

June-July 2014

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Brothers and Sisters:

Well, another two months have passed since the last newsletter and the year is flying by. Before you know it, Christmas will arrive and soon after that 2015 will be here.

I guess the biggest news is the MOU on filling Residual Vacancies. We are still working with management and the bid postings to see when and how many of our PSEs are actually going to be converted. There is mixed reaction around the country of how each district is handling the MOU agreement. We have submitted information requests to obtain the results of the May 1 posting (8 residual positions) and are currently waiting on management to fill that request. I should have those by the end of this week or the first week of June. Round two of the residual jobs (6 residual jobs) from the regular May bid posting should go on the June 1st 21-day posting. We will keep pushing on management to expedite this process and keep you all informed to the best of our ability.

We still have vacant Alternate Steward Positions for Tour 3 and Tour 1, if

you would like to get more involved in the Union and help to enforce the Collective Bargaining Agreement plus provide representation for the Bargaining Unit, please contact Ike Mills or your Tour Stewards, Vinny and Jeremiah, and let them know you are interested.

We passed a resolution at the April General Membership Meeting to change the constitution concerning the salary of the Financial Secretary's position. We have asked that the salary be increased from \$75.00 to \$150.00. This resolution will be voted on at the June GMM. If you have any comments or concerns about this Constitutional change, then you must be at the June meeting to voice your concerns and place your vote on the issue. If this resolution is adopted it will become effective upon the election of the new term of officers in November of 2014.

We look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting. Who knows? Maybe you could win the \$50.00 door prize for showing up!

Yours in Solidarity, Ike Mills

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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STEWARDS – ALTERNATES

Chief Steward Ike Mills
Tour One Jeremiah Muckleroy
Tour Two Cheryl Wing
Tour Three Vinny Dachille
Maintenance Tony Crowsey

Safety Representative Nancy Sramek
Webmaster Jake Lamkins

NEXT UNION MEETINGS:

Sunday, June 22 & July 13
Jim's Razorback Pizza – 1:00 pm

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What's the GOOD news? Amazon's Idea

By Vinny Dachille, Local Vice-President

Over the last couple years we have all been hearing about how the Post Office is broke, how we need to end Saturday delivery, consolidate plants and reduce delivery standards in an effort to get back in the black even to the point of making deals with companies like Staples. Very rarely do you hear anyone in Congress, until recently, mention that the post office has to pay for health benefits of employees who aren't even born yet [the main reason the Post Office is going under].

Now they want to end Saturday delivery and take that proposed treasury savings from a postal bailout – a bailout no one is even talking about giving us – and transferring it to the highway fund in a round-about way. That would make us lose customers at an even faster rate.

Last year Amazon took us in the right direction to fix the Post Office. They introduced Sunday delivery in two major metropolitan areas: New York and Los Angeles. On June 4, 2014 they expanded this program to include Austin; Cincinnati; College Station, Texas; Columbus; Dallas; Houston; Indianapolis; Lexington, KY; Louisville; New Orleans; Oklahoma City; Philadelphia; San Antonio; Shreveport and Waco, Texas. This should draw additional revenue – not just from Amazon, but from its competitors who wish to keep pace with them. This is good news for us where generally all we hear is bad.

We get the job done despite the hardship!

by Cheryl Wing, Tour 2 Steward

Tour 2 has spent the preceding year working way too hard and too many long days to get the job done. We have taken care of the customers who have come to our windows to meet us face-to-face instead of via click and ship. We have made sure that the carriers in our respective stations have gotten what they need to do their jobs and get out of the office every day. Weather aside, most of them prefer being out on the street than in the office.

At Craft Station we have finally found some relief from the understaffing with the arrival of new PSE, Sam, and FTR, Darla from Springdale. Nobody scare them off! We would probably be breathing a little easier if this wasn't vacation time. But time-off has been earned. MPO is still short two whole positions, but we are looking for the PSE conversions to hopefully take care of that.

Like I said, we have just spent over a year understaffed due to the Postal Service not staffing for the retirees who were leaving us. But we are people who can't stand seeing our jobs go undone. I think the only thing we have sacrificed is neatness (2 have anyway; ask my Station Manager). And in some cases our health. Some local management has tried bullying us to work harder – totally oblivious to the fact we are going above and beyond every day, simply because of our character. Others in management try to work with us to make a bad situation tolerable. Some go too far as to actually do our work for us, and some clerks don't bother telling me about it – so I can file the appropriate grievances. Yes, I said "appropriate." How else do we document the hours that are ours if we don't put it in writing? The Postal Service doesn't recognize verbal declarations of facts. It barely recognizes what's in writing.

So, please keep me informed and document the alleged infractions whenever you see them.