



The Badger Bulletin

The American Postal Workers Union of Wisconsin

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PPA Award Winner

January-February-March, 2014

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT . . . BY STEVE LORD

It's Time For All Postal Workers To Get Involved

Hi Everyone, I am almost embarrassed when I look back at my first *Badger Bulletin* article of 2013. I said that 2013 should be the year of postal reform. I said this because I mistakenly thought that Congress would be forced to do something about the US Postal Service because it couldn't survive another year on the path it was going down. But here we are a year later with the do nothing US Congress letting us hang by an ever thinning micro thread because of the financial crisis they have put us in and are responsible for. They have shown their willingness to let this country go to the brink of financial disaster so why would they care anymore for the USPS.

The Republicans in Congress can accomplish their goal of getting rid of the USPS by doing nothing and letting the US Postal Service whether you believe they are forced or not consolidate mail processing and cut service back so drastically that the public no longer has a favorable view of the USPS. After all that is what the anti-union, pro- privatization, anti-government forces have working against them is the fact the American people like the USPS.

You would think that facing that dilemma the Republicans would have to take drastic action to ruin the faith of the American people in the USPS. In fact, they laid the foundation for the USPS' demise in 2006. All they have to do now is sit back and watch the USPS disintegrate. Who would have thought that the Postmaster General and his cohorts would be so cooperative in the demise of the USPS?

So if high level postal management won't do anything and Congress won't do anything what can we do? We can reinvigorate ourselves and make 2014 the year we stopped waiting for someone to do something to help us. We must double our

efforts in raising COPA money to fund those in Congress who help us. We must work hard in this election year to throw out those who are willing to let this country's workers quality of life diminish every year because of stagnant wages.

We must get rid of those who for the sake of corporate

all American workers. We have had APWU members from Wisconsin go on "Release Staff" to work on elections in the past but we need more members willing to do it.

I told Liz Powell I was going to continue sending her the names of Wisconsin members willing to go on release until she tells me to stop. To do this I need the cooperation of local presidents and officers. You need to send me names of members who might consider working for the national during the upcoming campaign. All I need are names. I will contact the members and explain to them what the job entails. In this effort we will work side by side with members of other unions.

This action has the side benefit of learning each other's goals and gaining allies in our efforts to save our jobs. We need to go back to the days when our Congressman cared more about the Wisconsin workers they represent than making Wisconsin and this country one of haves and have nots. They need to work for us and not be bought and paid for by billionaires. We need to step up. You need to send me names.

This issue contains our call to convention. Believe it or not but this will be the last convention before our latest bargaining agreement expires. Now is the time to propose the changes you would

like to see to our CBA. The resolutions that get passed at our convention will go on to the APWU National Convention in July to be considered for adoption and used as a basis for bargaining items at negotiations. Also, if you remember at our last convention we agreed to discuss whether we should return Wisconsin State AFL-CIO per Capita to the discretion of locals. Please think about resolutions you would like to see passed and send them in a timely fashion. See you in Appleton.



greed are willing to let the health of the American people and the education of our children suffer like it hasn't in many many years. The only postal reform we may get is by the ballot box.

At the recent APWU Craft Conferences Secretary Treasurer Liz Powell and Political and Legislative Director John Marcotte made the commitment to put APWU members on the national payroll to work to elect candidates to Congress who will protect the interests of not only postal workers but

2013 IN REVIEW:

Aiming Higher, Labor Tries New Angles And Alliances

Lean meanness stalked workplaces. The political and economic outlook continued dismal. But the year was marked by workers trying new things and setting higher standards, for their employers, their unions, and — in the case of low-wage workers — their pay.

Unemployment ticked down slightly, but the jobs created paid worse than ever. Mainstream media reported with amazement that jobs that once paid the bills, from bank teller to university instructor, now require food stamps and Medicaid to supplement the wages of those who work every day.

California Walmart worker Anthony Goytia spoke for many when he said it's no longer paycheck to paycheck for him and his co-workers,

but payday loan to payday loan.

When long-awaited provisions of Obamacare kicked in, the promise of covering the uninsured was blighted by perverse incentives for employers to cut hours. Businesses that didn't want to give insurance cried crocodile tears, so Obama delayed their fines by a year. But when unions objected that the new law unfairly undermined their multi-employer funds, the administration stonewalled.

DIRECT TO VOTERS

As layers of corporate cash further insulated politicians from people's needs, unions and worker groups had some success putting questions to voters directly. In New Jersey they

overruled the governor's veto and put a higher state minimum wage into their constitution, while Minnesotans raised income taxes on the well-to-do.

Transportation and hospitality workers at Seattle-Tacoma airport and the surrounding town voted in a \$15 minimum, paid sick leave, and the ability to sue if hotels steal tips from banquet workers. In Seattle, socialist Kshama Sawant won a city council seat and shamed the two mayoral candidates into supporting a \$15 city minimum.

Minimum wage ballot questions are expected in 2014 in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Massachusetts, where nurses are also running

an initiative for safe staffing ratios.

Ohio unions ran independent candidates — after municipal officials tore up an agreement on city contracts and personally scabbed on a Teamster sanitation strike. The labor independents won two dozen city council seats in Lorain and three nearby towns.

With their voting rights under attack, North Carolinians mobilized against an anti-worker (and anti-woman, anti-civil rights) legislative assault by bringing thousands of protesters to the state capitol every week for "Moral Mondays," with close to a thousand arrests.

Immigration rights activists mobilized locally all year, including brave human blockades

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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.

The *Badger Bulletin* is a proud member of the APWU Postal Press Association. The *Badger Bulletin* is printed five (5) times per year. Articles not credited are those of the editor.

BY LUCY HAUSER, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RELATIONS, ORGANIZATION & EDUCATION

OWCP Claim Numbers

I have been questioned several times lately about claim numbers from OWCP. If you have submitted a CA-1 for a traumatic injury or a CA-2 for an occupational illness, you will not receive a claim number in the mail from OWCP. In order to “protect your privacy” the claim number is mailed to Postal management.

Providers may request your claim number prior to scheduling any therapy or surgery or even prescribing medication.

Have your supervisor or Postmaster call your District Human Resources. They will be able to provide your claim number.

2013 IN REVIEW:

Aiming Higher, Labor Tries New Angles And Alliances

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against deportations, most recently in Los Angeles, D.C., and New Jersey. But none of this was enough to get a bill through the House — not even the Senate’s compromise, with its poison pill of more indentured guestworkers.

The mother of all secret deals, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, is still under negotiation. TPP would gut nations’ rights to pass legislation limiting corporate predators. But the sheer outrageousness of TPP’s reach, along with the secrecy around it, generated grassroots opposition, including from a few unions. Congress looked likely to vote on a “fast-track” for TPP in January.

NEW METHODS

Unions tried new angles on organizing — some promising, others vaguer.

Some attempted city-wide organizing: in Pittsburgh with a “community union”; in Boston with a multi-campus organizing drive by college adjuncts; and in the Twin Cities, where joint actions knitted together struggles against banks and employers.

Anti-eviction campaigns were bolstered by union support in Minneapolis, Portland, Detroit, and Boston — including by home-based childcare providers, fighting off both eviction and the job loss that would come with it.

Emboldened by the Chicago Teachers’ 2012 strike, teachers rose up against the corporate reform agenda. Seattle teachers refused to give yet another standardized test. Los Angeles teachers fought the promise of iPads for every

student, a wedge to bring in more tests and corporate curricula.

Newark teachers elected a slate to fight two-tier and merit pay. Chicago teachers continued to anchor a widening movement against school closings, driving Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s poll numbers down to only 2 percent “strongly approving.”

Labor-community coalitions sometimes won the day. One Brooklyn hospital sits on land coveted by high-end condo developers — a constituency used to getting its way. But rather than give a résumé workshop, the New York State Nurses picketed with the surrounding community and refused to give up even after the bosses re-routed patients . . . So far they’ve saved the hospital.

Among the fuzziest new directions were the AFL-CIO’s enthusiastic but amorphous outreach to community groups and the UAW’s bid to get Volkswagen to allow organizing at a Tennessee plant — in order to install a German-style “works council” for union-management cooperation. Where’s that leading? \$15:

DEMAND OF THE YEAR

The same question came to mind as fast food workers walked out of restaurants — and briefly occupied some — in hundreds of cities in December, in a Service Employees-funded effort. A year of protests and strikes demanding “\$15 and a union” have made low wages an issue politicians are finally scrambling to address, or at least explain away.

While the demand for \$15 has made a small

dent, the demand for a union seems as far off as ever. Between small shops, large turnover, and hostile labor law, signing a contract with McDonald’s or Pizza Hut sounds farfetched.

But fast food workers have been winning small victories: getting workers rehired after retaliatory firings, winning air conditioning in unbearably hot kitchens. In Chicago, Whole Foods workers securing a day off for Thanksgiving by holding “Strikesgiving” on the busiest grocery shopping day of the year. The good old-fashioned strike also worked in Hialeah Gardens, Florida, where Walmart workers unassociated with recent organizing walked out to protest low hours and a tyrannical supervisor. With most of the shift out, management caved to their demands.

ASKING MORE

While retail workers struggled for more hours, others from nurses to postal and UPS workers protested as employers crammed more into those hours.

Auto workers, forced onto an Alternative Work Schedule that obliterates weekends and evades overtime pay, demanded their union fight the schedule. They got no satisfaction, but demanding a higher standard from union officials seemed to be in fashion.

When Machinists union higher-ups, following secret negotiations, pushed surprise mid-contract concessions on 31,000 Boeing workers, the membership tore up the ransom note and said no, two to one. Boeing had threatened to take its new 777X plane out of Washington State if workers didn’t cave. Now a slate is challenging the Machinists’ national leadership.

And a reform slate took over the 200,000-member American Postal Workers Union, promising transparency in negotiations, a strong 2015 contract fight, cooperation with the other three postal unions, and outreach to customers to save USPS from privatization.

Nobody would say the U.S. labor movement is doing well — we’re down to 11.3 percent and concessions are still rampant. But the alarming slide in living standards, while politicians assure us the economy has recovered, has stirred union members, and brought out voters, to demand better.

— Source: LABOR NOTES/Jenny Brown

— THE LIGHTER SIDE —

The Lawyer And The Farmer

Settlement . . . Lawyer and the three kick rule

An Atlanta lawyer went duck hunting in rural Tennessee. He shot and dropped a bird, but it fell into a farmer’s field on the other side of a fence. As the lawyer climbed over the fence, an elderly farmer drove up on his tractor and asked him what he was doing.

The litigator responded, “I shot a duck and it fell in this field, and now I’m going in to retrieve it.” The old farmer replied, “This is my property, and you are not coming over here.”

The indignant lawyer said, “I am one of the best trial attorneys in Georgia and, if you don’t let me get that duck, I’ll sue you and take everything you own.”

The old farmer smiled and said, “Apparently, you don’t know how we do things in Tennessee. We settle small disagreements like this with the Tennessee Three-Kick Rule.” The lawyer asked, “What is the Tennessee Three-Kick Rule?” The Farmer replied, “Well, first I kick you three times and then you kick me three times, and so on, back and forth, until someone gives up.”

The big-city attorney quickly thought about the proposed contest and decided that he could easily take the old codger. He agreed to abide by the local custom.

The old farmer slowly climbed down from the tractor and walked up to the city feller. His first kick to the shin had the lawyer hopping around on one foot when suddenly the farmer planted the toe of his heavy work boot into the lawyer’s groin and dropped him to his knees. The barrister was flat on his belly when the farmer’s third kick to a kidney nearly caused him to pass out. The lawyer summoned every bit of his will and managed to get to his feet and said, “Okay, you old coot now it’s my turn.”

The old farmer smiled and said, “Naw, I give up. You can have the duck.”

The Next
Badger Bulletin
Due Date is
Monday,
March 21, 2014

LEGISLATIVELY SPEAKING . . . BY JEFF WORDEN, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

2014 Will Be The Year Of The Pen

The Chinese calendar symbol for 2014 states that this will be the year of the horse, but, for pretty much of all working class Americans it will definitely be the year of the pen! That's right, this will be the year in which all Postal Workers, (union members or not) are going to have to **"GET POLITICALLY ACTIVE!"** With UPS and FED EX trying their best to "Privatize / Break up" the United States Postal Service we **MUST ALL** contact our elected officials!

The APWU is still in favor of House Bill HR: 630 and Senate Bill S: 316. The Postal Service Protection Act, this is intended to address key issues that **adequate** postal legislation cannot do without. These Bills would end;

- The unsustainable pre-funding mandate that forces the USPS to pay 75 years of retiree health care benefits in a **ten year** period. (A burden no other agency, company or corporation is forced to do!)
- Allow the USPS to **RECOVER** those overpayments
- Protect six day delivery and more!

The APWU is in **FAVOR** of House Bill HR: 961. The USPS Stabilization Act, which would provide a new formula for the calculation of employee pension contributions by using **postal specific** data. Also, it would provide for the use of excess FERS contributions to pay USPS debt obligations and to make pension contributions.

The APWU **OPPOSES** Bill HR: 2748 (which was introduced by the "great union hater" Senator Darryl Issa (R-CA); if passed this bill would;

- Prohibit postal unions and management from negotiating protection from layoffs.
- Increase health insurance cost for employees.

- Reduce compensation for injured workers and even force them to retiree.
- Close post offices, stations and branches.
- Reduce door delivery and help to end Saturday mail delivery.

- Stop mail delivery to your door.
- On December 30th APWU National President Mark Dimondstein was on the Ed Shultz radio show. President Dimondstein spoke on the fact that UPS and FED EX could NOT

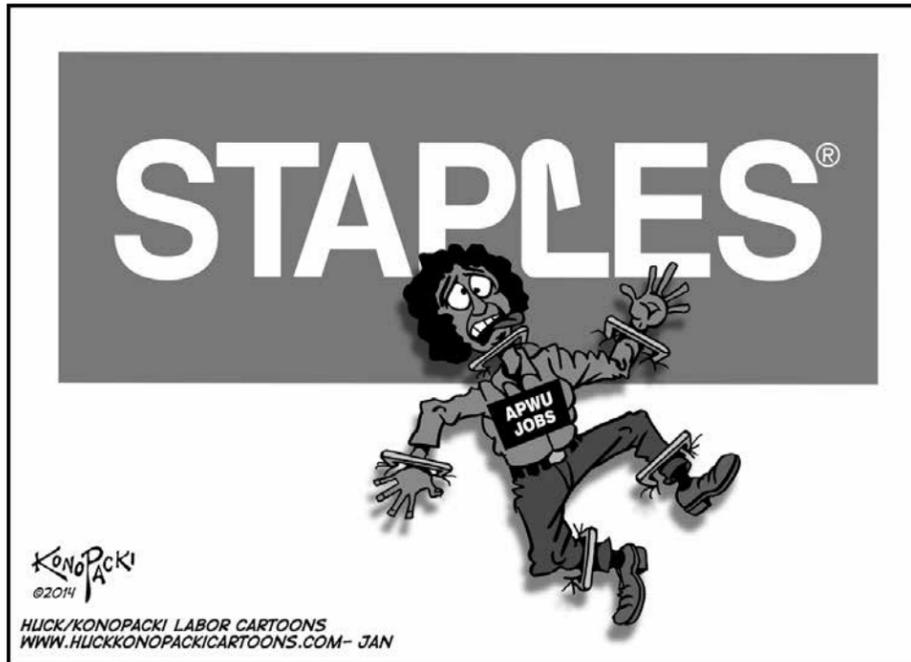
The GREAT POSTAL GIVEAWAY: This is what the "great privateers" want to see happen. I'm talking about how the "STAPLES" stores and the USPS (at headquarters level) are performing a "Pilot" Program (right now) to put Postal Retail Units at more than 80 STAPLES Stores throughout the states of; California, Georgia, Massachusetts & Pennsylvania.

Those retail units would be staffed with; Non-Postal, Non Union, low wage jobs held by workers who have no accountability for the security and safety of the mail.

This reminds me of back in 1989 when SEARS had postal retail units placed in their stores. The APWU lead that fight, as members, their families, friends and the general public started **"cutting-up/shredding" their SEARS credit cards** and mailed them with nasty letters to the CEO of SEARS. SEARS finally came to their senses and stopped ALL Postal Retail operations at SEARS Stores.

"The Staples pilot is a huge step towards privatizing retail services", President Dimondstein said. "If we don't draw a line in the sand, mail processing and other operations will soon follow."

Let's ALL make 2014 the year of the "PEN" and call, write and/or e-mail your elected officials. To help make it a little easier just go to; www.apwu.org, then go to the heading that states; Departments and Divisions. Click on that which will bring you to "Legislative and Political, then click on that, then on the left side you will see the words "Contact your Legislators. Remember that the CEO's of Fed Ex and UPS will have NO problem contacting their elected officials to privatize the post office. Let's stop 'em now! Let's ALL take the time to write. Take Care.



- Impose a 2-3 day delivery as standard for 1st class mail.

This bill is pretty much the "Service Destroying Union Busting bill".

The APWU also **OPPOSES** Bill S-1486 which was introduced by Carper and Colburn.

This legislation is **fatally flawed**. If passed it would;

- End Saturday delivery.
- Close post offices.
- Stop overnight mail delivery

keep up with deliveries to customers' homes in time for Christmas. Many customers as well as businesses were very upset with the **FAILURE OF UPS AND FED EX** to deliver packages in time for Christmas.

The corporations want the private sector to do it all and this is where it leads to **higher prices and less service!**

The postal service is able to provide better service less expensively because it belongs to the people and operates on a non-profit basis, Dimondstein said.

House Republicans Draining At Least \$600 Million A Week From The Economy

At the end of 2013, an emergency unemployment compensation extension program that started in 2008 under President George W. Bush expired, meaning 1.3 million jobless workers lost benefits that helped them house and feed their families. President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats have made it clear they want the program to go on, but House Republicans are refusing to act. Now Harvard economist **Lawrence Katz** says the "fiscally irresponsible" decision is costing America's economy at least \$600 million a week.

"It is actually fiscally irresponsible not to extend unemployment benefits," Katz said. "The long-run cost to the taxpayers will be much higher from disconnecting people from the labor market."

The program provided an average weekly payment of \$305 to people who have been unemployed for longer than six months. The end of the program directly harms the economy because unemployed workers spend most, if not all, of the income they have as soon as they get it. The

failure to extend the program not only is a major problem for the families directly involved and a drag on the economy, it will cost over **300,000 jobs** if a solution isn't found, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Labor Secretary Thomas Perez explained the need for the emergency program to continue:

"When Congress first passed this version of emergency unemployment compensation in 2008, and the president [George W. Bush] signed the law, the unemployment rate was 5.6%, and the average duration of unemployment was 17.1 weeks. Today, the unemployment rate is 7%. The average duration of unemployment is now 36 weeks."

The administration also noted that the long-term unemployment rate, the percentage of the workforce that has been looking for work for 6 months or longer, is more than 2.5%, well above the 1% economists say we should expect during normal times.

— Source: *AFL-CIO News*

Editor's Note: Prior to sending this

Newsletter to the printer, the President and Democrats won a huge procedural vote in the Senate to extend long-term unemployment benefits for 1.3 million Americans —

including more than 200,000 military veterans. However, Boehner says the bill won't get a vote unless Democrats come up with money from the budget to pay for it.

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT:

Life Insurance Beneficiaries May Be Due Additional Payments

APWU has been asked to notify our members of a private class action lawsuit on behalf of beneficiaries of certain deceased postal employees.

The lawsuit covers the beneficiaries of deceased APWU and NALC bargaining unit members who were employed by the Postal Service during the period that the Annuity Protection Plan was in effect, from July 21, 1981, through Nov. 20, 1994.

The life insurance beneficiaries of deceased postal employees may be entitled to additional life insurance benefits or interest on their benefits.

For more information, click here [PDF]. (<http://apwu.org/news/webart/2014/14-003-lifeinsurancesuit-140113.htm.pdf>) You can obtain additional details by e-mailing Class Counsel at classaction@steinmitchell.com.

- reprint APWU Web News Article #003-14, Jan. 13, 2014

State Convention Official Convention Call Of The APWU Of Wisconsin

by Steve Kendall, Secretary/Treasurer
APWU of Wisconsin

Official notification is hereby given that the Convention of the APWU of Wisconsin will convene on Thursday, April 24, 2014 and continue through Saturday, April 26, 2014. It will be held at the Paper Valley Hotel Appleton, WI. There will be a half day training beginning at 1:00 PM on Thursday, April 24, 2014. The Convention will convene at 10:00 AM on Friday April 25, 2014 and will conclude at the finish of business on Saturday April 26, 2014. A banquet will be held Friday night. Costs for the seminar and room costs will be made available later this month. The phone number of the hotel is 920-733-8000.

Some of the governing portions of the State Constitution appear below.

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

Nomination and election of all Officers of the APWU of Wisconsin will take place at this convention.

On the afternoon of the opening day of the Convention, the Chairman of the nominations committee shall declare the convention open for nomination for all offices and the Convention City at which the next Convention is to be held. Article VI Section 7,(2).

The nominations shall proceed in the

following order: 1; General President, 2; Secretary-Treasurer, 3; Director of Legislation, 4; Director of Human Relations, 5; Director of Education and Organization.

The election of officers shall take place on the afternoon of the second day of the convention. Article VI Section 7 (4).

CREDENTIALS

Credentials will be mailed out by the Secretary-Treasurer by February 21, 2014. They shall be properly signed, returned and in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer by April 1, 2014 so that committee assignments can be made by the State President, and committee members can be properly notified.

REPRESENTATION

The voting power of the members of the American Postal Workers Union of Wisconsin, AFL-CIO, at State Convention shall be as follows: Article V section 1:

“EACH LOCAL UNION AND AREA LOCAL SHALL BE ENTITLED TO REPRESENTATION IN STATE CONVENTION OF ONE (1) DELEGATE AND ONE (1) VOTE FOR EACH 25 MEMBERS OR FRACTION THEREOF.”

The convention can at its pleasure give visiting Members at Large a vote; providing not more than three Members at Large

attend the Convention. If more than three attend, the Chairman of the Credentials Committee with the consent of the Convention, shall apportion one-third vote to each Member at Large. Article V Section 2.

Voting delegates shall be based on the average amount of per capital tax paid by each local/area local during the two (2) preceding calendar years of the convention year. Any local whose charter has not been in existence for this period, shall receive voting delegates based upon the average per capita one month previous to the month the convention is held. Article V Section 5.

RESOLUTIONS

All resolutions to be presented at the Convention must be in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer at least four (4) weeks prior to the opening of the Convention in order to be printed in the Convention Book. Article VI Section 5. **ALL RESOLUTIONS MUST BE IN THE SEC/TREAS HANDS BY March 26, 2014.**

All proposed Constitution changes must be in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer at least four (4) weeks prior to the opening of the Convention in order to be printed in the Convention Book. Article VI Section 8. **ALL CONSTITUTION CHANGES MUST BE IN THE SEC/TREAS HANDS BY March 26, 2014.**

All Officer's reports shall be ready and in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer four (4) weeks prior to the opening of the Convention. Article VII Section 8.

REMINDERS:

ALL LOCAL DELEGATES MUST BE ELECTED BY SECRET BALLOT VOTE OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP, UNLESS YOUR LOCAL CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR AUTOMATIC DELEGATE(S) TO A CONVENTION. MAL'S are to get their authorized credentials from the State Secretary-Treasurer. These procedures must be followed or delegates will not be seated.

Education classes will be held on April 24, 2014. The programs have not been confirmed at this time.

The official opening of the Convention will be at 10:00 AM on Friday, April 25, 2014. The convention will close with the installation of officers on Saturday, April 26, 2014.

Now is the time to start preparing any resolutions that you wish to submit to the convention for consideration by the delegates in attendance and to be forwarded if acted on to the National APWU convention.

Please bring any COPA donations from your local to the convention.



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Stop The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Fast Track Today

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a devastating trade policy that would cost Wisconsin jobs and lower working conditions for workers worldwide, is being rammed through Congress in an alarming way.

Last week, fast track authority for the TPP was introduced. Fast track limits legislative review and debate, requiring Congress to vote the deal up or down without amendments. Once approved, the TPP would actually require changes in local law where it conflicts with the terms of the agreement.

In twenty years NAFTA has cost American workers 700,000 jobs. How many jobs are we going to lose with the Trans-Pacific Partnership? The public deserves the necessary time to debate and fully understand the ramifications of this massive trade deal.

Since 2010, negotiations have been taking place for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a huge, NAFTA-style deal involving the United States and the governments of Australia, Brunei, Chile, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam. Negotiations are being conducted in secret, with little opportunity for citizens to see what is being proposed and agreed to. Everything from labor standards, food safety, environmental standards and human

rights will be rolled back and dismantled if the TPP passes.

While the public has been shut out of negotiations, recent WikiLeaks disclosures suggest corporate lobbyists have been given free access and are in fact assisting the U.S. Trade Representative in the TPP drafting process. Details of what's being

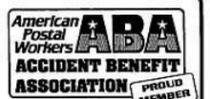
negotiated in our names are hard to come by, but critics have suggested that TPP goes far beyond tariff reduction and trade promotion, giving unprecedented power to corporations and undercutting citizens' ability to enact and preserve consumer, labor, and environmental protections.

— Source: Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

The NAFTA model failed.

Why would we want to repeat that mistake?

StoptheTPP.org



The APWU of Wisconsin are Proud 100% Members of the APW-Accident Benefit Association. REMEMBER: If you are a Member-at Large and you pay dues to APWU of WI. This benefit also belongs to you.

<http://www.apw-aba.org/>

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