



The Badger Bulletin

The American Postal Workers Union of Wisconsin

Volume 47 No. 3

PPA Award Winner

June-July-August, 2014

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT . . . BY STEVE LORD

The 22nd Biennial APWU Of Wisconsin State Convention Is In The Books

Thank you to all of the delegates and attendees for your attendance and thoughtful consideration of all the resolutions before the convention. Thank you to all of the locals who sent delegates. I know it is increasingly difficult not only to find the funds to send representatives but also to find people willing to put in the time to go.

At the convention we decided to tweak our constitution a little by staying 100% AFL CIO State of Wisconsin affiliated but, only on career employees. This will give a small amount of relief to locals with a large amount of PSEs who pay about half the dues of career employees. I feel it is extremely important to stay affiliated because we need all the help we can get from our brothers and sisters in the labor movement in our fight against those who would like to see the USPS and other unionized federal jobs privatized.

Opening postal stores in Staples stores is just another step in that direction. I will be asking fellow affiliates in the Wisconsin AFL CIO to join us in letting Staples know that we will get as many people as we can to boycott their stores. Also at the convention a resolution was passed to begin a small office initiative that will authorize funds to be spent to request information from small offices pertaining to how much bargaining unit work is being performed by postmasters and to file the appropriate grievances. If successful we could bring back a lot of work to clerks in small offices where postmasters have been blatantly disregarding the CBA.

At the Convention I stated that it was my hope that a retired ex-president or steward might want to take a temporary position with the APWU of Wisconsin to spearhead this initiative in cooperation with the MAL Representatives. A resolution passed to create a National Business Agent Position for the Support Services Division of the APWU. This resolution now will be forwarded to the APWU National

Convention in Chicago where I am sure it will generate much debate.

All of the current state officers ran for reelection but faced no opposition and were elected by white ballot. I want to thank the delegates for keeping me as President of the APWU of Wisconsin. I will continue to do the best I can representing you. After this term I will have served 10 years as President. I can't say exactly when but, the time will come sooner than later that you will need a new President. Every President should know that part of their job is to leave their

"Knowledge is power so instead of letting these ads turn us off let's use them to double our efforts to get out the vote of our families, friends, and coworkers."

job in good hands when they go. I will try and do the same. Just something to think about.

Lastly, the convention voted to endorse Mary Burke for Governor of Wisconsin. As Governor Mary Burke will bring good paying jobs back to Wisconsin without having to harm the environment. Mary Burke believes Wisconsinites deserve a better future for our children through better education, better leadership, and a better economy. She will work to restore collective bargaining to state employees. We cannot and should not have to endure another four years of Scott Walker and his empty job promises.

Wisconsin is 9th out of 10 Midwestern states in economic recovery. Scott Walker wants to use another term as Governor as a spring board to run for President in 2016. If that would ever happen believe me he would do to federal workers exactly what he did to Wisconsin's state employees. Our good paying jobs and collective bargaining would be gone. Republicans are hoping they can tell the lie that our

economy is recovering enough times that you will begin to believe it.

I read somewhere that some people think the recovery is happening but it just hasn't gotten to them yet. They should wise up! If you are a middle class working person it ain't gonna happen! Not with Scott Walker as Governor and republicans in control of the statehouse. They have to be worried that the most recent poll had the Governor's race at a dead heat 47-47. The surprising thing is that the poll was taken after a right wing group spent 1.5 million dollars on negative ads against Mary Burke. I think Scott Walker will have a hard time getting past the numbers he is at right now. So his only option is to run as many negative ads as possible. Sometimes these ads are not designed to change people's minds but to get people so disgusted with the process that they don't vote. So

expect a ton of negative ads especially in the weeks leading up to the elections. Knowledge is power so instead of letting these ads turn us off let's use them to double our efforts to get out the vote of our families, friends, and coworkers.

APWU of Wisconsin Fall Seminar

In an attempt to get as much participation at the Fall Seminar I recently sent out an e mail requesting your input on which days of the week you would prefer the seminar in Oshkosh to be held. It appears that Thursday and Friday was the choice. Therefore the Fall Seminar will be held on September 25-26. I will now ask for your input on what classes you would like to be taught at the seminar. Please think about it and respond so we can make the seminar a success. The way I figure it the more input you have and the more the seminar is tailored to your liking the more members you will send to it. Let's work together to make this seminar one you were glad you and your members attended.

Postmaster General Hides Winning Streak

by David Yao

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe claimed in a May 9 press release that the Postal Service had its "third straight quarter of revenue increase." Actually, the Postal Service has been reporting revenue increases for five straight quarters.

Why is Donahoe minimizing the winning streak? Perhaps someone in Postal HQ's statistics department was snoozing that day. But there is a more disturbing explanation.

Over the last few years, faced with falling revenue, postal management has closed post offices, slashed rural office hours, sold historic buildings, cut jobs, and consolidated processing plants.

More recently however, postal finances have improved. Cash on hand increased from \$2.3 billion to \$3.7 billion over the last two quarters.

Excuse for Austerity

Despite that, Donahoe has continued his campaign to impose austerity on the public (pushing to end door-to-door delivery, for example), and on employees (efforts to privatize its trucking arm and shift retail work to Staples). His ally in Congress, Representative Darrell Issa — the postal Voldemort — is pushing for a drastic overhaul.

Their biggest weapon has been the persistent "we're losing billions" message —

drumming into the public and employees that there is no use in resisting.

Donahoe is apparently marching to the tune of big mailers, companies that send out a lot of advertising or presort mail at bargain-basement wages to take advantage of bulk mail rates. They don't go to small towns to mail letters — or to ordinary post offices, for that matter. They want a streamlined network of postal facilities without the costs imposed by the mandate for prompt, universal service.

In fact, postal reform is needed, but not the slash-and-burn kind. Expanding postal banking, beyond money orders, could provide valuable financial services to underserved areas and populations, as well

as generate substantial revenue, according to a January report by the Postal Service's Inspector General. Germany, Israel, and South Korea already do it. In fact, postal banking services were offered in the U.S. from 1911 to 1964 as a trusted alternative to banks.

Fanciful Debt

Why are phony losses reported in postal press releases and parroted by the media, despite the reality of rising revenue and operating profits? Congress is to blame, through a 2006 law that required the Postal Service to pump \$5.5 billion a year for ten years into a federal treasury account, os-

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THE UNION NEWSPAPER IS THE MOST VISIBLE SIGN OF LIFE IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT



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The APWU of Wisconsin publishes this newsletter as a means of communicating with our members. The union encourages letters to the editor; letters must be signed but name will be withheld upon request. All opinions expressed are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of the state organization or its officers.

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BY JACQUE CHILDS, SECRETARY

APWU Of WI Auxiliary Update

The Auxiliary to the State of Wisconsin APWU is made up of those who volunteer to share a commitment to help all the APWU members. This year at the APWU State Convention the Auxiliary helped with registration, COPA fundraising, and of course, hospitality.

Appleton was the perfect host and the many vendors gave out valuable information for both delegates and their members at home. Though fewer in numbers each time, locals and delegates donated many items for the bag raffle and the auction with everything dedicated to raising money for COPA. The

grand total raised was \$3317.26. (You might be wondering about the change, it was found on the floor so it was thrown into the kitty.) The Auxiliary also held the Auxiliary State Convention, elected new officers, voted in a constitutional change, and discussed directions, goals for the next two years. Human relations and COPA fundraising will be the main focus for the State Auxiliary. We invite you to join our efforts.

The APWU is in an extreme battle to save the jobs and livelihood of all the workers of the U.S.P.S. and to be a service to the American public. Big corporations are fighting for

privatization by donating huge amounts of money to support not so friendly politicians to workers and middle class families. COPA is a way to help the politicians that will vote to save the Postal Service.

Another way to help is to join the auxiliary. Contact Treasurer Diane Green with your name, address, telephone number, email address, \$10.00 and you are a member. Send to: Diane J. Green, 2547 S 92nd St., West Allis, WI 53227-2311 or call phone 414-321-9670. If you are already and member, please renew your membership the same way.

APWU Of Wisconsin Adopts Resolution To Endorse The Candidacy Of Mary Burke For Governor Of Wisconsin

The American Postal Workers Union of Wisconsin held their State Convention in Appleton recently. While attending the Convention, delegates from throughout the State of Wisconsin representing their members voted on numerous resolutions during the business sessions.

The vote to adopt the following resolution was passed unanimously.

- **Whereas:** Wisconsin's economic recovery is stagnant compared to neighboring states and the national average and,
- **Whereas:** Mary Burke will seek to create good paying jobs in Wisconsin that don't come at a cost to the environment and,
- **Whereas:** Mary Burke will work to restore collective bar-

gaining to state workers and,

• **Whereas:** Mary Burke believes Wisconsinites deserve better. A better economy, a better future for our children through a quality education, and better leadership,

Therefore Be it Resolved: That the 2014 APWU of Wisconsin Convention endorses the candidacy of Mary Burke for Governor of Wisconsin.



Candidate for Wisconsin Governor Mary Burke

Trumka Applauds Defeat Of Anti-Worker Legislation In Missouri

by Kenneth Quinnell

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka issued the following statement after several anti-worker bills were defeated in the Missouri legislature:

Defeating the attempt in Missouri to enact so-called 'Right-to-Work' and paycheck deception legislation sends a strong signal that working people will stand together to prevail over outrageous attacks on their rights. This victory is a testament to common-sense bipartisanship and a direct blow to corpo-

rate interests whose goal is literally to hurt working people. Along with our allies, we'll continue to build upon our successes and move forward to create better opportunities for all workers.

Missouri reminds us that big corporations and extreme ideologues are relentlessly focusing their money and resources against the interests of workers, and only by fighting back together can we ensure a better life for all Americans.

Source: *AFL-CIO Now*



Richard Trumka

Postmaster General Hides Winning Streak

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tensibly to pre-fund future retiree benefits.

Plumping up the federal budget was the motivator, not future retirees' needs. In fact, for the past several years no actual money has changed hands — the Postal Service, unable to pay, has defaulted on this debt. But guess what? It still counts as an asset in the federal budget . . . and a debt in the postal budget.

And this artificial debt is being used as a battering ram to fool the public into

thinking service cuts are necessary, when they really aren't. David C. Yao is vice president of the Greater Seattle Area Local, American Postal Workers Union, a member of the Labor Notes Policy Committee, and a founding member of Communities and Postal Workers United. - See more at: <http://labornotes.org/blogs/2014/05/postmaster-general-hides-winning-streak#sthash.6Lo2corH.dpuf>

—Source: *LaborNotes*

The Next
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September 8,
2014

LEGISLATIVELY SPEAKING . . . BY JEFF WORDEN, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Wisconsin State Convention 2014

STATE CONVENTION

The 22nd Biennial Wisconsin State Convention was held from April 24 through April 26, 2014 in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Many APWU national officers spoke to the delegation. They spoke about the recent APWU National Elections and stated that the membership spoke its mind and we must now "work as a one" (one whole union). The issues facing the APWU (as well as the other postal unions) are serious and we need to attack them with a unified front!

The four (4) postal unions have formed a "Historic Alliance". The APWU (American Postal Worker Union), the NALC (National Association of Letter Carriers), the NPMHU (National Postal Mail Handlers Union) and the (Rural Letter Carriers Association).

APWU President Mark Dimondstein pointed out *"there will always be (of course) some differences. Jurisdictional disputes, etc . . . will remain but, the key is to rally around our common interest and join a common fight on behalf of all postal workers and our communities"*.

On April 24, 2014, APWU members, families and friends held rallies across the country in what was called the National Day of Action against Staples. The Protest's were held in 56 locations located in 27 states.

Because this "Day of Action" occurred during the APWU Wisconsin State Convention, the delegates were given poster/yard signs and pre-printed letters to take back to their local (s). If any member or retiree would like a copy of the "letter of protest" to staples (these contain an address list of ALL STAPLES stores in Wisconsin) just give me a CALL at (414)

530-7186 or e-mail at www.jwordenapwu@yahoo.com.

BOYCOTT STAPLES

Thirty (30) members of the US House of Representatives from California called on Postmaster Pat Donahoe to reject the STAPLES pilot program. The Federation of Teachers

labor friendly but is also middle class friendly!

Under the austerity measures of Governor (Scott Walker), Wisconsin is 48th in **new business starts** and is **creating jobs at just half the national rate**. It wasn't long ago that Scott Walker was trying to **destroy/dismantle the Teachers/Public Worker Unions here in Wisconsin**. It's now time to give Scott Walker his "Walking Papers"!

If anyone would like a copy of the *"Invest for Success" (Talking Points for Mary Burke for Governor)* literature, give me a call at 414-530-7186.

"The APWU message to STAPLES is simple – THE US MAIL IS NOT FOR SALE."

even went so far as to "BOYCOTT STAPLES". (**Way-to-go Federation of Teachers!**)

It is obvious the intent of the "USPS Privateers" is to direct postal business to STAPLES in order to reduce the costs of labor and dismantle the postal service. The APWU message to STAPLES is simple – **THE US MAIL IS NOT FOR SALE**.

On 5/7/14, the consideration of a new postal bill (which was sponsored by D. Issa, R-CA) was **postponed indefinitely**. The bill would close post offices, implement 5-day delivery, and go from a "High 3 to a High 5" for retirement, etc . . .

MARY BURKE FOR GOVERNOR

The convention delegates voted UNANIMOUSLY to endorse Democrat **MARY BURKE** for **Governor of Wisconsin**. Mary Burke took sales at TREK Bicycle Company from \$3-million to \$50 million annually! She was instrumental in creating good paying jobs and benefits **RIGHT HERE IN WISCONSIN**. Mary Burke is not only

NOVEMBER ELECTION

The Wisconsin AFL-CIO is going to give me a list of all of the "Mid-Term" election candidates who are endorsed by the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO. When I receive this list I will place it in the *Badger Bulletin*.

THANK YOU

In closing, I want to thank the Appleton, WI. Area Local for the excellent job they did in hosting this convention. I would also like to thank the APWU Auxiliary for all of their hard work. It was really appreciated! I would like to congratulate all the officers of the WI State Executive Board on being re-elected to their respective positions.

Green Bay was voted unanimously as the site for the 2016 APWU Wisconsin State Convention. A total of \$3317.00 was collected for COPA at this event. Thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets and items at the auction. Hope everyone has a safe and fun summer. Take Care.

Chairman Issa's Latest Scheme

Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has not been able to garner support for his extreme and anti-worker postal reform bill, H.R. 2748. As such, he has adopted a new strategy. He is now attempting to move his dangerous postal reforms piece by piece.

Issa's first move in this strategy was to hold a hearing on April 8th with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the subject of the Obama Administration's proposed budget. Since 2011, the Administration's budget has included provisions damaging to postal workers like permission to go to 5-day delivery, cluster boxes and amortized prefunding of retiree healthcare for 40 years.

During the April 8th hearing, labor allies including Ranking Member Cummings (D-MD), Rep. Lynch (D-MA), Rep. Connolly (D-VA), Rep. Welch (D-VT) and Rep. Duckworth (D-IL) came to the defense of the American people and postal workers, derailing Issa's attempt to paint the disastrous items in the Administration's budget as bipartisan. Further, the OMB Deputy Director admitted under questioning that the OMB did not fact check the USPS's bogus claims of savings, relied on misleading accounting methods, and failed to consult the Postal Regulatory Commission to evaluate USPS's numbers.

Undeterred, Issa scheduled a May 7th markup of a draft bill he titled The Administration's Postal Reform Bill of 2014. In this draft were all the terrible items in the Administration's budget plus mandatory

cluster boxes and mandatory 5-day delivery among other tweaks. Unfortunately for Issa, his markup was postponed due to lack of support, as Democrats on the committee wanted no part of his bill.

Now, Issa is at it again! On the morning

of May 21st, the full committee will mark up a "door-to-door delivery bill" currently being drafted by Issa's staff. This bill will likely mirror provisions in Issa's H.R. 2478 with some changes. On May 22nd, the postal subcommittee will hold a hearing on innova-

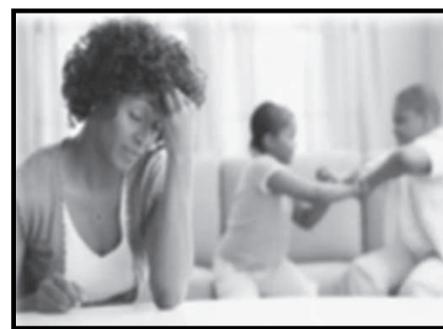
tive technologies. Witnesses include: USPS, Stamps.com, Outbox and Impact Systems.

The APWU will continue to monitor these hearings as well as any other developments. Please look forward for further updates. Source: APWU Website

Stress – Less

Got Stress? If you answered Yes! You are not alone. Many adults are juggling daily challenges that overwhelm and lead to stress. We all experience varying levels of pressure based on triggers encountered in our day-to-day routines. Whether battling the trials of work, finance, home life or unexpected hardship; the tension, anxiety and worry we confront are all categorized as stress. When the body responds to stress your heart rate, breathing and body temperature go through changes. If you are constantly stressed the effects become more intense and harmful to your overall wellness. Many people experience headaches, stomachaches, fatigue and insomnia. Chronic stress can weaken the immune system, lead to depression and cause existing health problems to become worse. Living a healthy happy life means finding creative ways to reduce stress.

The first step to controlling stress is identifying the source. Once you understand the root then you can effectively



manage those triggers. The goal is to reduce stress and live a longer, healthier happier life.

Incorporate these 9 Proven Techniques and Go Stress-Less

- Practice Time Management – Don't overbook your day! Prioritize, plan and give yourself enough lead-time.

- Rest Away Stress – Schedule at least 7 hours of sleep every night and incorporate short naps to rejuvenate.

- Incorporate Meditation and Spirituality-Take time to unplug, reflect and relax.

- Let the Sunshine In – Vitamin D in sunlight has been linked to improvement of mood and increased energy.

- Build a Support System – Talking through problems with loved ones and spending quality time with family and friends can melt away stress.

- Share Responsibility – Delegating task and sharing responsibility will lighten your load.

- Eat Stress Free -Eating foods that contain Vitamin C will help to level stress hormones.

- Activate – Exercise boosts blood circulation and releases feel good chemicals into the system.

- Think Positive – Eliminate worry and incorporate optimistic coping skills.

Source: *APWU Health Plan*

— Traumatic Injury —

by Bob Wood

In this article I hope to clarify (1) of the (2) types of the most common Injuries that you may incur on the Job. A Traumatic Injury is the first, and the Occupational Disease is the other.

“TRAUMATIC INJURY” A Traumatic Injury is defined as a wound or other condition caused by external forces including physical stress and strain. The injury should be identifiable as to time and place of occurrence and member(s) or function of body part affected. Further, it must be caused by a specific event or incident or series of events or incidents within a single work shift.

To report a traumatic injury the employee or someone acting on his or her behalf must file a Form CA-1, Notice of Traumatic injury.

An employee is entitled to receive Continuation of Pay, or COP, for up to 45 calendars days on account of wages loss due to disability and/ or medical treatment after a Traumatic injury. This will be paid provided you check the box indicating your preference to receive COP on the CA-1. The intent of this provision is to avoid interruption of pay while the case is being adjudicated. COP is not considered compensation and is therefore subject to all regular deductions. Once entitlement to COP ends, you must then apply for compensation by completing Form CA-7 or use leave.

The Postal Service does have the right to object to paying COP which is called a

controversion of your claim. The supervisor may controvert a claim by completing the indicated portion of Form CA-1 and by submitting detailed supporting information to OWCP. Even though a claim is controverted, the Postal Service must continue your pay unless at least one of the following conditions applies:

- 1) The disability is a result of an occupational disease or illness
- 2) The employee comes within the exclusions of 5 U.S.C. 8101 (1) (B) OR (E) (which refer to persons serving without pay or nominal pay, and to persons appointed to the staff of a former President.
- 3) The employee is neither a citizen nor a resident of the United States, Canada, or the territory under the administration of the Panama Canal Commission (i.e., a foreign national employed outside these areas);
- 4) The injury occurred off the employing agency’s premises and the and the employee was not engaged in official “off premises” duties;
- 5) The employee caused the injury by his or her willful misconduct, or the employee intended to bring about his or her injury or death or that of another person; or the employee’s intoxication was the proximate cause of the injury;
- 6) The injury was not reported on a form approved by OWCP (usually Form CA-1) within (30) thirty days of the injury;
- 7) Work stoppage first occurred more than

(45) forty-five days after the injury;

8) The employee first reported the injury after employment was terminated;

9) The employee is enrolled in the Civil Air Patrol, Peace Corps, Job Corps, Youth Conservation Corps work study program, or other group covered by special legislation.

I would like to recommend that you keep this article handy. You may not need it today,

but it may be useful to you in the future. With automation on the rise, so are injuries in the workplace.

If you have an injury at work or feel a condition may be work related do not hesitate to contact your union steward or the union office. We will assist you with the proper procedures.

Source: *The Hi-Lites*

Consumer Prices Rise In April

On May 15, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/cpi or 202-691-6994) reported that the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) rose to 233.443 in April, an increase of 0.38 percent from March. With five months remaining in the measurement year, the April index is 1.35 percent higher than the 2013 third-quarter average index (230.327). The 2013 third-quarter average is the reference figure for determining the 2015 cost-of-living

adjustment (COLA). For Federal Employees’ Compensation Act (FECA) beneficiaries, the first four months of the calendar year have seen a 1.86 percent increase from the December 2013 index (229.174). COLAs for FECA beneficiaries are determined by each calendar year’s percentage change in the CPI. May consumer price indices will be released on June 17. More information is available to NARFE members on our website.

Source: *NARFE Legislative Hotline*

— ON THE LIGHTER SIDE —

Jack Daniels Fishing Story

I went fishing this morning, but after a short time I ran out of worms.

Then I saw a cottonmouth with a frog in its mouth.

Frogs are good bass bait.

Knowing the snake couldn’t bite me with the frog in its mouth, I grabbed it right behind the head, took the frog, and put it in my bait bucket.

Now the dilemma was how to release the snake without getting bit. So, I grabbed my bottle of Jack Daniels and poured a little whiskey in its mouth. Its eyes rolled back, and it went limp.

I released the snake into the lake without incident and carried on fishing, using the frog.

Not long after, I felt a nudge on my foot. It was that damn snake . . . with two more frogs.

Life is good.



*I pledge allegiance
to the flag of the
United States of America
and to the Republic for
which it stands, one nation
under God, indivisible, with
Liberty and Justice*



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