

# Razorback Scheme

American Postal Workers Union • Fayetteville Arkansas Local 667

June – July 2015

## From the President

### Ike Mills

Well, another two months have passed and 2015 is flying by. We have been very busy and I see no rest in sight. The Rogers merger was completed successfully and we will be filling out ballots in the next couple of weeks for the second merger of Springdale into the Fayetteville Local. Please when you get your ballots, read the instructions and follow them correctly so that your votes are not disallowed because you filled out or mailed the ballot incorrectly. We need your participation in this process to make it a success.

I want to thank all of the members that participated in the **National Day of Action** informational picket on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May. For having such short notice, you all did an outstanding job and you are appreciated. Thanks to you also, Linda! The tea and sandwiches were a great help. I would also like to thank Sonya for contacting the media and getting them there to cover the event. The APWU had a lot of participation nationally on this day and it turned out to be a very successful event.

We have had some issues on the workroom floor concerning conflicts between Clerks and the Lead Clerks. This conflict should not be going on. Folks, these Lead Clerks are our own brothers and sisters; they have the right and responsibility under their job descriptions and duties to lead and instruct us on a daily basis. None of us should be having an issue with them as they carry out their duties. We should be supporting them and helping all of us to be successful in our jobs. Let's stop this nonsense and be professional towards each other. We are not enemies; we are in this together.

If you are not aware yet on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May – **the USPS and the APWU reached an impasse on contract negotiations** at the end of the one-week extension to which they agreed. There are reports on the APWU website at apwu.org. There is also a new hotline established that you can call and get the most recent updates on the status of the negotiations. Under the rules of the *2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act*, contract negotiations will now go to 60 days of mediation and then on to arbitration if common ground is not found between the parties during mediation.

From the reports out so far – I personally don't see mediation being able to bridge the divide on the differences concerning the economic issues at hand.

Well, friends, as I said at the beginning – we have been busy and there are many issues and battles ahead of us. So, let's stay engaged and united as brothers and sisters in this battle. In the last news bulletin from national they asked us to designate Thursdays as Union gear day to show our solidarity as a Union. So, pull out those Union Shirts and buttons and let's show management we are united and standing up and fighting back.



**“National Day of Action” Picket at Craft Station (Joyce Blvd.)**  
A dozen postal workers participated May 14<sup>th</sup> – including the above:  
Laura Pharis, Ted Smith, and Nancy Sramek.

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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Maintenance Alternate....Phil Morgan  
  
Safety Representative.....Nancy Sramek  
Webmaster.....Jake Lamkins

#### NEXT UNION MEETING:

Sunday, June 21, 2015 & July 19, 2015  
Jim's Razorback Pizza – 1:00 pm

APWU Fayetteville Local – 2300 S City Lake Rd  
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<http://FayettevilleAPWU.tripod.com/>

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# Once Upon a Time

By Loren Adams, Editor

Ever' so often, folk like to listen to storybook tales. Accounts, if well written, serve to create an intriguing visual that assists the reader in their understanding of current dilemmas they may be encountering. A clear moral conclusion may be drawn.

Here's one for you to decode.



nce upon a time a long time ago in a kingdom far, far away lived wicked nobles. Not only land did they hoard, but wealth, treasure and power.

Now, the loyal subjects were unsuspecting of their royal overlords because the powers-that-be intentionally kept them in the dark. An uneducated and uninformed lot were they. For peasants were only meant to serve and scarcely survive. The elite owned all printing presses, postal facilities, and town criers. It was a totally privatized society.

So, the only news that trickled down was heavily censored and focused on distractions – such as aliens, UFOs, myths, dragons, feel-good fables, and forms of superstitious creed. The rulers made the peasants feel as patriots through remarkable ritual, ornamental crosses, flag-waving, and ceremonial pomp and pageantry. Symbols and emblems meant everything while true heroics meant nothing.

"Keep them down and dumb," was the emperor's decree. For he wanted all wealth to himself. Fixing the kingdom's mail service was deemed too expensive – yet lavishing gold and treasure [stolen from the sale of stamps] was fine, just so long as it was spent renovating the palace or any of the emperor's other pet projects. In fact, budget constraints were only brought up when they involved public works.

The kingdom's tax code mirrored the monarch's decree. All taxes were collected from the poor and none from the overlords. For they evaded taxes by hiring high-paid lawyers to write tax codes into law for their exclusive exploitation.

Yet the peasants still did not see they were being robbed blind. They did not see because, somehow, they didn't want to. They were clinging to their archery & myths.

As the years went by, the Emperor became so exceedingly fond of new clothes that he spent almost the kingdom's entire treasure on being well-dressed. He cared nothing for the people.

Two visiting weavers came to the palace and persuaded the king to try on their colors and patterns of fine fabric – made of magic cloth becoming invisible to anyone disloyal to his highness or anyone exceptionally ignorant.

"If I wore them, I would be able to find out which people are loyal to me and which aren't and I could tell the wise men from the fools," thought the emperor. So, he paid the two swindlers a large sum to start work at once.

The day arrived when the emperor showed off his new clothes to his entire empire. His immediate staff praised the new outfit [although the emperor was standing before them stark naked]. Then the village priest exclaimed, "Oh, it's beautiful – it's enchanting!" The minister went on, "Such a pattern, what colors!"

Of course, the emperor was pleased with himself and was in complete denial that he was standing in the royal courtyard butt-naked revealing his crown jewels to the whole kingdom.

The pandering and raving continued for several minutes from the crowd below until all at once a child cried out, "But he hasn't got anything on!"

Then, like a slow-moving wave, whispering and laughter broke out from the throng. "He doesn't have a stitch on!" the whole town at last cried out with spontaneous merriment. Such laughter to tears was never enjoyed so much by the general public – and never since. And only the honesty of an innocent child exposed this naked truth.

The Emperor shivered, for he suspected they were right. But he thought, "This procession has got to go on." So he walked more proudly than ever, as his noblemen held high the train that wasn't there at all.

The moral of the story is... You can fool most of the people most of the time about the condition of the Post Office and how it got in this shape, but we all know who's robbing whom and why. The sooner we let that little child inside us speak truth to power and yell, "The emperor's got no clothes", the better. It's obvious what's going on. Why can't others see? It won't be a happy ending until the truth is widely known.

*The End*

**Local President Ike Mills – “National Day of Action” Picket at Craft Station (Joyce Blvd.)**

Ike was being interviewed by Channel 5 News (KFSM). Ted Smith in background.



**Listen & Look!** – by Nancy Sramek, Safety Rep

I will start this time by reminders of safety issues I covered before – and then follow up with new areas.

As I said before, safety is everyone's responsibility. Please be aware of your surroundings: **LISTEN AND LOOK** for moving equipment at all times. Pick up labels and strapping in walk areas. (Yes, you can slip on both if your foot hits the right way.)

Also, stack trays neatly and do not let them or other equipment block fire extinguishers, aisle-ways or electrical boxes. If you see anything being blocked that shouldn't be, take the time to move it.

We need to always watch out for one another. One other reminder about trays: Two trays high on top of the machine is the limit! Keeping them off the top should be a constant action when sweeping.

That was my thought process when I was in automation. One last reminder: Tag defective equipment with the orange tag and push to the maintenance area. **DO NOT** take off orange labels and use equipment unless you know they are fixed.

Now, for the new items on safety. Please do not block the eye wash rooms located at the front of the building (the double doors just to the left of the entrance going into the hallway). Ucarts and cages do not belong there.

If you are running mail by yourself on a machine, do not try to sweep and load. If stackers are getting full and bells are going off, shut off the machine and sweep it down. Do not compromise your health or the integrity of the mail. No one wants to receive their mail in a “WE CARE” bag.

In closing, we are all a team working for the same goal: getting the mail out on time in a safe manner. Look out for one another and take pride in your work. We get paid well for what we do, so be grateful for that!

Until next time, have a great summer and stay safe.

*Congratulations to  
Ralph May & his wife  
On the arrival of Jensen, their new baby!*



# ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

The ballot question is whether or not to accept Springdale Local #1415 (11 members) into Fayetteville Local #667. The deadline date to have your ballots in is **SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015 at 1:00 pm.**

Please follow instructions closely. Otherwise, your ballot will be voided by the Election Committee in compliance with the Local Constitution.

- Mark your ballot [as instructed] for your choice.
- Remember NOT to sign the "Official Ballot Envelope" in which you will insert your completed ballot. Make sure to seal the envelope after inserting your ballot. Please do not mark anywhere else on the ballot except the box indicating your vote, and don't mark on the "Official Ballot Envelope" either.
- Remember to sign the outside of the stamped self-addressed envelope which you will be sending to the Local containing the sealed "Official Ballot Envelope". Unsigned envelopes will cancel your vote. Also, please include your current mailing address.
- Instructions are on the back of the ballot – as shown.
- Blank ballots were mailed to you on May 30, 2015 and you should receive them by or before June 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you do not receive your election / ballot letter by June 9<sup>th</sup>, please contact one of the officers.

Thank you!

**OFFICIAL  
BALLOT**



**SAMPLE**

- YES, I vote to accept the merger of Springdale Local #1415 into Fayetteville APWU Local #667.
- NO, I vote to decline the merger of Springdale Local #1415 into Fayetteville APWU Local #667.

## INSTRUCTIONS

### REFERENDUM:

This BALLOT QUESTION is — whether or not members in good-standing of the Fayetteville APWU Local #667 will accept the merger of Springdale APWU Local (11 members) into ours. Springdale has already agreed to the merger. Now it is up to Fayetteville whether or not to accept the merger. Vote YES or NO on the question by marking the opposite side of this ballot accordingly.

Please mark your ballot with a check or diagonal line or an "X". Then insert the ballot in the **OFFICIAL BALLOT ENVELOPE** and seal it. Next, place the **OFFICIAL BALLOT ENVELOPE** into the stamped envelope addressed to the Fayetteville Local. Do not mark or sign on the **OFFICIAL BALLOT ENVELOPE**. Ballots and the **OFFICIAL BALLOT ENVELOPE** MUST NOT be signed or marked in any way. However, do sign the stamped envelope [addressed to the Local] in the upper left hand corner and include your current mailing address. Next, don't forget to mail in your ballot.

The Local prefers mail-in ballots. However, ballots received on or before the meeting date that are properly sealed and signed will be counted.

**Ballots will be counted at the Meeting on Sunday, June 21, 2015.**

*With Sympathy to Vinny & Adrienne Dachille  
On the loss of her father, Donald Ranz*