

# Razorback Scheme

American Postal Workers Union • Northwest Arkansas Area Local

October - November 2018

## From the President

### Holiday Pay, Code 28 & AL by Ike Mills

I have decided to write an article pertaining to requesting code 28 on your holidays. Throughout the years since the implementation of us being allowed to request annual leave in lieu of holiday pay, there has been several times when employees have come to me and said, "Hey, I requested code 28 and they paid me for my holiday instead of giving me annual leave".

Well, at our recent Union meeting this subject was brought up again, and I gave them all the following suggestions. Even though you put your name on the *Holiday Sign-Up Sheet* and requested code 28, you should also fill out your 3971 the day you work your holiday and turn it into your supervisor and remind him that you are requesting code 28 for your holiday.

You should also make sure you get a signed copy of that 3971 – like you do for all your other leave submissions. These simple actions should help reduce the possibilities of you not getting the leave credited to your leave balance as you desire.



Northwest Arkansas Area Local Delegates to 2018 National Convention – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:  
L to R: Axel Ambrocio, Vinny Dachille, & Richard Trusty (Ike taking pic)

## Down The Rabbit Hole By Andrew Heyd

And so, my new adventure begins – August 18, 2018. Roughly, 19 years, 7 months in the clerk craft, finally middle of the 1st column of our seniority list (22 out of 99) and I gave it all up to enter the maintenance craft as a custodian.

This is not a decision I've made at the spur of the moment. Quite the contrary, as many who know me. I thought long on this decision (even passing up the opportunity in the past). However, at this point in my career, the time feels right (for me).

Like so many others, I've watched custodians and assumed their duties were menial. I mean, all they do is sweep the floor, clean bathrooms and empty the garbage – how difficult is that? Now, just to clarify, many of the duties of a clerk can be viewed as menial; no training required, repetitive and pretty simple. What I'm getting at is appearances aren't always 'spot on'.

To begin with, there is actually a two day class which goes over the basic fundamentals of cleaning. And because of the size of my facility, I received pit training (Powered Industrial Truck). Of the several types in our office, the most interesting to me is the vertical lift. This piece of equipment is utilized for many functions by the maintenance craft. For a custodian, the use is primarily for high dusting/vacuuming pipes, vents and rafters. Might not be a glorious job, but definitely a necessity. Never did I think there would be more training required for my current duties then what was necessary for me, as a clerk.

This is a new adventure with new experiences that I hope will provide illuminating and informative articles for all.

The **RAZORBACK SCHEME** is the official voice of the Northwest Arkansas Area Local of the APWU – AFL-CIO. 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 (2) 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.

**OFFICERS**

President ..... Royce D. "Ike" Mills  
 Vice-President ..... Vinny Dachtile  
 Financial Secretary ..... Tina Delay  
 Recording Secretary ..... Sonya Kirsch  
 Editor-Publisher ..... Loren Adams

**STEWARDS – ALTERNATES**

Chief Steward ..... Ike Mills  
 Associate Offices Steward ..... Vincent Dachtile  
 Tour One ..... Jená Booker  
 Tour One Alternate ..... Kaylynn Mills  
 Tour Two Customer Service ..... Ike Mills  
 Tour Two P&DC ..... Axel Ambrocio  
 Tour Two Alternate ..... Vinny Dachtile  
 Tour Three ..... Adam Knapp  
 Tour Three Alternate ..... Ike Mills  
 Rogers Steward (Maint) ..... Tina Delay  
 Springdale Steward ..... Vacant  
 Siloam Springs Steward ..... Darrell Barnes  
 Maintenance ..... Dale Kholos  
 Maintenance Alternate ..... Vinny Dachtile

Safety Representative ..... Nancy Sramek  
 Webmaster ..... Jake Lamkins

**NEXT UNION MEETINGS:**

Sunday, October 21, 2018 – 1:00 pm  
 Foghorn's, 1100 48<sup>th</sup> Place, Springdale AR  
 NW Arkansas Area 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: [a.kholos@hotmail.com](mailto:a.kholos@hotmail.com)

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

**Associate Offices:** Fayetteville, Rogers, Springdale, Siloam Springs, Elkins, Huntsville, Lowell, Prairie Grove, West Fork, Avoca, Combs, Elm Springs, Goshen, Hindsville, Kingston, Pettigrew, St. Paul, Wesley, Witter



**Linda Bowen Taylor**

Linda Bowen Taylor was born on September 6, 1958 in Detroit, Michigan, and passed away on Tuesday, July 10, 2018. Linda was a resident of Rogers, Arkansas at the time of passing. She graduated from Rogers High School class of 1976 and worked as a window clerk for the Rogers Post Office for 24 years. She enjoyed time spent with family, grandkids and friends; she also enjoyed playing pool, shopping and visiting with her customers. Linda was also active in the Union and attended several meetings. She was a friend to many in Rogers and all over Northwest Arkansas.

**“In this sad world of ours sorrow comes to all and it often comes with bitter agony. Perfect relief is not possible except with time. You cannot now believe that you will ever feel better. But this is not true. You are sure to be happy again. Knowing this, truly believing it will make you less miserable now. I have had enough experience to make this statement.”**

— Abraham Lincoln

**UNION MEETING!**

**Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, 1 p.m.**

**Foghorn's Restaurant**  
**1100 48<sup>th</sup> Place, Springdale**  
 (Take Exit 72 off I-49, turn east 1 block to 48<sup>th</sup> St signal light, turn L to Foghorn's.)

**You could win \$50 door prize!**

**NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS NOTICE:**

The October 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting is the Local bi-annual nominations for officers. Job descriptions, salaries, and position duties are found in the Local's Constitution, Article 4 – Sections 1-6. Officers include: (1) President; (2) Vice-President; (3) Financial Secretary; (4) Recording Secretary, and (5) Editor-Publisher. If any office is contested, election will be held by mail and ballots counted at the November Meeting.

# A Permanent Answer to a Temporary Problem

By “Barney” Barnes, Steward, Siloam Springs

I admit I’m not the best informed person around, but I just found out that another of our fellow postal workers has taken her own life here in NW Arkansas. That makes 2 in less than a year.

I didn’t know either of them personally, and I can’t begin to imagine what horrible things made them believe this was the only answer. I will, however, pray for them and their families and friends.

Folks, I’m 61 years old, and in my short life I have personally known 6 people who also took their own lives. One was a relative. In all 6 cases, I’ve wondered if I could have done something to stop it from happening, and I’m not alone in these sad feelings.

None of us can help those who have left us. But for those of us still here, please listen.

**Not one single horrible problem in the whole world** – no matter how bad it truly is – lasts forever. There will be good times. Please don’t take away your chance to enjoy them because of something horrible happening now.

In 61 years – I’ve had some of what I felt were the worst things ever happen to me. Family and friends died, divorce, bankruptcy, medical problems, “evil” people lying about me....

And some things I just won’t tell!

But I’ve had some incredibly good things mixed in as well. I married the most beautiful woman in the world. I have a daughter who makes me happy just thinking of her (I even got the unbelievable joy of baptizing her myself when she accepted Christ as her Savior! But don’t think I believe she’s perfect. She’s a teenager now....)

What I’m getting at, folks, is **ASK FOR HELP!** If you don’t feel you have anyone to ask, the USPS has an Employee Assistance Program or EAP whose phone # is **1-800-327-4968** or **1-800-EAP 4 YOU**.

It’s run by humans, so it’s not perfect. But give them a chance to help you. What is there to lose? You just might find that given a little time, things will improve.

And when it comes to the Post Office or work in general – keep smiling. It makes management wonder what you’re up to.



**Members at Local’s September 2018 Meeting**

L to R: Sonya Kirsch, Vinny Dachille, Richard Trusty, Nancy Sramek, Tiny Delay, Jená Booker, Ike Mills, Axel Ambrocio, and Barney Barnes

# Swan Song

By Sonya Kirsch, Recording Secretary

I was ready to join the Union the moment I was hired back in December 2002. I remember being disappointed that I had to wait to get through my ninety-days probation to sign up. Despite that, I wasn't discouraged and filled out my paperwork as soon as I was able.

You see, I'd been raised with strong union values and knew the value of being part of a group of people who banded together for better working conditions. I remember my Dad going on strikes and eventually winning concessions from employers. It was because of what my Dad and the people who fought with him did that I had great health and dental benefits as a kid.

So, it was natural for me to want to do my part, to be a part of something bigger than myself. And for the last 18 years, I have been involved and very much a part. I was vocal when others stayed silent, and I took it upon myself at times to bring attention to what was ignored.

But after 18 years, I've grown tired. I've remembered what I had forgotten. Being a part of a Union means there is unity, that we are a team and must work together.

When a person begins to feel like they are going-in-alone or begging others to stand up with them and lend voice, it may be time to hang up the towel.

When I began to feel that my involvement as an officer was necessary because no one else would step up to the plate that should have been a warning sign. For the majority of my postal career I've been our Local's Secretary, and I've finally realized that it is time to stop thinking that if I won't do it, no one else will. No person is that integral to any organization, and when we start thinking that, it's time to hang it up.

I've enjoyed my time as an officer and will still be an active member. But after a long, heart-felt discussion with my family, I've decided that I need to step back from officer duties.

So, October of this year will be my last month as your Local Recording Secretary, I've had a great time serving you all, and I'll still be around if you've got questions.

**Happy RETIREMENT! To Debbie Bean of Rogers. Debbie was a distribution clerk for 30+ years. Retiring Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>!**



3 (on left in pic) are part of NWAAL Delegation to Fall State Meeting, Maumelle / Sept. 14, 2018 / Ike, Barney & Richard