

Razorback Scheme

American Postal Workers Union • Northwest Arkansas Area Local

May-June 2018

From the President

YOUR UNION ALREADY HAS A VEHICLE TO ADDRESS SAFETY CONCERNS by Ike Mills

The subject I have picked for this newsletter is the new *Safety Ambassador Program*. All of you need to go to the APWU website and read the posting concerning this issue. The Postal Service has once again {in its infinite wisdom} decided to violate the CBA and initiate a new safety program without any dialogue with the Union.

“The advice I have given our Local’s members is not to volunteer for this program.” – Ike

There are several concerns with the program. The advice I have given our Locals' members is not to volunteer for this program. If you're asked to volunteer and to participate in this process, tell them your Union already has a vehicle to address your safety concerns and that you have no desire to circumvent that negotiated process.

This is just one more under-handed attempt by management to circumvent the Union's sole right to bargain in good faith. They will never learn from their mistakes – no matter what it costs them. The APWU and NALC have both initiated national level disputes on this issue and do not support this program. So, stay away from it and do not volunteer for their shenanigans. Until next time, you all take care and continue the good fight.



“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”
– Robert F. Kennedy

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NEXT UNION MEETINGS:

Sunday, June 10, 2018 – 1:00 pm
 Foghorn's, 1100 48th Place, Springdale AR
 NW Arkansas Area Local – 2300 S City Lake Rd
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ATTITUDE vs. GRATITUDE

By Nancy Sramek, Safety Representative

It amazes me how much apathy there is amongst Postal Workers regarding their jobs. For some reason, many of us think the wages and benefits we have are a kind of gesture on the part of the Postal Service. The truth of the matter is – all of the wages and perks we receive are negotiated between our Union (APWU) and the Postal Service.

If you feel you don't need our Union, then maybe you should look at it as the Union needing you. We are the Union, and we need each other to stick together and remain strong. Our future with the Postal Service depends on our staying united.

So, be grateful for your job and let's all work together to keep it. If you need a change of attitude, then change it.

Whether you choose to join the Union is a choice. When you replace a bad attitude with gratitude, it automatically becomes a good one.

Take care and be safe!

There are three kinds of men. The one that learns by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence for themselves.

– Will Rogers, 1930s



UNION MEETING!
 June 10th, 2018, 1 p.m.
 Foghorn's Restaurant
 1100 48th Place, Springdale
 (Take Exit 72 off I-49, turn right to 1st signal light, turn left to Foghorn's.)
 You could win \$150 door prize!

CYA

“If any package is leaking white powder, get away from it!”

By “Barney” Barnes, Steward, Siloam Springs

Almost everyone knows the impolite meaning of “CYA” – Cover your a**! But this time I mean the politically correct version – **“Cover Your Anatomy!”** LITERALLY!

There is an illegal version of a class II scheduled drug called “Fentanyl” being sent through the mail by drug pushers that can actually KILL with one exposure to amount equal to 5-7 grains of table salt.

During spring break, a package of Fentanyl was found at a Post Office in Ohio with a full kilo of the drug – 2.2 pounds. The police said it was “enough to kill everyone in Toledo several times over.”

All you have to do with the drug is touch it or breathe it and you honestly risk a very bad death. The DEA.gov website has a book for the 1st responders that tells all the Personal Protective Equipment necessary for “safe” handling of this stuff.

But my personal advice is simple: If any package is leaking a white powder, GET AWAY FROM IT!

Let the professionals handle it. Most of us know bleach will kill nearly everything – anthrax, etc. But all it does with this is spread it around.

So, please don’t take a chance with hazardous leaking packages – CYA.

Stay safe.



“Continuous effort – not strength or intelligence – is the key to unlocking our potential.”

– Winston Churchill

YOU CAN CREATE A BETTER WORK ATMOSPHERE

– by Loren Adams, Editor –

Making fun at others' expense has now become fashionable in today's atmosphere. Bullying the "weaker" (or at least, perceived to be) is acceptable in some quarters. In a drive to put down "political correctness", some feel they're given license to mock war heroes, racial minorities, immigrants, or even the disabled and a POW suffering from brain cancer. We hear their coarse jokes and vile comments on a daily basis coming from the White House, and their mean-spiritedness is rolling downhill. Is this the "accepted norm" today?

Work partners should never feel reduced to feeling "worthless". Everyone has something to contribute. But the more co-workers are marginalized and made to feel insignificant, the worse off the overall climate and the worse off the product.

Work atmosphere does make a difference, a big difference.

I think of the 7 Dwarfs – how they worked and sang together, but how they were so different from each other. Each had his obvious weakness and strength. But together they formed a team. It sort of leveled out. Cooperation works. The opposite doesn't. No man is an island. Sure, they laughed at one another, but in good spirit. I realize "*Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs*" was just a Disney film from the 1930s, but the movie contained a whole lot of truth that still applies today.

Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these, you have done it unto me."

– Jesus Christ (from Matthew 25:40)

Try saying uplifting words about the ones you work with. Try remembering their special days – like Gini used to do. (She made the whole place brighten up.) Try avoiding put-downs and gossip behind their backs. See how that works for a pleasant change. The work atmosphere is a product of what you put into it. A smile is contagious, but so is a frown. Make your workplace the best in the nation. Say nice things about others and you'll soon see and feel the difference. It might make you want to come to work instead of dreading it.

"Everything is funny, as long as it's happening to somebody else."

– Will Rogers



"Unions are for losers who can't make it on their own. That's what Daddy always said and he started this company"