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Western Arkansas Area Local

The Paper

October 11, 2004

A Message From Dennis

By Dennis Taff

Dear APWU Brothers and Sisters,

I want to sincerely thank you each of you for all of your support during my election campaign for APWU National Business Agent. My success in the election would not have been possible, without your vote and without your generosity of donating your time, your money and your talents, to insure that I was elected. I especially want to thank you for your constant encouragement and for your confidence in me. I will always be grateful to each of you.

It has been my pleasure to serve as an Officer of this Local for nearly my entire Postal career. You have always been very supportive of me as well as the other officers of the WAAL. I also want to thank you for your support of the State APWU Organization. You guys are the best when it comes to hosting a State or Tri-State Conventions. Members of Arkansas, Iowa and Missouri APWU Organizations always brag on what a great job you do.

I want to thank Vice President Chris Hagen for all her help in running this Local. Please continue to support here. As you well know Chris is retiring in December so please support who ever steps up to the plate. I also want to thank all the other officers and stewards that I have had the honor to work with over the years. You are the lifeline of this Union. I look forward, with great expectations, to serve as your next National Business Agent. I will never forget you and I will always remain a proud member of the Western Arkansas Area Local 1211.

Sincerely,
Dennis Taff

Election Time is Near

By Chris Hagen

FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Not much has been happening on this end. NOT!!

Through the maximization grievance, we have converted Bertha Williams to either a Full-time flexible or a Full-time regular. Hopefully, it's regular. (Article 7.3.C.).

I want to encourage everyone to vote their Union Ballot. This election is one of the most important we will have. We are having a drawing. Every person that shows their sealed ready to be mailed ballot envelope to their steward or an officer will have their name entered in a drawing for \$50 to be held at the October Meeting

**Your vote is
your voice.**

**Don't
throw it
away.**



For those of you still running the DBCS's by yourself, keep charting, we are still in limbo here but soon we will probably be sending it to step 3.

For all you PTF's out there, if you are aware of a TE working more than you, let a steward or one of your officers know. (Article 7.1. C.2).

Hope you were at the meeting

Chris

**Guns, Abortion, Gay Marriage, War,
Peace, Jobs, Health Care, Security,
Roads, Environment, Social Security, &
Education**

By Randy Cope

These are some of the things that you will be looking at the next two months. Seems that everyone has at least one thing that gets his or her interest and the politician's will key in on it. With the elections coming in November we will be slammed with more smoke and mirrors than every before. Please take the time to look at all the issues, you need information that's unbiased and in-depth. I know it's hard to find but there is unbiased information out there. And take the campaign propoganda from the candidates with a grain of salt remember they spin it and expect you to believe it. And above all the one thing that I will ask of each and every one of you is please get out and vote, have your friends and family get out and vote. Everybody's vote counts, during our last presidential election in 2000 just 51% of all registered voters bothered to vote.

We also have APWU elections this month; please take the time to fill out the ballots. In order to get as many ballots back as possible we are having a contest. Show your steward or an officer your ballot sealed and ready to be mailed and your name will go into a drawing we will have at the October meeting. The drawing will be for \$50.00.

We have another OIC I do not know how long this one will stay; I do know he is going to apply for both Fort Smith and Fayetteville. As with all of them he has his way so just go with the flow they all look at numbers now not service. Because the one thing that has been true the past 5 years is change, we get a new person in charge and they have a better way. It's a wonder we have every got the mail out to the public.

Okay off my stump now. We are losing some more members out of our office with people retiring and transfers. I have seen a lot of people go in my 15 years but never so many in such a short time as this year. I wish each and every one of you the best of luck and good health and don't forget those of us still here.

October Labor History

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1934 - American Federation of Labor takes official stand for six-hour day, five-day week.

3

1945 - Seven-state Greyhound Bus strike.

6

1993 - President Clinton signs the Federal Employees Political Activities Act (Hatch Act Reform) which, for the first time in over 50 years, grants postal and federal workers the right to participate in partisan politics.

7

1879 - Birth date of Joe Hill, Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) organizer, songwriter, and poet.

1997 - APWU, joined by NALC, Mail Handlers and Teamsters picket the main post office in Springfield, Massachusetts to protest contracting out of postal jobs at the Emery Priority Mail Processing Center.

10

1933 - 18,000 Pixley, California cotton pickers strike, four killed.

18

1648 - Shoemakers of Boston, first labor organization in America founded.

23

1938 - National Association of Post Office Custodial Employees organized.

24

1940 - 40-hour work week goes into effect under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

30

1897 - United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters founded.

_____the Vote

By Shawn Rapert

It's election time again and may I urge everyone to get out and vote. I think most of us do, if not all, but if there is someone who doesn't vote please do so this election. I believe these are crucial days for our nation and I urge you to _____ for the right candidates to be elected. _____ for guidance and wisdom in the choosing of the candidates we personally are favoring.

The _____ would have us _____ for our leaders. We don't have to agree with everything that our leaders do or even like them but _____ for them none the less. Also, I think if _____ would have us _____ for our leaders and those in authority, _____ would have us active in the election process of those to be placed in that leadership and authority role. So, lets research our candidates with _____ and get to the polls and vote and make a difference this election.

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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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The \$50 Drawing will be held at the Monthly Meeting October 24th 1:30 Cavanaugh Pizza

Western Arkansas Area Local Officers

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

Stewards

Dennis Taff Window Services	783-7898
Chris Hagen Mail Processing Tour 3	484-6371
Karla Shaffer Mail Processing T1 T2	484-6371
Randy Cope Maintenance T1 T2	484-6384
Thomas Henry Maintenance T3	484-6384
Kerry Botteicher CFS	484-6344
David Botteicher GMF Window/Customer Svc.	484-6495

Automated Postal Centers

The USPS began deploying Automated Postal Centers (APCs) in February 2004, and plans to install them throughout the country. Fort Smith's APC was installed in the lobby of the GMF about one month ago. APCs are designed to reduce lines at windows and provide customers an alternate way to send mail and purchase services.

They provide many of the services currently available at full-service windows, including:

Weighing and rating letters, flats, and parcels up to 70 pounds

- * Dispensing variable rate postage
- * Providing mailing options and special services
- * Certified mail;
- * Express mail forms
- * ZIP Code lookup
- * Providing receipts

The USPS and APWU agree that a window clerk or sales and service associate will perform the routine duties associated with this equipment. These duties may include restocking paper, PVI tape, and stamp books. The clerk may also clear minor paper jams.

The APWU Maintenance Division has filed a national-level grievance over the maintenance work on the machine which is currently performed by the company that designed and installed the APCs. Because this piece of equipment is automated rather than mechanical, it is clear the work is not exclusive to the Self-Service Postal Clerk. We have been informed that the maintenance on the APC is "plug and play," and will not need the level of service that traditional vending machines that accept coins and cash tend to require.

A Change in The Wind

By this time next month you will have a new President, Vice President and Editor. Dennis has been elected as Central Region Clerk Craft NBA and will be taking office in November. Chris will become President and appoint a Vice President. Corky is resigning as editor so Chris will appoint someone to fill that office as well. Chris is anticipating retirement at the end of the year so the newly appointed Vice President will then become President and appoint another Vice President.

No Discipline On Mystery Shopper Evaluations

A letter signed by Tony Tullino from USPS headquarters indicates that Mystery Shopper Evaluations cannot be used to justify disciplinary action. Local projects similar to the Mystery Shopper program cannot be used to justify disciplinary action either.

The letter was sent to all Area Labor Relations Managers at the request of the APWU.

Employees must follow the instructions of their supervisors, however, and may be subject to discipline based on the independent personal observations of their supervisor. They cannot be issued discipline based on the hearsay evaluation of a mystery shopper or similar third party.