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Western Arkansas Area Local

# The Paper

Volume 20

September 2002

## President's Report

Greetings,

As you have noticed, our OIC is continuing to abolish, revert and repost several of our clerk positions. I have discussed these issues several times with Mr. Ellis, and I have informed him that

these actions are in violation of the national agreement.

His response has been something similar to "I have checked with Little Rock and they say it is ok" or "I am going ahead with my plan anyway." His actions are affecting some of our most senior employees. It appears that this is either management's way of showing their appreciation to employees for 20-30 years of dedicated service or management's way of getting bonus points for each position they abolish or revert. Either way, the bargaining unit employee gets the shaft.

We are in the process of filing grievances over these violations.

If any of you are affected by these abolishments/reversion and have questions concerning your rights, do not hesitate to contact me or your union steward. No employee, regardless of seniority, is safe from the effects of the postal service mismanagement and contract violations. If you do not believe me, just ask the employees in the administrative section and the downtown station.

The postal service is also attempting to revert some of the withheld vacancies in offices across the state, including Fort Smith. This is another ploy by the postal service to prevent the conversion of our part-time flexibles. The postal service's grand plan, besides destroying the postal

service, is to never convert another PTF to full-time status and to utilize full-time employees in any manner they so desire. It appears the word seniority is not part of their vocabulary.

Our mayor recently appeared on a radio talk program along with a representative of the postal service concerning the possibility of moving the mail processing to Fayetteville. The listeners were treated to the same old song by the postal service. They still are refusing to furnish the union and the public with the area mail processing survey. Also, they still will not give any definite answers or meet with the public concerning this issue. I am continuing to keep in contact with our legislative representatives concerning this. We are planning another information picket in the very near future. Our mayor is also planning a town meeting on this subject. This is a serious issue and we must all stand united. We all need to become involved.

Dennis Taff

**Next Meeting**  
**September 22nd at 1:30pm**  
**Cavanaugh Pizza**

We will be working on the informational picket during and after the meeting!!!

## Vice-President's Report

Although we had grievances settled at the step 1 level we are now having trouble getting the adjustments filled out. I know how frustrating this is. It is up to the supervisor, now that the TACS is in place, to do the adjustments on the payroll errors. But since John Burns is no longer able to do this job we have to wait until the supervisor is ready to do the adjustment or whenever he/she learns how to do adjustments.

I have two grievances that are going to the next level after Amel and I met and discussed them at a step 2.

He is going to deny the grievance about not having received the requested letter of results from the sexual harassment team investigation.

The other grievance is the running of the DBCS's with one mail processor. Management still insists that it is not a safety hazard. Therefore, the Union has filed a grievance on the proper staffing of the machines according to how many mail processors there were when the DBCSs were brought into the GMF. Since the first machine was brought in, to the present, management has reverted, abolished and put bid jobs under Article 12 withholding.

*Chris Hagen*

### Just a Thought!!

OIC is at it again. I don't know how many other changes he plans to make, but I'm sure we'll all find out soon enough.

This last round of job changes, abolishments and reversions have kept Dennis and Chris very busy. At times like these we all need to appreciate what is done for us to protect our jobs and thank them for the time, effort and headaches that accompanies the duties they perform.

Kerry

### Officers

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

### Stewards

<b>Dennis Taff</b> Window Services	783-7898
<b>Chris Hagen</b> Mail Processing Tour 3	484-6371
<b>Karla Shaffer</b> Mail Processing T1 T2	484-6371
<b>Randy Cope</b> Maintenance T1 T2	484-6384
<b>Thomas Henry</b> Maintenance T3	484-6384
<b>Kerry Botteicher</b> CFS	484-6344
<b>Bob Harp</b> DT Station	785-5200

If you have questions, comments or ideas for *The Paper* send an email to editor\_waal@yahoo.com or write to PO BOX 11196, Ft Smith, AR 72917.

### Did You Know??

Did you know that your local president, Dennis Taff, has less than 7 years left in the postal service? Your current vice president has less than 5 years left. It is time to start thinking about who will run your local when Dennis leaves. I will not be seeking re-election. I will not be available for any office at all. The local needs long-term commitment from you, the members, to carry forward the fight against management. You members that have 25 years left need to be thinking about this. The union needs you to pick up the fight and continue on.

C Hagen

# August Minutes

August 18, 2002

Meeting called to order at 1:30 PM.

All officers present except Sec/Tres.

Dennis and Chris gave their reports. Chris corrected last month's minutes stating grievances of previous month were Karla's.

Corky—motion to dismiss minutes and report Lindsey- 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Motion passed

### Old Business:

Dennis – sent stuff to mayor, etc. Will try to have another picket. Fans—APWU—lower air . or not use fans; will talk to Bob.

### New Business:

Convention reports from Dennis, Corky and Thomas. All agreed good convention.

Constitution change passed 16-3.

Johnny Parker, VB, give him gift card for retirement.

Discussion on title change for mail processor clerks.

Discussion on discipline from Supervisor

Corky—motion to purchase adobe acrobat approx. \$160.00 off eBay  
Motion passed.

Chris—Motion to send Dennis—Oct 27-28 President Conference—Seattle  
Bob Ballard- 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Motion passed.

Corky—motion to set budget for picket ads/flyers/ radio/etc.

Thomas Henry—2<sup>nd</sup>

Motion passed

Lindsey—motion up to \$1,500.00 (picket limit)

Bob Ballard—2<sup>nd</sup>

Motion passed

Thomas Henry—motion for picket committee with Corky as Chairman.

Kerry –2<sup>nd</sup>

Motion passed.

With holding—trying to get information from L.R.

Delegates to Hot Springs Oct. 10-12

Randy Cope, Thomas Henry, Ron Davis, Corky Hunt, Lindsey Mann

Motion by Chris

Ginger –2<sup>nd</sup>

Motion passed

David Meeks won \$50.00 drawing.

Next meeting—Sept 22, 2002.

**Be Ready To Walk**

A committee is planning the next informational picket.

It is expected to be in the a couple of weeks.

We need EVERYONE helping. If you can't walk let us know what you can do.

The Fayetteville issue is not going away.

It can and will affect your job if the mail moves.

**Join in and support your Union.**

# **APWU Health Plan Receives Outstanding Ratings From Members**

**In the 2002 Member satisfaction Survey, members again showed high satisfaction with APWU Health Plan**

- ❖ The health plan did as well or exceeded last years excellent ratings in virtually all categories
- ❖ APWU Health Plan also exceeded the benchmarks set for health plan performance by both the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the survey sponsor and the Center for the Study of Services, the survey vendor
- ❖ The Health Plan received the following ratings:

- 86% gave Health Plan 8-10 rating in overall performance with ten being the best health plan possible
- 86% gave their health care an 8-10
- 94% said the Health Plan always or usually handles claims within a reasonable time
- 96% said the Health Plan always or usually handles claims correctly
- 82% said their complaints or problems were settled to their satisfaction

**We're working every day to ensure your total  
satisfaction with APWU Health Plan**

APWU Health Plan P.O. Box 3279 Silver Springs, MD 20918 -- 1-800/222-APWU -- [www.apwuhp.com](http://www.apwuhp.com)