

April – May 2015

## From the President

### Ike Mills

The first subject I am writing to you is about the new employee surveys, called “**The Postal Pulse**”. No matter what name postal management attaches to these employee surveys, the APWU's position is that we do not support nor participate in these surveys. There is a recent article on APWU.org about the APWU's position and reasons for it.

Come on now, folks, can you honestly sit there and tell me that anything you put on those surveys have helped us in anyway whatsoever? I sure in the heck can't remember it changing one darn thing in the 21 years I have been around, but I sure can remember management using those comments against us in negotiations. That was the last time I filled one out, and I will never fill out another during my time in the Postal Service.

The only reason management wants us to fill them out anyway is because it affects their pay for performance when we don't fill them out.

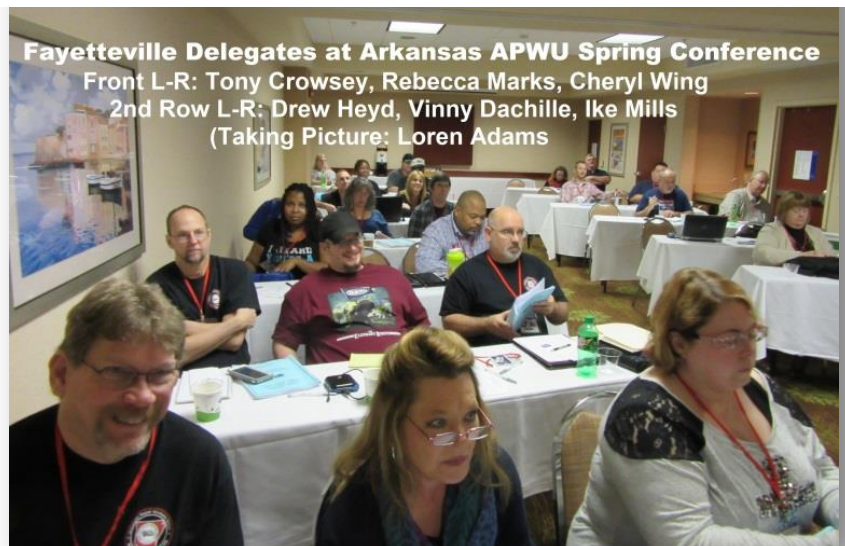
That takes me to my next subject.... I have been here for a little over 4 years now and our Local's participation in the **COPA** activity is absolutely appalling. We have over 125 members now and only 5 of those members actually donate in any way to the COPA fund.

It is very easy to go to the APWU website and sign up for the COPA deductions to be taken out of your checks. It is the only way that they get the funds to help get our agenda heard on Capitol Hill. They cannot use our union dues for those activities because it is illegal. Our donating is the only way we can fight the onslaught of the one per-centers that are trying to steal our jobs on a daily basis.

Go online and sign up for automatic deductions of \$10.00 a pay period; you will hardly miss it believe me. That is less than one half of an hour of your pay for the regulars and a little over half an hour's pay for the PSEs. Let's step up and do our part to help in this cause.

The next subject is **union membership** – a cursed subject for many. Our Local percentage of membership has been in the low 70% mark most of the time I have been here. If you are not a Union member, I encourage you to investigate the positive aspects of union membership and to join, then get active in the union. We can always use more talent and more participation from all of our members.

If you have never been asked to join, then please grab one of the stewards or officers and start asking questions. We need your participation and help now more than ever. For those of you that say, “I hate the union and what they do,” then join the union, educate yourself, and learn why we do things the way we do. Get involved and see if you can affect the positive changes you are looking for. There are many of you out there with very promising attributes that have never been active in the union – except for paying dues (don't take me wrong – we appreciate you also), but you could use your talents for a positive, constructive contribution to this union and make the distribution load easier for all involved. Consider the facts, and if you want to give it a try, let us know. Until next time – God bless you all.



The *RAZORBACK SCHEME* is the official voice of the Fayetteville APWU Local. However, opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writers and not necessarily those of the APWU, Local, officials or Editor. Articles, artwork, cartoons and/or other material are solicited from member readers who wish to share their views. Although freedom of the press is recognized, contributors are exhorted not to submit derogatory material about any fellow union member or to submit any false or unsubstantiated allegation concerning management or any other individual inside or outside this organization. All letters must be signed (if hard-copied) or emailed via an identifiable, recognized screen name and are requested to have been received by the Editor ten (10) days prior to the announced publication date. Names will be withheld upon request. Send submissions to *RAZORBACK SCHEME*, P.O. Box 654, Fayetteville AR 72702; or email to Editor's screen name listed below or on website. Submissions may be returned upon request.

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Webmaster.....Jake Lamkins

#### NEXT UNION MEETING:

Sunday, April 19, 2015 & May 17, 2015  
Jim's Razorback Pizza – 1:00 pm

APWU Fayetteville Local – 2300 S City Lake Rd  
P.O. Box 654 – Fayetteville AR 72702  
Phone: (479) 571-1006 – fax: (479) 442-7131

#### Websites:

<http://FayettevilleAPWU.tripod.com/>

#### National APWU website:

[www.apwu.org](http://www.apwu.org)

#### E-Mail:

President: [roycedmills@att.net](mailto:roycedmills@att.net)

Vice-President: [draco929@gmail.com](mailto:draco929@gmail.com)

Maintenance Steward:

[APWUMaintSteward@gmail.com](mailto:APWUMaintSteward@gmail.com)

Editor: [LAdams727@aol.com](mailto:LAdams727@aol.com)

**Associate Offices:** Rogers, Elkins, Huntsville, Lowell,  
Prairie Grove & West Fork

## EMERGENCY ANNUAL LEAVE

By Vinny Dachille, Local Vice-President

During the recent winter weather we've had we've had some confusion about the community disaster option on the call in sick number. If you are calling over snow and ice, you need to be calling in *emergency annual leave*. Emergency annual leave is an unscheduled absence. If you call in emergency annual leave and they call a *state of emergency*, then we can argue for admin leave as a community disaster.

Also, look at the pre-generated slips that they give you to sign for your leave. If you feel that any information is incorrect on the 3971, then don't sign it. Fill out your own 3971 and hand it to the supervisor. It is *your* leave to be used as you see fit.

## KEEP YOUR FMLA CURRENT & REMEMBER TO DOCUMENT!

Rebecca Marks, Local Recording Secretary

First of all, I would like to welcome the Rogers folks into our local and I'd like to extend an invitation for you to come to our monthly meetings. Involvement takes just a little of our time, and the sacrifice can be very rewarding. I want to encourage all of our members to attend the monthly union meetings. If anything, you leave knowing that somebody else has also been through your similar circumstance. And anyone of us would be willing to help you when you need it.

Management is cracking down on ones that they think are abusing leave. So, I suggest, from my own personal experience that you take notes – because I can't remember what I did three months ago, can you? And if you have an FMLA case, make sure it is updated yearly. Don't give them any more ammunition against you.

Don't be intimidated by their scare tactics, because that's what they do best. Insist that your union steward be present when they want to give you an investigative interview over your leave/attendance. If anything I've learned over the years it is to document, document, document!!! Write it down folks!

Again I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, Sunday, April 19th.

## Dennis Taff

– Teaching Class at  
Arkansas APWU  
Spring Meeting,  
March 13-14,  
2015, Little Rock.

[Dennis is our  
National Business  
Agent, former  
Arkansas State  
President; Steward  
25 years and Ft  
Smith Local  
President.]



# “My Mom is a Federal Hero”

## Contest for Federal Workers

**From:** Landon Biehl <[l.biehl1@gmail.com](mailto:l.biehl1@gmail.com)>

**Date:** April 1, 2015 2:40:28 PM CDT

**To:** [roycedmills@att.net](mailto:roycedmills@att.net)

**Subject:** Children of Fayetteville APWU competition- upcoming!

**Reply-To:** Landon Biehl <[l.biehl1@gmail.com](mailto:l.biehl1@gmail.com)>

Good Afternoon Ike:

I sent you an email last week, and wanted to follow up to make sure you received this information.

Currently, Harris Federal is hosting a "My Mom is a Federal Hero" contest for federal workers across the US. Contestants submit a 30 second video for a chance to win. The winner receives a \$1000 Amazon gift card, and 2nd-3rd place receives a \$100 Amazon gift card.

Since you have such a large number of federal workers through your organization, could you share the contest link with your members? The link is [www.federaldisability.com/mothers-day-video-contest/](http://www.federaldisability.com/mothers-day-video-contest/).

If you could post to your website or social media accounts (if applicable), could you let me know? We currently have NO entries, and the deadline is in 3 weeks! I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Landon Biehl – [l.biehl1@gmail.com](mailto:l.biehl1@gmail.com) – 910-386-8920

## Why are so many passive about their own jobs?

By Loren Adams, Local Editor

The silence is deafening at times. After all these years, I still don't understand why a sizable portion of postal workers are so passive about what's happening to their jobs – and what's about to happen. It's as if they're in a dead-end state of denial, an isolation chamber or a bubble of sorts.

The passivity and inactivity only encourage the foes of labor, gives aid and comfort to the enemy, and guarantees that, sooner or later, our opponents will prevail in their long-sought-quest to privatize the Postal Service. And when they do, the union's voice will finally be muzzled... which means, BTW, an end to your current standard of living.

*“First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—*

*Because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—*

*Because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—*

*Because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.”* – Rev. Martin Niemöller

German Pastor Martin Niemöller, fondly memorialized for his *“then they came for me”* quote, came to recognize the collective responsibility of German civil society for the Nazi atrocities. In a speech to the Confessing Church in Frankfurt on January 6, 1947, he said: *“We preferred to keep silent. We certainly are not without fault, and I ask myself again and again, what would have happened, if in the year 1933 or 1934... 14,000 Protestant pastors and all Protestant communities had defended the truth until their deaths?”*

Pastor Niemöller's observation — *“we preferred to keep silent”* — and his nagging question — *“what would have happened, if”* — are powerful reminders that silence in the face of injustice is not golden. Inactivity kills.

Are you going to stand by the sidelines and let your livelihood go down the drain? I urge you to change your ways and get active in these trying times. How about making a resolution to attend union meetings – for starters?

I, for one, prefer to speak up. I urge you to do likewise. And plead with our friends and supporters to speak out with clarity of conviction. For every voice raised against an injustice adds more than decibels to the debate. Every additional voice adds diversity, legitimacy and vibrancy and inspires others to act. Activity is contagious; Inactivity is a death wish.

Bottom Line: Do you want to keep your job or not?

# WHAT THE USPS OIG CAN DO AND CAN'T

From USPS website: <https://www.uspsoig.gov/hotline>

[Submitted by Phil Morgan, Maintenance Alternate Steward]

## How to contact the OIG

Contact us via our Hotline and FOIA forms; follow us on social networks, or call our Hotline at 1-888-877-7644 to report fraud, waste or abuse. Stay informed. <https://www.uspsoig.gov>

## Report Fraud, Theft and Misconduct

### What We Do

Hotline receives information from employees, customers, and the general public. It is an important avenue for reporting fraud, waste, and misconduct. We review the information received to identify systemic and criminal issues and potential areas for postal-wide reviews.

We are primarily responsible for receiving and evaluating concerns and complaints, and determining which OIG area would best conduct any appropriate inquiry or investigation.

### What to Report to Us

The Hotline will take complaints related to fraud, waste, and misconduct related to Postal Service employees and contractors. To report mail fraud schemes, vandalism and mail theft by a customer please go to website and click on link. If you have questions on where to report a complaint please go to website. For further detail on what to report to the OIG Hotline please refer to the section further down the page.

### How to Contact the Hotline

Preferred method is using our [online form](#).

Send us your info by mail at: ATTN:

HOTLINE 1735 N Lynn Street , Arlington, VA 22209

Our Hotline phone calls are answered M-F 11:00am - 3:00pm EST 1-888-USPS-OIG (1-888-877-7644)

## What the USPS OIG Hotline can assist you with

- ❖ Theft, delay, or destruction of mail by employees and contractors
- ❖ Injury compensation fraud
- ❖ Embezzlements and financial crimes
- ❖ Contract Fraud
- ❖ Kickbacks
- ❖ Computer Crimes
- ❖ Narcotics
- ❖ Employee Misconduct
- ❖ Internal affairs and executive investigations
- ❖ Whistleblower reprisal

## What the USPS OIG Hotline cannot assist you with

- ❖ Day-to-day management decisions
- ❖ EEO Complaints
- ❖ Issues that are handled by the grievance process
- ❖ Issues handled by other government agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Department of Labor, Justice Department, Office of Personnel Management
- ❖ Employee benefits and compensation
- ❖ Customer Service complaints



## Arkansas APWU Spring Meeting, Little Rock, March 12-14

**NOTE:** If you would like to attend a union conference and become active in the Local, please contact Ike Mills.