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Western Arkansas Area Local

The Paper

May 16, 2004

Brody, Boozman, & The Bill

By Dennis Taff

I hope you plan to be at the picnic. I'm sure we will have a great time. Thanks to those who have made the arrangement for this event. We have finally convinced management to post the accountable clerk job vacated by Harold Brody. They finally realized that accountable clerk job was one that was truly needed.

We are still trying to get management to pay our members the 2nd payment on the causal settlement. This is true for the Fayetteville and Little Rock offices. In fact none of the retirees in Fayetteville has received their first payment. According to the national agreement if employees who do not receive payment within 60 days a request can be made for an advance of 70% on the money owed. That is the reason for you filling out the request for advance forms. Obviously management has again violated our contract by denying the advance request. Because of the non-payment to the Fayetteville retirees and the delay in the second payments to all three offices Congressman Boozman's office is now involved in this issue. Since the area office for the Postal Service refuses to return calls to the district office and also to Congressman's Boozman's local office this matter has been turned over to Boozman's Washington D.C. Office so they can deal directly with the Postal Service headquarters. I Hope payment will be forthcoming.

Payment for the arbitration award out of

(Dennis Continued on page 2)

THE PICNIC

Sunday May 23

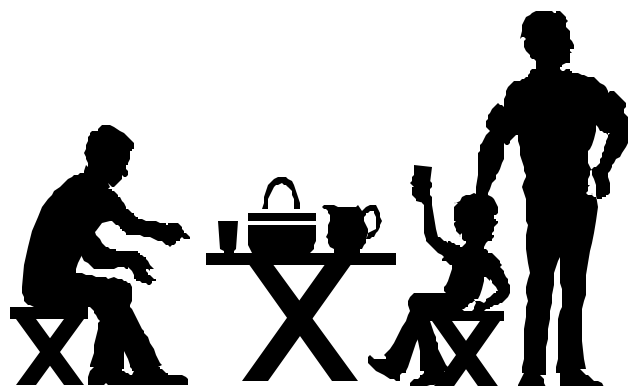
1 - 5 pm

At

Fort Smith's Grand Slam Fun Center
5300 South Zero

Activities include:

- LUNCH
- MINIATURE GOLF
- GO-CARTS
- DRIVING RANGE
- BATTING CAGES



\$50.00, 70% and 2-pp

By Chris Hagen

Well, we are getting ready for another picnic. I think this is the best idea for our local to involve all of our members. I do hope all of you can attend and hopefully win a fifty-dollar bill. Besides the money, I'm sure all of you will have fun at Grand Slam.

filed the casual-in-lieu of grievance and, as all of you know, it looks very promising. The casuals are still here and working in positions that have been vacated/reverted/abolished. The casuals are working in your positions when you are not asked to work your off days also. Even though this grievance may take a couple years to resolve, you can count on the union winning this argument as we did the last one. Even though we have still not been paid in full yet.

Speaking of not being paid, your stewards gave you forms to fill out to receive 70% of the payment due you and now have had them denied. The USPS is determined to say that they were not at fault and why should they pay you what you have coming. They are wrong and the union is right. We will get the monies due us.

I'd like to remind you that if you have a grievance where you have been awarded back pay or a settlement and have not heard anything from your steward, please let us know so we can look into it. Don't wait an adjustment usually takes two pay periods to appear on your check.

ThePaper
PO Box 11196
Ft Smith AR 72917

Next Union Meeting

May 23, 2004

1:30 p.m.

Grand Slam Picnic

(Dennis Continued from page 1)

Van Buren has been turned in. The clerks in Van Buren will be compensated for over 6000 hours of pay. We are still awaiting compliance for the Charleston award. The settlement also involves a large monetary settlement and it is growing each day that they refuse to comply. If compliance is not made within the next week or so we will probably visit with the Postal Service in Federal Court.

Please keep your eyes on the bulletin board and on the APWU web page. We have already seen the House Bill on Postal reform introduced and expect a Senate Bill to be introduced very soon. The APWU, for the most part, was pleased with the House Bill. A notice from President Burris concerning these bills is on the bulletin board.

Your COPA dollars were very instrumental in keeping items out of the House Bill that would have severely harmed the bargaining unit and destroyed the Postal Service. Believe me money talks at Capitol Hill. But we still have to continue giving to COPA because the battle is far from over! Thanks for what you have contributed in the past and thank you for what you will give in the future.

See You at The Picnic!

Congratulations! Allison, Cope, Mullins and Ward

By Randy Cope

It's been a while since I have written an article for The Paper. I thought this would be a good time with all that has been going on.

First let me say congratulation to our members whose sons and daughters are graduating this year. They are Debbie Taylor son Cory Allison, my son Elijah Cope, B R Mullins daughter Amber Mullins, and Roy Ward's son Nick Ward. If I have missed anybody's graduate please let me know. Our local sends \$50.00 to each members graduating High School senior.

While on the subject of High School graduation let me give some heads up on applying for scholarships to those parents whose kids are still in school. Don't do what we did and start applying for scholarships their senior year. There are a lot of great scholarships that can be applied for in the sophomore and junior year. Most of these are awarded in their senior year. There is a lot of information on the

web that will help point you in the right direction. *Editors Note: A good place to start, <http://scholarshipcoach.com/>*

This is an election year for both the union and public office. So get out and register to vote. Find out how the candidate's feel toward your interest. Yes, your interest this is the time to get answers to your questions. Having been politically

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active since I left the army I can say I have never voted for a party. I have always voted on how the candidate could help with things that mattered to my family and upholding the Constitution. We as a society have gotten to where we look at what's politically correct. It's has become too easy for us to say "whatever my vote doesn't matter, Washington doesn't listen to us". The reason that they don't listen is not enough noise from the folks back home. REMEMBER TO VOTE and after the elections CALL AND WRITE YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS.

In the Merry Merry Month of May

13th

- 1971 - Members of five postal unions vote in favor of merger. Nationwide vote for merger was 152,460 to 6,453 constituting a majority of 95.9%.

20th

- 1993 - APWU wins Remote Bar Code Sorting Arbitration stopping the contracting out of thousands of jobs.

24th

- 1888 - Act passed specifically limiting the eight-hour day to letter carriers. Clerks not included.

Western Arkansas Area Local Officers

Dennis Taff	President
Chris Hagen	Vice-President
Randy Cope	Secretary-Treasurer
Corky Hunt	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.	

A tax ...on Trash, Trousers, Tattoos, and Termites

Last month, you may have noticed an increase in the sales tax rate. The Arkansas state legislature raised the statewide tax rate 7/8ths of 1% during its special session. The total tax rate on retail sales paid by consumers in Fort Smith changed from 8.375% to 9.25%.

Beginning July 1st, the following and other services will be subject to sales tax.

- Solid waste collection and disposal
- Dry cleaning and laundry services
- Self storage rentals
- Body piercing and tattooing
- Pest control services
- Security and alarm monitoring services
- Locksmith services
- Pet grooming and kennel services
- Installation services on vehicles
- Installation of floor coverings

The 71st Annual Old Fort Days Rodeo

May 31 through June 5, 2004.



House Committee Adopts Postal Reform Bill

Source: Burrus Update # 7-2004 May 13, 2004

The House Government Reform Committee voted unanimously May 12 to approve the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2004. In doing so, it resoundingly rejected the anti-worker and anti-consumer recommendations of the President's Commission on the U.S. Postal Service.

None of the Bush Commission's proposals to cut workers wages and benefits were adopted by the House Committee, and a Commission recommendation to authorize large-scale post office closings was also discarded.

The committee members voted to prohibit excessive 'worksharing' discounts that subsidize the mailing industry. It also granted the USPS greater flexibility in rate-setting; approved the transfer of military retirement costs of postal veterans to the Treasury Department; approved the release of retirement funds from escrow; and embraced the principle of uniform rates. These were all issues the APWU had identified as crucial to meaningful postal reform.

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee released a "discussion draft" of its postal reform bill on May 12 as well. Although the union is withholding judgment on the Senate bill until we have analyzed it further, we have serious concerns about several provisions

The bill adopted by the House Committee, was an important step toward real postal reform. However our fight is far from over, and we must remain vigilant. Please continue to monitor the APWU Web site for updates, and be prepared to contact your elected representatives.