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Western Arkansas Area Local

The Paper

Volume 26

May, 2003

President's Report

"The wolf is at the door". This was the message from our southern region coordinator at the recent Oklahoma state convention. I will second his motion. Actions that take place during the next three months could very well decide the fate of the postal service and the fate of your financial future.

The postal commission is traveling across the nation holding meetings and will release its recommendations in July...after which the commissions' recommendations will travel through congress as fast as a runaway freight train. I do not know exactly what the commission will recommend but it will most likely be bad news for the bargaining unit employees. The commission could recommend things such as cutting out Saturday delivery, allowing private companies to deliver the mail, closing small offices, consolidation of mail processing plants, reducing your retirement. and last but not least...take away the right to collective bargaining. If that is not scary enough, our congress is now republican controlled and they, along with our president, would probably back any legislation to give our mail service to the big business and to take away our right to collective bargaining.

Also, the postal service plans to release its hit list of plant consolidations after the commission releases its report. I do not have to tell you what will happen if we are on that list.

I hope by reading this you are already asking yourself what you can do to protect your future. There are two things that I can recommend. Contributing money to our committee on political action fund (COPA) and becoming active in your union.

Right now UPS, FedEx, and other large companies have millions of dollars in their political war chest. That war chest will be used to persuade congress to give them the opportunity to do your job!!! They are already huffing and puffing on the door of our legislative officials. Unless we make contributions to our COPA war chest they will be successful in knocking down the door.

I am just like you. I do not like to give up my money. It would be great if we did not have to make political action contributions, but that is the nature of the beast. This is the new battleground. This is where our jobs will be won or lost.

I have never asked a lot out of our members but this is a very serious situation and i feel that it's my obligation as your president to ask you to open up your pocket book. Not only am I asking, but every other local and state president is also asking their members to do the same. I am asking each member to pledge just \$1 dollar per week to COPA. That is less than you would spend on a coke and a candy bar. It is a small price to pay to keep your job.

I am dedicated to this cause and would not ask you to do anything that I would do myself. Even though I contribute to COPA at nearly every convention I attend, I am willing to contribute again. To prove it I have included a photocopy of my check for \$52 to COPA.

We have forms available from your union officers for your COPA contributions. You can make them by check, credit card or electronic fund transfer. We need to make these contributions as soon as possible because the "wolf is at the door, now!!!! We cannot wait until it is too late.!!!

It does not matter whether you vote republican, democrat, conservative, right wing, left wing or chicken wing. This is not a political preference issue. It is a saving your job issue. Your COPA dollars will be used to support members of congress that we feel will protect your job regardless of whether they are democrat or republican.

One last thought...suppose you were to tell most of working Americans that you could guarantee them a job making 20 dollars an hour with health benefits, retirement benefits, 11 paid holidays, three to five weeks of paid vacation, overtime and penalty overtime pay for a small sum of fifty two dollars. You know very well that they would pay the fifty two dollars in a heartbeat... so why won't you.?? Let's be the one that sets the standards for COPA contributions for rest of the locals in the APWU.

Dennis

Editor's note:

Dennis gave me a copy of his personal check to COPA to put in this edition. It was not a clear enough picture when scanned.

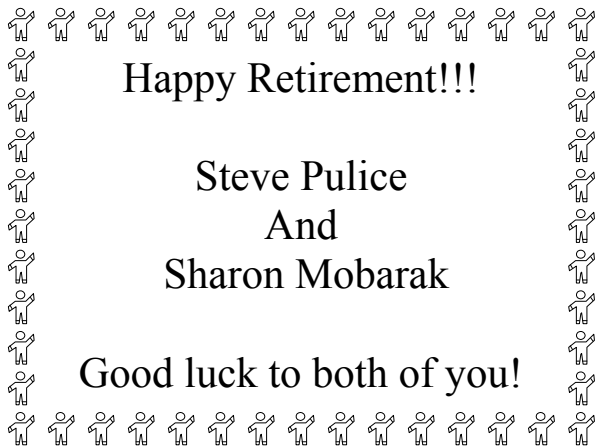
Vice-President's Report

As all of you are aware, bid jobs have been posted without "Principal Assignment Areas". This is in direct violation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Under Article 37.3.E., "INFORMATION on NOTICES". Information shall be as shown below and shall be specifically stated: **(under 5.) it states** "The principal assignment area (e.g., parcel post, incoming or outgoing) in the main office, or specified station, branch, or other location (s) where the greater portion of the assignment will be performed."

This means that when the bid is posted it has to specifically state where the assignment is and specifically state what it is you will be doing if you bid on this job. Management has decided that there is no need for bid assignments to have a principal assignment area, this way they can move you all over the building and we can't say "that's not my bid job". But it's wrong and we all know it. Grievances have been filed over the last two bid postings that went up without principal assignment areas. They are at the step 2 level and we are loaded for bear with arbitrations to back us up on this; now if we can get Ron Ramsey to settle at this level instead of taking up time in the grievance procedure.

The lists have been put on the boards to sign up for the picnic. Hope ya all can make it and bring your families. You don't want to miss out on that chance to win \$50.00. See ya at the picnic.

Chris Hagen



Graduation Gifts

Let us know if you have a son or daughter graduating from high school this year.

They will receive \$50.00 gift from your local WAAL 1211.

Just bring in a graduation announcement or let Randy Cope know.

Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2003

Dennis called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Dennis read and turned in his report.

Chris read her report.

Minutes from last month's meeting read and accepted.

Financial report read and accepted.

Old Business

Thomas gave the report on the picnic and the cost of having the picnic at Grand Slam. Motion was made by Corky to have this year's picnic at Grand Slam on Zero. 2nd by Sheryl B., motion passed.

Picnic will be June 8, 2003.

There were no other committee meetings to report .

New Business

Motion By Kerry B. to give away 10 \$50.00 bills at this year's picnic again. 2nd by Chris Hagen, motion passed.

Volunteers to the State convention in Little Rock, June 5,6, & 7 are Corky Hunt, Thomas Henry, and Randy Cope. Motion made to send these members as delegates, motion passed.

There will be a drawing for \$50.00 at the May meeting.

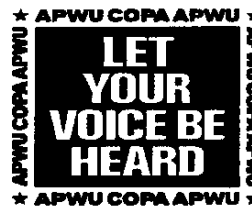
Next month's meeting will be May 18, 2003 at Cavanaugh Pizza. June's meeting will be held at Grand Slam on June 8, 2003.

Motion to adjourn, so moved.

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 _____

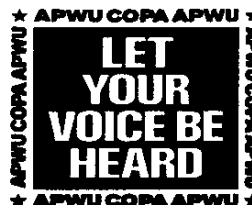
Occupation _____

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) \$8.00 (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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3rd Annual WAAL 1211 Picnic

June 8, 2003

1:00 pm until 5:00 pm

Grand Slam

5300 S Zero St.

Union meeting will be held at 2:00 pm with 10 drawings for \$50.00.

Be sure to sign in

Batting cages, go carts, driving range, miniature golf,
volleyball, and bounce around

Hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. will be provided

Fun for the whole family. This is free to all of our members and
their guests, so please attend.

Opinions expressed by the
writers of articles in this
paper are those of the in-
dividuals and not neces-
sarily those of *The Paper*,
APWU, or local 1211.

The Paper
PO Box 11196
Ft Smith AR
72917

www.apwu1211.com

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

Officers

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

Stewards

Dennis Taff	783-7898
Window Services	
Chris Hagen	484-6371
Mail Processing Tour 3	
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	484-6425
Window/Customer Svc.	

Union Meeting
May 18 1:30 pm

Cavanaugh Pizza (Herb is buying)

Happy Birthday Herb!!! And thank you!