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

I would like my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ charged against my MasterCard or Visa Account.

MasterCard or Visa Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

I pledge a dollar a week to COPA. Please charge my credit card \$52.

MasterCard or Visa Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 and no reprisals will result due to an individual's failure to contribute. Federal law requires political action committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.



**To Contribute to COPA via Electronic Fund Transfer**  
 Please fill out and mail this coupon *with a voided check* or deposit slip to:  
 APWU COPA • PO Box 96542 • Washington, DC 20077-7120



Once every payroll cycle 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:

\$1.00 (COPA Club)     
 \$2.00 (Dollar-a-Week-Club)     
 \$4.00 (Silver Eagle)     
 \$6.00 (Golden Eagle)     
 \$10.00 (President's Club)     
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ (other amount)

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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Vice-President's Report

Wasn't that a very informative meeting we had on the 21st? Plenty of pizza, that's for sure. Sorry we forgot the sodas.

I know that all of you have probably heard enough about 'the grievance', but I want to make something a little clearer. Even though we charted all the PTF and casual hours, there were also work schedules included with these charts that showed casuals working on days that the non-scheduled day overtime list could have worked. You have to know that the union was prepared to go to arbitration with all the violations noted. But, since we did not go to arbitration and only went to pre-arb for a settlement, we did not get a chance to prove all the violations. Therefore, it was easier to go for a total amount and then to divide it amongst everyone that was eligible.

As Dennis stated at the meeting, the casuals working at the GMF effected everyone. If any of you think it would have been easy for us to go through all the charts, clock rings, work schedules for the last 3 1/2 years to determine who, on what list, what day, how much in one pay period, etc, would have gotten what, then you need to re-evaluate your thinking. After the pre-arb agreement was settled we had only 30 days to come up with how the monies were to be distributed. Even though we had all the information it would have taken more time than we had to establish who, when and how much. The division of monies to everyone eligible was the best way.

Remember the TE award recently? How many of you thought that was unfair? A lot of 'class action' grievances are awarded to the union, individual grievances are awarded to individuals. This type of grievance, 'casual in lieu of', will hurt the post office each time. They do not understand that casuals are supplemental. This grievance will be filed again.

Another grievance that I have sent to Step 3 is the

PTF's and TE's being reduced to 38 hours per week. This is very big because, once again, the casuals are working where the PTF's and TE's can but are not. This will be a big win for the PTF's and TE's whenever it is settled.

I also have a maximization grievance that was sent to Step 3. This grievance used a PTF's hours to convert the senior PTF to full-time flexible. Still a flexible employee with a regular's rights.

Just a short note to all employees that thought they were eligible to take the voluntary early retirement. I just received my 'disapproval' letter stating:

***"You do not occupy a position that is excess to the mission of the postal service or is a potential opportunity for those employees whose positions are being exceeded."***

Does Little Rock know something that we don't? I guess this means we are not going to be excessed or my position is not going to be excessed. If you have received a 'disapproval' letter, let me know.

See you at the meeting on October 5th. If you don't want me to be the vice president, you need to show up with a nomination.

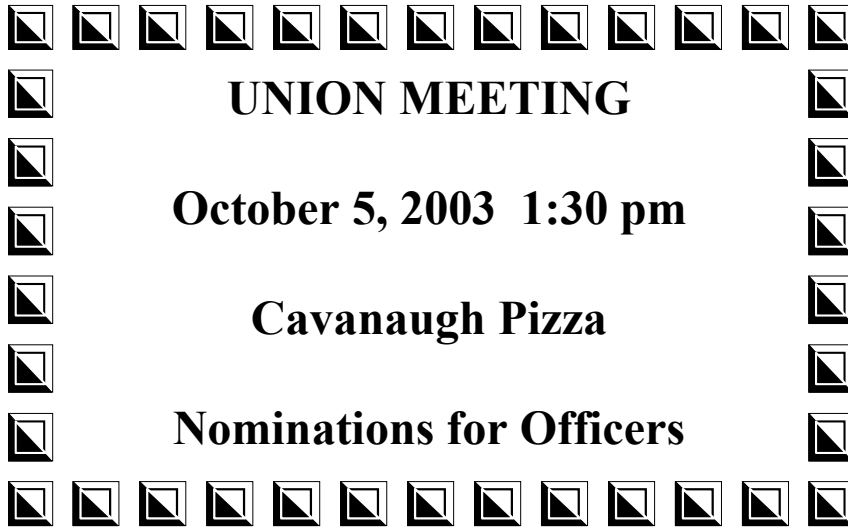
**Chris**

### **Just A Thought!!**

Good turn out at the meeting. If the 'non-members' get a portion of the settlement, I hope they find a good charity to donate the money to. I'm sure since they don't want to be dues paying members of our union, they wouldn't feel right keeping the money for themselves.

I know that some complain about the union representation from time to time. The next month's meeting is a great opportunity to do something about it. Come out and run for office and be a part of the daily operations of your local union. It's a job of glamour and gratitude! Your efforts will be appreciated and your mistakes overlooked. Well, those descriptions aren't exactly true, but come out anyway and show your support.

Kerry



**UNION MEETING**

**October 5, 2003 1:30 pm**

**Cavanaugh Pizza**

**Nominations for Officers**

**In Memory of...**

**Moe Biller**  
**1915-2003**

Former APWU President  
Moe Biller Died  
Sept. 5th at age 87.

**Officers**

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

**Stewards**

<b>Dennis Taff</b>	783-7898
Window Services	
<b>Chris Hagen</b>	484-6371
Mail Processing Tour 3	
<b>Karla Shaffer</b>	484-6371
Mail Processing T1 T2	
<b>Randy Cope</b>	484-6384
Maintenance T1 T2	
<b>Thomas Henry</b>	484-6384
Maintenance T3	
<b>Kerry Botteicher</b>	484-6344
CFS	
<b>Bob Harp</b>	484-6425
Window/Customer Svc.	

**Minutes From Meeting**  
**September 21, 2003**

Meeting called to order at 1:33.  
All officers present.  
Dennis read and turned in his report.  
Minutes from last month's meeting read and accepted.  
Financial report read and accepted.

**Old Business**

Dennis and the PM have not set a date to meet for the labor management meeting. Conflicting schedules with those who need to attend. He did meet with him on three items, the main issue is the employee's proper clock rings.

**New Business**

Nominations will be accepted at October's meeting for President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Editor. Elections will be held at the November meeting at the GMF.

Dennis explained the \$700,000.00 casual award that the clerks in Fort Smith office recently won and how it was to be paid. Dennis thanked Chris Hagen, David Botteicher and Kim Mussett-Myers for tracking / charting all the hours.

Evelyn Ferguson's won the \$50.00 drawing.

Next months meeting will be October 5, 2003.

Motion to adjourn, so moved.