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Western Arkansas Area Local

The Paper

June 28, 2004

Dennis — Has a Message for the Members and the Managers

By Dennis Taff

Greetings, I have recently returned from the APWU President's Conference. Legislative director Roy Braunstein and Vice President Cliff Guffy addressed the members. Both officers asked those in attendance to carry a strong word of thanks back to our members. The officers asked us to thank our members for their strong contributions to COPA, without which, we would never have been able to lobby the members of congress and express our concerns over Postal reform in the manner that we did. Our National Officers also wanted to thank the membership for their own personal contacts to their respective congressman and senators. These personal contacts were very instrumental in molding a Postal reform bill that the APWU could support and was not detrimental to our customers.

The above mentioned national officers, and other local and state presidents that attended the hearings on capitol hill, all praised national president Bill Burris for the outstanding job he did in presenting APWU concerns to congress.

I am very proud to say that our own Arkansas Senator, Mark Pryor, was on the senate government affairs committee and that he voted in favor of amendments to the bill that limited work sharing discounts. Please take the time to send senator Pryor a note thanking him for his efforts to insure that our customers continue to receive the service that they deserve and thank him for protecting our jobs.

You should be proud of yourselves and you should be proud of your National Officers. **We were in this fight alone.** We had absolutely no help from our sister unions. I am not stating this to bad mouth our other brothers and sister from the

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From The Desk Of The Vice President

By Chris Hagen

Shhhh. No talking on the workroom floor. No talking to the Union. No scheduled training unless approved by supervisor. No breaks unless you have a relief. These are a few of the things our one dealing with at the moment with the two 204B's that are in command. Also, a fair day's works for a fair day's pay no longer means anything to these people. It's not enough that you do your job, but now you have to do the job that is vacant because the 204B forgot to schedule someone. You also have to do the job of the person that was given the day off, and there's no relief. You have also need to do another job that isn't within the scope of your responsibilities and then you get into trouble because you can't finish your own work. Makes sense to me. I have addressed several of these issues already and will continue to protect your rights the best that I can. I cannot, however; protect you if you do not let me know what is happening. The issue of talking to your steward has been addressed with the OIC and if it is a quick mention of a possible grievance, you can discuss this with me when you see me. Because I leave at midnight does not mean I won't talk to you. If you are having a problem, let me know. I don't care if it's a note or you call me over to where you are working. If I know ahead of time I will deal with letting management know that I will be talking to you. If management finds this disruptive then we will clock on union time, walk to the union office, discuss the matter, and walk back to the clock and punch on the appropriate operation code. If this is what management thinks is appropriate and likes wasting time then we can accommodate them.

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State Officers Take Oath

Pictured Below from the left:

- Brian Duncan Dist 3 VP
- Randy Watkins Dist 5 VP
- Dennis Taff President
- Tommy Brockman Secretary/ Treasurer
- Marty Cooper Dist 6 VP
- Mike Klipert Editor
- Kerry Hinton Dist 1 VP
- Brian Brownlee Dist 2 VP
- Johnny Bounds Dist 4 VP
- Thomas Henry Maint. Craft Dir

Administering the oath of office is Frankie Sanders, APWU Southern Region Coordinator.

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A word to all DBCS operators; if you are assigned a partner then you must work with that partner. It does not help our case if you turn away help. If you are not assigned a partner then fill out those charts and get them to me after each two-week period. I have worked hard and for a very long time on this grievance, I will not let it fall through the system because of lack of cooperation from the members. This grievance was filed for you, I would like to think that this is what you wanted when I filed the grievance.

For all of you that think your supervisor is telling you the truth about what I have said to her, then think again. The rumor has it that I told 204B Lisa, that it was okay to run the Flat Sorter with two operators. Again, I have filed this grievance because this is not the way you are supposed to run a flat sorter. I have never allowed the flat sorter to be run with two operators without filing for some compensation when it is. This is unacceptable and I will not tolerate it. Who are you going to believe? Think about this. Why am I filing all of these grievances? FOR YOU!

Any Questions, Problems or Grievances, Get In Touch With Me, Bob Harp, Kerry Botteicher, Or Dennis Taff

Chris



**Attention Members of the
Western Arkansas Area Local:**

The Local needs your email address. It will be used to pass along any information that your Local Union needs to broadcast immediately. We will not share it with anyone, it will be for our Local Union use only.

Please Submit Your email Address at:

- www.apwu1211.com
- "Contact Us" page

The Check is in the Mail

41,434 Postal Managers, Supervisors and 204b's were overpaid this week. They were overpaid and average of \$4000 each. You do the math. It adds up to \$165,736,000, that's right — **One Hundred sixty-five MILLION Seven Hundred thirty-six THOUSAND Dollars!**—

The overpayments were "due to a computer error", the Postal Service said Wednesday. Gerry McKiernan, USPS spokesman said those workers are being sent letters urging them not to spend the money and explaining how it should be returned.

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

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other unions. The three unions in Fort Smith have always had a good working relationship. But I do wish that our brothers and sisters from the other local unions would send a clear message to their national officers that they should be working with the APWU instead of against us.

But as I said in the last issue of *ThePaper*, the fight is far from over we **must** continue to contribute to COPA. The Senate bill is subject to amendment and we must keep contacting our senators to insure that the bill moves through legislative process with the best interest of our members and our customers

One final note on this issue. All Postal managers should be getting on their knees and thanking the union members for their efforts. They should realize that our effort to keep bargaining unit jobs also protects their job. So to the managers who read this, and I know most of you do, how about taking the time to thank the union members for protecting your job.

And, by the way, you managers have the right to contribute to our COPA fund.

Dennis Taff

Western Arkansas Area Local Officers

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Chris Hagen	Vice-President
Randy Cope	Secretary-Treasurer
Corky Hunt	Editor

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Randy Cope	484-6384
Maintenance T1 T2	
Thomas Henry	484-6384
Maintenance T3	
Kerry Botteicher	484-6344
CFS	
Bob Harp	484-6425
Window/Customer Svc.	

The Ten Commandments

By Shawn Rapert

Psalm 19:7a – The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul:

In the news recently there has been a lot of talk about the Ten Commandments. Mostly due to the acts of a few individuals who wish to have them taken out/removed from the public eye.

Being a Christian and believing in God and His word, the Bible, this concerns me. I believe the Ten Commandments are the beginning, the foundation, and the basics that we built our laws on that we abide by today in this country. Like the opening verse says – “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul:...” the Ten Commandments not only aid in keeping our society working together in harmony and unity but is a standard by which all individuals are to live by and shows our own lawlessness toward God due to the fact that all of us have disobeyed at least one of the commandments. James 2:10 (New King James Version) says – For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. This is what the bible means by Romans 3:23 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” So the law shows us our sin or lawlessness toward a Holy and Righteous God which leads us to search for a way back to Him. God through His love and mercy has provided that way – John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

What will happen if the Ten Commandments are in fact someday totally removed? Will we begin to forget the commandments of God? (How many of the Ten Commandments can you say from memory? See Exodus 20). Will we begin changing our laws to suit our selfish desires because we have forgotten the basis for which the laws were set in the first place? This is what I see happening in our world today, lawlessness abounding! Romans 7:8 – But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence (evil desire, indwelling sin). For without the law sin was

dead. In other words – without the law we don't have a guide of what sin or lawlessness is. We have nothing that tells our conscience of wrongdoing or sin. I John 3:4 – Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law (lawlessness): for sin is the transgression of the law (lawlessness). We could be becoming a society of “free-for-all” living, “Do what I want to do without regard to others” and if you say something about how they are doing wrong you are “offending” them, you are a bigot, intolerant or an extremist. Sound like what our society is becoming, or is ?!

Vote FOR and stand behind the Ten Commandments being publicly displayed. Vote FOR and support the Ten Commandments displayed in our courthouses and schools.

Safety First — Safety Always Push Never Pull

By Corky Hunt

In the near future you may be asked be a member of the a new safety team. The first and foremost concern for each of us at work should be safety so if you are asked to be “on the team” say yes! You wont be required to attend the Safety Committee Meetings however you may if you wish.

The first thing we will begin to do is monitor the programs that are currently in place. Programs such as the weekly Safety/Service talk that each of us get. I sometimes wonder if these talks are being documented without ever happening. In grade school they called it cheating. My Mom calls it a lie. Either way it's not good. We want to have Safety Team Members on each shift and within the various departments and crafts on shift. Please help.

Next Union Meeting

July 18, 2004

1:30 p.m.

Cavanaugh Pizza