

# The Bay Breeze



Northeastern Wisconsin Area Local American Postal Worker's Union AFL-CIO

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## President's Report

by Lucy Hauser

I recently attended the Wisconsin State APWU convention, which was held in Appleton. Delegates from the state discussed current issues with National Business Agents that were in attendance. One of the most discussed topics was the PSE Conversion agreement for the Clerk Craft. Ten of our PSE's were converted into career status with relatively little notice to the Union or to the PSE's themselves. It is understandable that APWU Headquarters would be agreeable to the conversions, but management skipped all the steps in the conversion agreement and jumped right down to the very last one. This has created a host of problems in our installation. The PSE's have been converted into Unencumbered Regulars, but they are able to bid any jobs that are posted.

Management has agreed that they will adjust the seniority of any career employee who transfers into our facility by selecting one of the residual vacancies on eReassign; they should have been able to transfer prior to the PSE conversions and therefore would be ahead of them on the seniority list. We have also asked management to delay the posting of any newly-created jobs for one month so that the transfers will have the opportunity to bid on them. Once the job-bidding cycle is complete PSE's will have the opportunity to select a job from the residual vacancies. I am still waiting for a response from APWU Headquarters regarding my questions on residual vacancies that have a scheme requirement. The joint Questions & Answers MOU regarding Filling of Residual vacancies addressed issues with (continued on pg 2)

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(from page 1) requirements for Lead Clerk positions and Sales & Service Associate positions, but was silent regarding scheme requirements. We currently have 2 residual vacancies that have scheme requirements. Hopefully a subsequent document of Questions and Answers will be forthcoming.

All resolutions that were passed at the State Convention will now be forwarded to the National Convention for discussion and concurrence. Clerk Craft Resolutions presented and approved at the State Convention included the following:

Once a duty assignment has been listed on eReassign for a period of 60 days and has not been filled, the appropriate PSE will be converted into that assignment.

All PSE's will be converted to career status. That PSE's be allowed to use Annual Leave within the first 90 days after being converted.

That management be required to equalize PSE hours.

That Local and State Unions will be supplied with a list of all duty assignments posted on the 21-day eReassign list.

That all residual vacancies will be posted to the 21-day eReassign list within 45 days of becoming residual.

That the Local and State Presidents or their designees will be granted full access to the 21-day eReassign list.

That NTFT employees are paid holiday leave pay equal to their regular daily schedule.

That the Union negotiate the position description for Lead Clerks to mandate access to TACS.

That the union negotiate language that allows PTF's the option of working as a loaner at other offices prior to utilizing PSE's.

Maintenance Craft Resolutions are as follows:

Newly converted PSE's can use Annual Leave within the first 90 days after being converted.

Motor Vehicle Craft Resolutions are as follows:

Eliminate PSE's in MVS and replace with PTF's.

NTFT duty assignment language be eliminated in the

MVS craft unless negotiated locally.

Other resolutions include:

Maintain the current 50-mile radius limit for excessing. That the APWU institute a program to identify and report abusive management personnel to USPS headquarters and that procedures be put in place to resolve these issues.

That employees who volunteered for holidays but were bypassed be given the option of receiving pay or annual leave in lieu thereof.

That the APWU negotiate with the USPS to allow submission of PS Form 3971 for unscheduled leave via the Liteblue website.

That the APWU put more focus on educating the public about the USPS financial situation, especially the negative effects of pre-funding.

That full-time officers be allowed to participate in Flexible Spending.

All officers for the Wisconsin State APWU were re-elected. President: Steve Lord, Oshkosh;

Secretary/Treasurer: Steve Kendall, Milwaukee;

Director of Legislation; Jeff Worden, Milwaukee;

Director of Human Relations, Education and

Organization: Lucy Hauser, Green Bay.

The site of the 2016 APWU State Convention will be Green Bay. Local officers have all been apprised of this announcement and we have already discussed a plan of action. We will need to keep this in mind when making fiscal decisions in the next two years as we will be responsible for hosting the hospitality room during the weekend of the convention, plus lost time for local officers to assist State officers with the convention proceedings.

Our May membership meeting will be held at the Bay Family Restaurant on Wednesday, May 28, at 11:00 a.m. and I hope that we have good attendance. Meanwhile, have an enjoyable Memorial Day weekend!



**President's Report**



**Retirees:**  
**Nancy DeCleene**  
**Karen Toellner**

**New Members:**  
**Jeremy Linberg**  
**Philip Simon**  
**Christy Alberts (PSE)**  
**Andrew Klescewski (PSE)**  
**Joshua Wynos (PSE)**

**do  
you know?**



\*Beginning April 28,

employees must use new, more secure passwords to access the LiteBlue website and online Human Resources self-service applications, including PostalEASE, eReassign, eIDEAS and eOPF.

A letter with a temporary password and instructions on creating a new password was mailed to each employee's address of record. Employees who do not have this letter may go to [ssp.usps.gov](http://ssp.usps.gov) to request another temporary password.

Employees who conduct HR transactions over the telephone may continue using their current 4-digit USPS Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) and Employee Identification Numbers (EINs).

\*We are looking for charities to donate to. Are there any charities that are of particular interest to you, are mostly local and also have low administrative costs? Let any union officer know please.

\*Current members are covered under the Accident Benefit Value Plan. They may decide to increase their own coverage. To do this, go to [apw-aba.org](http://apw-aba.org). Look on the home page: "Spring Forward" sheet.

\*If you are looking for discounts:

- as a current member, [apw-aba.org](http://apw-aba.org) offers a "Tab & Grab" cash back service. Click on link on home page to earn 1-40% cash back at over 5,000 online retailers.

- as an employee of the USPS, you can go to [liteblue.usps.gov](http://liteblue.usps.gov) to see the employee deals. They offer phone deals, college course discounts, and more.

- as a current employee, you may receive a federal government employee discount at some hotels. Just ask for the discount and have your employee badge available.

- if you currently have Blue Cross/Blue Shield as your insurance carrier, they have deals for you. Go to [www.blue365deals.com](http://www.blue365deals.com) for deals on hearing aids, gym membership, lasik surgery and more.

\*Proposed Constitutional Change was approved at April meeting regarding amount of union dues.

\*The Postmaster General is hired by the Board of Governors of the United States. This board is appointed by the president of the United States. The PMG becomes a member of that board. The board should then have 10 members. Currently the board is made up of only 4 members PLUS the PMG. All of those 4 were appointed by George W Bush, one who's term has expired and two whose terms expire at the end of the year. Their terms are for seven years. If their term has expired they can only serve for one more year. The Board of Governors are the ones conducting long-range planning and setting policies on all postal matters.

Why are there 5 vacant seats and why hasn't President Obama appointed anyone?

\*The Postal Regulatory Committee has regulatory oversight of the Postal Service. The commissioners of this committee are also appointed by the President for a term of six years. The committee is made up of 5 commissioners that each serve a term of six years. If their term has expired they can only serve for one more year. There are currently 2 vacant positions on this committee with the other 3 positions held by one democrat and two republicans. The democrat's term expires this November.

Why are there 2 vacant positions here too and why hasn't President Obama filled these seats?

## Clerk Craft Director Vacancy

May 1, 2014

The office of Clerk Craft Director has been declared vacant, as the elected incumbent, Mary Duttweiler, has transferred into the Maintenance Craft and is therefore ineligible to hold the office of Clerk Craft Director.

Any clerk in good standing who would like to be appointed to the position of Clerk Craft Director is encouraged to submit their name to any member of the Executive Board prior to May 28, 2014.

Lucy Hauser, President

### APWU, USPS Reach Agreement On Filling Residual Vacancies

### Settlement Will Result in PSE, PTF Conversions

From www.apwu.org, March 24, 2014

An important March 20 agreement between the APWU and USPS outlines a procedure for filling residual vacancies in the Clerk, Maintenance and Motor Vehicle Crafts, and will result in the conversion of Postal Support Employees to career status and the conversion of Part-Time Flexible Clerks to full-time, APWU President Mark Dimondstein has announced.

"Establishing a fair procedure for converting Clerk Craft PSEs to career is a major accomplishment," he said. "In addition, the settlement protects the contractual rights of career employees, ensuring that workers who were excessed are given the right to retreat into residual assignments, where they are eligible. It also will give mobility to unassigned full-time employees and to part-time flexibles who are converted," he said.

The precise number of conversions that will take place as a result of the agreement is not yet known because

it depends on the number of residual vacancies and other factors, Dimondstein said.

The agreement stipulates, however, that residual assignments that were related to the Area Mail Processing (consolidation) excessing and have been released from withholding will be considered "viable" and will be filled without being subject to additional review.

The agreement, as it relates to the Clerk Craft, will remain in effect until Oct. 31, 2014, and may be extended by mutual agreement. It establishes the "pecking order" below for filling residual assignments in the Clerk Craft. Procedures for implementation also are enumerated.

- Unencumbered clerks in the same installation;
- Employees with Clerk Craft retreat rights;
- Full-Time Regular Clerks from an installation impacted by excessing who request transfers within the district or a 100-mile radius through eReassign 21-Day Posting;
- Conversion of Part-Time Flexible Clerks in the installation;
- Full-Time Regular Clerks impacted by excessing who request voluntary transfers beyond the district or a 100-mile radius through regular eReassign;
- One-time posting of remaining resid-

- ual assignments to PTF Clerks in other installations in the district who are on the rolls as of March 20;
- Priority consideration transfers through eReassign from other APWU crafts and regular transfers through eReassign from all crafts.
- Conversion of Clerk Craft PSEs to career status within the installation.

In the Maintenance Craft, duty assignments will be filled in accordance with Article 38.3, 38.4, 38.5 and the Order for Filling Vacant Maintenance Positions in the Joint Contract Interpretation Manual (p. 280). After applying Item 7.a (Maintenance transfers), custodial duty assignments will be filled by offering conversion to PSE custodians. The APWU and USPS will address procedures concerning PSE conversion in the Maintenance Craft in a separate memorandum.

In the Motor Vehicle Craft, residual duty assignments will be filled by applying Articles 39.1.B.6, 39.1.B.7 and 39.2.A.11. Residual vacancies will be filled in accordance with these articles by converting PSEs working in the same position as the residual vacancies (i.e., Mechanic, Technician, Tractor-Trailer Operator or Motor Vehicle Operator) in the same installation.

#### Proposed Constitutional Change to be voted on at May Meeting

**Current : Article 7 Duties of Officers  
Section 4. Recording Secretary**

The Recording Secretary shall take and keep minutes of all meetings of the Local. The Recording Secretary shall keep the attendance of meetings and keep a record of attendance of each member and other duties as assigned by the President. The Recording Secretary shall be elected by the general membership. The salary of the Recording Secretary shall be \$80.00 per membership meeting. In months when a meeting is schedule but does not take place, i.e; no quorum, the Recording Secretary shall receive Officer meeting pay.

**Section 5. Editor**

The Editor shall be responsible for the printing of the Local Organ and other duties assigned by the President. The Editor shall be elected by the general membership. The salary of the Editor shall be 14 hours per month at the level 7 step O rate. The Editor shall be paid only in months when a paper is printed. The Editor shall be paid Officer Meeting pay when he attends meetings in those months that the paper is not printed.

**Proposed:**

**Section 4. Recording Secretary**

The Recording Secretary shall take and keep minutes of all meetings of the Local. The Recording Secretary shall keep the attendance of meetings and keep a record of attendance of each member and other duties as assigned by the President. The Recording Secretary shall be elected by the general membership. The salary of the Recording Secretary shall be **\$100.00** per membership meeting. In months when a meeting is scheduled but does not take place, i.e; no quorum, the Recording Secretary shall receive Officer meeting pay.

**Section 5. Editor**

The Editor shall be responsible for the printing of the Local Organ and other duties as assigned by the President. The Editor shall be elected by the general membership. The salary of the Editor shall be 14 hours per month at the level 7 step O rate. The Editor shall be paid only in months when a paper is printed. **In those months when no paper is printed The Editor will receive Officer Meeting pay for attending meetings.**

Postal Unions Form Alliance

From www.apwu.org, APWU Web News Article #049-14, March 11, 2014

Declaring that "the U.S. Postal Service is under unprecedented attack," the presidents of the four postal unions have formed a historic alliance to fight back.

# A POSTAL UNION ALLIANCE

The U.S. Postal Service is under unprecedented attack. A congressionally-manufactured financial crisis drains the USPS of vital resources. Six-day delivery is under constant threat of elimination. The reduction of service standards and the elimination of half of the nation's mail processing centers has slowed service and wiped out tens of thousands of good jobs. Post offices in cities and small towns are being sold or closed or having their hours cut back. Corporate privatizers seek to gain control over larger segments of postal operations – and to get their hands on the Postal Service's \$65 billion of annual revenue. The Postmaster General's policies of subcontracting and degrading service are fueling the privatization drive.

The four postal unions stand together to end the attack. We stand for a *public* Postal Service, enhancement and expansion of service, and protection of good union jobs in our communities. We stand with the people of our country in defense of their right to a universal postal service operated in the public interest.

We commit to work together to:

- Maintain six-day and home delivery.
- Protect and restore service standards and mail processing facilities.
- Maintain full-time, full-service public post offices in every community.
- Oppose the subcontracting of work and privatization of services.
- Expand postal services to include basic banking, notary, check-cashing and other services.
- End the corporate welfare of excessive pre-sort discounts.
- Form a common front in the fight for genuine postal reform legislation.
- Organize joint actions and speak in a united voice.
- Unite with other labor unions in defense of the rights of postal workers and all workers.
- Encourage joint efforts of our union members at the local level.
- Support maximum cooperation in the next round of contract negotiations.
- Build an alliance with the American people in defense of the public postal service.

WE STAND UNITED TO PROTECT AMERICA'S POSTAL SERVICE!

Fredric Rolando  
President, National Association of Letter Carriers

Mark Dimondstein  
President, American Postal Workers Union

John Hegarty  
President, National Postal Mail Handlers Union

Jeanette Dwyer  
President, National Rural Letter Carriers Association



**Postal workers alliance sends letter to Issa opposing latest reform proposal**

From postalnews.com 4/15/2014

The four unions representing rank and file postal workers have sent the following letter to Darrel Issa, Chairman of the House Oversight Committee, and Elijah Cummings, the Ranking Member:

Dear Mr. Issa and Mr. Cummings:

We write to share our views on the hearing held on April 8, 2014 on the President's proposals in the FY 2015 budget regarding the U.S. Postal Service. We write on behalf of nearly 500,000 postal employees who live and work in every Congressional District in America and who belong to our unions. We respectfully request that this letter be included in the record of the hearing.

We strongly oppose major elements of the Administration's proposed reforms as out-dated and counterproductive to the goal of strengthening the Postal Service for the 21st Century. The USPS has strongly recovered over the past 18 months as the economy has bounced back and the e-commerce boom has gathered pace. In the absence of the pre-funding burden, the Service was profitable in 2013. Reducing deliveries and slashing the quality of service never made sense as a business strategy. Market research conducted by Opinion Research Corporation for USPS found that service cuts (ending Sat. service, etc.) would cause mail volume to fall by 7.7% and reduce revenue by nearly \$5.3 billion – that is, by more than it would reduce costs. (See the attachment.) Now that the USPS is recovering and has eliminated some 75,000 career jobs since 2011, slashing service further makes even less sense. It would discourage businesses from partnering with the Postal Service.

Simply re-amortizing the disastrous retiree health pre-funding mandate that was enacted in 2006, and which accounts for more than 80% of the Postal Service's losses since 2007, is totally unacceptable. "Kicking the can down the road" is not a solution to the Postal Service's most pressing financial problem. The payments are unaffordable now; they will be unaffordable two years from now. The USPS has already set aside more than \$50 billion for decades of future retiree health benefits. It's time to repeal the pre-funding burden that no other private or public enterprise in America faces (without taxpayer appropriations) or dramatically reduce the cost of that burden by enacting other reforms.

Congress should either implement the recommendations of the Postal Regulatory Commission's independent audit of the postal CSRS account (Report on CSRS Pension Allocation Principles, Segal Company, November 22, 2010) or adopt FEHBP reforms that will reduce postal retiree health benefit costs. Any reform that fails to address the pre-funding burden will doom the Postal Service to endless cycles of service and job cuts that will destroy this national treasure.

The administration's proposal to allow the Postal Service to eliminate Saturday delivery was not developed after an independent analysis – it was driven by misleading data presented by the Postal Service to the PRC (later refuted by the attachment) and accepted as part of the Cantor-Biden budget talks in 2011 aimed at reducing the budget deficit. It has shown up in every administration budget since then. Given that the Postal Service receives no taxpayer subsidy, we have always rejected service cuts aimed at improving the federal deficit measured on a unified basis.

But more importantly, it defies business sense. Saturday delivery makes the USPS unique in the delivery industry. American businesses operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and more than a third of the Postal Service's customers say they want Saturday service. The Postal Service of the 21st Century must meet these business demands and many customers, like Amazon.com, have already begun to partner with the Postal Service to provide seven-day delivery. The ability of USPS to provide this service at very affordable rates is made possible by the Postal Service's shared networks for letter, flats, books, magazines and parcels.

Granting the Postal Service the right to end Saturday delivery, which the Postmaster General has advocated since 2009 in the wake of the global financial crisis, would eliminate 81,000 jobs. Congress should not sacrifice these jobs or risk the long-term survival of the Postal Service. The administration proposal to allow the USPS to phase out door delivery would severely damage the Postal Service's business, by severing the revenue-generating relationship letter carriers have with millions of small businesses and home-based merchants and enterprises.

These relationships have helped the Postal Service generate billions in new shipping revenues through Customer Connect and Rural Reach. Ending door delivery to millions of businesses and 35 million households located in every Congressional District would be deeply unpopular with the American people and unnecessarily risk another 16,000 to 20,000 jobs.(continued on page 7)

(From page 6, Letter to Issa)

The proposal to codify the Postal Service's unpopular PostPlan, which has slashed retail office hours at more than 13,000 post offices located in rural communities and inner-city neighborhoods, is also unacceptable. The relentless service cuts, downsizing and reductions to service standards in recent years has gone too far - Congress should seek ways to reverse these cuts in order strengthen the Postal Service, not codify them. Giving the Postal Service the freedom to provide new services through its networks and relieving the crushing burden of prefunding are the best ways to improve service and the long-term viability of the Postal Service.

The administration offered some modestly positive proposals in its budget too, for which we are grateful. Mandating the use of postal-specific assumptions to fairly calculate the surplus in the postal account in FERS makes sense - returning the surplus to the USPS would allow it to make much-needed investments in new vehicles and new technology. The Postal Service has been starved of such investments - as every available dime has been irrationally directed to pre-fund future retiree health.

We also support measures to free the Postal Service to offer new services that will generate new revenues to support universal service. The administration's proposals to allow the Postal Service to deliver beer and wine through the mail and to collaborate with state and local governments to provide their services through the postal service's retail network offer a good start on such measures.

The administration proposal to make the exigent case permanent is acceptable, though we note there are other pricing reforms that may make more business sense. Our unions remain open to exploring alternative reforms with Congress and the mailing industry that will strengthen the Postal Service, not weaken it.

At the hearing, Chairman Issa indicated that the Committee would seek to mark up a new bill based on the administration's proposals. Although we welcome the apparent decision to set aside H.R. 2748, which we strongly oppose, we do not believe the Obama administration's plan offers a viable way forward. Both H.R. 2748 and the President's plans were devised at the height of the global financial crisis and proceed from the false premise that the internet is destroying the Postal Service. But it's not 2009 anymore. The Postal Service has more than right-sized itself in response to the decline in mail volume; it now faces staff shortages and inadequate capacity to maintain high quality service. Its operating finances have recovered as letter mail revenue has stabilized and e-commerce volume is exploding.

Rather than slashing services in a way that will drive business away, it's time for sensible, targeted reforms that will free the Postal Service to innovate and grow. These reforms should include a permanent fix to the pre-funding burden as suggested above, the fair calculation of postal pension surpluses, suitable pricing reforms and new freedom to offer services through our existing networks to meet unmet public needs. These reforms would allow the Postal Service to do what our founding fathers intended when they established the Post Office in our Constitution: To bind the nation together and to adapt to meet the evolving needs of America's citizens and businesses.

Sincerely,

Fredric V. Rolando, President, NALC, AFL-CIO  
John F. Hegarty, NPMH, AFL-CIO

Mark Dimondstein, President, APWU, AFL-CIO  
Jeanette Dwyer, NRLC Association, AFL-CIO



**Postal Workers/ Supporters Protest Across Country**

From www.apwu.org, Updated 04/25/14

APWU members and supporters ramped up the fight to Stop Staples and its bid to open postal counters in 1,500 stores

nationwide at events across the country on April 24, a National Day of Action. Protests were held in 56 locations in 27 states. In Washington, DC more than 200 people marched through the streets to a Staples store holding signs that read, "Stop Staples. The US Mail is Not for Sale," and chanting, "Whose post office? The people's Post Office!"

**Postal Reform Act: Where it's At**

-The Postal Reform Act, S.1486 was approved by the Senate COMMITTEE of Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on Feb 6,2014.

-There are more steps that are to be taken before it will get to the full Senate floor to be voted on.

-We will keep you informed as we find out more.

## MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEAST-ERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247

**Date:** Sunday, March 30, 2014

**Place:** Burkel's in Ashwaubeon

President Lucy Hauser called the meeting to order at 1830 hours.

A quorum was declared with 20 members in attendance, three arrived after the quorum was declared. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Paradise and he also read the Invocation.

The following officers were present:

President: Lucy Hauser, Vice-president: Steve Beerntsen, Secretary/Treasurer: Bryce Thomas, Bay Breeze Editor: Mary Davis. Craft Directors: Jon DeCleene, and Jeff Hackl, and Recording Secretary: Steve Paradise. The Clerk Craft Director is now vacant because Mary Duttweiler transferred to maintenance. Minutes of the February 2014 were approved as they were printed in the March 2014 issue of the Bay Breeze. Motion made by Bryce Thomas and seconded by Steve Beerntsen. Vote was unanimous.

The Financial Report for February 2014 was read by Lucy Hauser.

### REPORTS

**Executive Committee:** Lucy reported that there will be no training seminar for new stewards at state convention in April. Lucy will try to contact other locals to see if something can be arranged. The photo copier in the union hole is still working. It recently has been serviced and is printing clean sheets. The executive committee will recommend, in New Business, that NEWAL should lease a new copier. Lucy reported that she and Mary Duttweiler would like to attend the training seminars at the National Convention in August. The cost of this year's convention in Chicago will be much higher than the last convention of two years ago held in Los Angeles. Lucy reported that she is going to hand over all financial responsibilities on the local to Bryce Thomas. Some lost time will occur during the transfer and will have to be reimbursed by NEWAL. Bryce will have to set up a new corporation for the financial records to be in his name. The executive committee will recommend a \$100 gift be given to the NALC drive for MDA.

**Labor/Management:** Lucy questioned management about the new higher productivity numbers management is requesting from automation. Tim Lewis will encourage the supervisors to give more constructive criticism to the automation clerks. Discussed safety issues in the parking lot related custodians applying salt. Lucy brought the attention that little or no progress is being made to remodeling the women's restrooms. Nothing has been done for nearly 30 years. Upgrading the expeditor's office on the dock was addressed. Lucy asked management if they could create "shadow jobs"

for clerks retiring from skilled jobs. The plant is still in preparation for Wausau fully coming to Green Bay. Tim Lewis will check with Jeff Grendziak concerning the planters for new outdoor break area.

**Grievance:** Two Step 1 grievances were settled in our favor and two at Step 2. Lucy is still working on the arbitration award of casuals working overtime before career ODL Clerks concerning the operation of the SBPS back in 2007 and 2008. Steve Paradise reported that Ron Hirn has a three month backlog of step 2 grievances.

**Automation:** Opting on tour 1 will begin 4/1. Management forgot to inform the supervisors that they are the committee. Rob Walker will be on the committee for tour one and Derek Jensen for tour three.

**Scheme:** No Report

**Safety/Health:** Power Lift training will be coming soon with an interpreter for the hearing impaired. A First Aid class will also be taught.

**Legislative:** Steve Paradise revised his report on S.1486 from February's meeting.

**OWCP:** No report.

**Constitution:** Jon DeCleene reported that he has a proposed change to NEWAL's constitution which will be brought up in "new business."

**New Members:** PSE's Christy Alberts, Joshua Wynos, and Andrew Klescewski. Philip Simon and Jeremy Linberg are new members from MVS.

**Lost Member:** John Foucault, retired.

### COMMUNICATIONS

There is a poster on union bulletin board about all four postal unions working together to "Save the Post Office."

Liteblue will have a new password for all employees to select. EIN will still be the same.

NEWAL received a letter from the Salvation Army requesting a donation for their Easter funds.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Second reading of the new constitution amendment as printed in the March 2014 issue of the Bay Breeze and posted on bulletin boards that the word "member" be added to Article 14 of NEWAL's constitution before the words "associate offices" on line nine of Section one. Motion by Gloria Shermo and seconded by Brenda Ellenson for acceptance. Vote was unanimous.

### NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Sherry Beauleau and seconded by Nick Ratajczyk that the April 2014 meeting for NEWAL be on Wednesday, April 23 at 0630. The place of the meeting will be determined by the e-board. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Jon DeCleene and seconded by Gloria Shermo that NEWAL shall print and post for review, in accordance with NEWAL's constitution, a change in the wording of Section 1 of Article 4 to read "Members shall pay full per capita tax (cont on pg 9)



**Based on a Falsehood, Ryan Budget Would Plunder Postal Service**

From www.apwu.org, APWU Web News Article #058-14, April 1, 2014

The postal provisions in the budget proposed by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) on April 1 are a "thinly-veiled attempt to plunder the Postal Service - to slash service, cut workers' benefits, and render our great national treasure ripe for privatization," said APWU President Mark Dimondstein.

They're also based on a fallacy, Dimondstein points out: The USPS did not have "an operating loss of \$1 billion" in fiscal year 2013, as Rep. Ryan asserts.

"In fact, the Postal Service had an operating surplus of \$600 million in fiscal year 2013. The Postal Service's losses are the result of a manufactured crisis - the legislative requirement that forces the USPS to pre-fund healthcare benefits for future retirees 75 years in advance and within a 10-year period," Dimondstein said.

"As Rep. Ryan undoubtedly knows, the USPS is not supported by tax dol-

lars and does not contribute to the nation's debt," he added.

The postal provisions of the Ryan budget are printed below:

"Reform the Postal Service. The United States Postal Service (USPS) is unable to meet its financial obligations and is in desperate need of structural reforms. In fiscal year 2013, USPS had an operating loss of \$1 billion and defaulted on another \$5.6 billion payment to prefund the retirement health care of their employees. As of fiscal year 2013, the USPS had a total of approximately \$112 billion in unfunded long-term debt, including promised health-benefit compensation for Postal retirees, workers' compensation, and debt owed to the Treasury.

"The budget recommends giving the Postal Service the flexibility that any business needs to respond to changing market conditions, including declining mail volume, which is down more than 25 percent since 2006. The budget also recognizes the need to reform compensation of postal employees who currently pay a smaller share of the costs of their health and life-insurance premiums than other federal employees. Taken

together, these reforms are estimated to save about \$19 billion over ten years and would help restore USPS solvency."

Voodoo Economics

"The summary provided by Mr. Ryan is riddled with misleading statements," said APWU Legislative and Political Director John Marcotte. "The USPS has overfunded both the CSRS [Civil Service Retirement System] and FERS [Federal Employees Retirement System] by tens of billions of dollars; has \$50 billion set aside for future retiree healthcare; is on its way to making a \$1billion dollar surplus this year, and takes no tax money. To count cuts to the Postal Service as 'budget savings' is voodoo economics at its worst," he said.

Under the Ryan proposal, FERS enrollees would pay more toward their retirement without a corresponding increase in benefits, Marcotte pointed out. "Mr. Ryan would make fire fighters, park rangers, police officers and postal workers pay more, while he proposes tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans," he said. The Ryan budget calls for cutting the corporate tax rate to 25 percent.

(cont from pg 8, March Minutes) to the National, plus whatever dues and assessments may be required by this local;" and that the words "Value Plan" be added in place of "Low Option" in Section 2 of Article 4. Motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Nick Ratajczyk and seconded by Terry Wentworth that NEWAL should enter into a five year lease for a new Xerox copy/fax/scanner. Motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Jon DeCleene and seconded by Nick Ratajczyk to give Lucy Hauser and Bryce Thomas 16 hours of lost time each in order to transfer the financial records from Lucy to Bryce. Motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Jon DeCleene and seconded by Nick Ratajczyk that NEWAL should send Jeff Hackl and Mary Duttweiler to the maintenance training and Lucy

Hauser and Steve Paradise for OIG training on Thursday, 4/24/14 at the state convention in Appleton. That expenses as lost time, per diem and transportation expenses shall be paid by NEWAL. Motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Bryce Thomas and seconded by Terry Wentworth that NEWAL should donate \$100 towards the NALC MDA campaign. Motion passed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Jon DeCleene and seconded by Nick Ratajczyk to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. NEWAL meeting adjourned at 1937 hours. The \$10 door prize was won by Diane Vaile.

Minutes submitted by Steve Paradise

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AREA LOCAL #2247**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 23, 2014  
**Place:** Bay Motel Family Restaurant  
President Lucy Hauser called the

meeting to order at 0630 hours. A quorum was declared with 26 members in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Steve Paradise and he also read the Invocation. The following officers were present:

President: Lucy Hauser, Vice-president: Steve Beerntsen, Secretary/Treasurer: Bryce Thomas, Bay Breeze Editor: Mary Davis, Craft Directors: Jeff Hackl, maintenance; and Recording Secretary Steve Paradise. The (cont on page 10)

(cont from pg 9, April Minutes)MVS Craft director, Jon DeCleene was absent and the clerk craft director position is vacant.

Minutes of the March 2014 were read by Steve Paradise. Motion made by Nick Ratajczyk and seconded by Kathy Heise to accept the minutes. Vote was unanimous.

The Financial Report for March 2014 and the first quarter for 2014 were read by Bryce Thomas.

## REPORTS

**Executive Committee:** Lucy reported that new training classes will be added at the national convention in July. The new classes will be from the Postal Press Association and Mary Davis would like to attend the training. This will be brought up in new business for approval. The executive committee discussed idea of purchasing new T-shirts with our local name on them. Also, the "Wounded Warrior" softball team T-shirts might be available as well. The local will look for someone to spearhead this project.

**Labor/Management:** No meeting. However, Interim Plant Manager, Tim Lewis, informed Lucy that he would like to post more Lead Clerk jobs. The postal service is trying to move away from SDO supervisors.

**Grievances:** Seven Step 2 grievances were settled in our favor. Lucy is still working with Ron Hirn over an arbitration settlement regarding the use of casuals on overtime before ODL Clerks concerning the operation of the SBPS from 2007 and 2008. Ron Hirn is requesting more details from the local as to which employees are to get paid and how much. Lucy had figured out that ODL clerks from those years should receive collectively over \$266,000. Ron Hirn said he has to justify to his bosses that amount.

**Automation:** Steve Beerntsen gave the automation report. New members are Lori Sullivan (tour 1) and Carol Taylor (tour 3). Steve reported that when one person is running the machines without a sweeper more parts on the stackers are breaking. Is there a magic number of pieces of mail fed into the DBCS's before breakage would occur? No, because

of different thickness of the mail. Sweeping will occur when stackers are half full. Fan sorting of slickees is also hard on the stackers. There will be reprogramming of the time clocks with new labels on the job sort function buttons. New floor mats are on order. Management will look into getting cooling fans for each sort machine.

**Scheme:** No Report

**Safety/Health:** Cami Pietsch will serve on this committee.

**Legislative:** Steve Paradise informed the local that Senate Majority leader, Harry Reid, will not let S.1486 come to the floor for a full Senate vote.

Steve also encouraged the members to sign the petition at StopStaples.com. This is to slow down the efforts of the Postal Service from putting postal retail units in Staples stores with Staples employees staffing those postal retail outlets.

**OWCP:** Lucy reported that management does not know the difference between "light duty" and "limited duty." This was in regards to the employees who slipped and fell in the parking lot because it was not salted. Plant manager Tim Lewis is expecting to have the supervisors engage in OWCP training.

**Constitution:** Lucy reported that Jon DeCleene has a proposed change to NEWAL's constitution which will be brought up in "new business."

Other reports: Dave Kroll, Mary Duttweiler and Steve Paradise gave reports about their training opportunities at the Eight State Seminar in Des Moines, Iowa. They also thanked the local for sending them to this training event and thought it was well worth the time spent.

**New Members:** Cami Pietsch, transferred in from the Mail Handlers.

**Lost Members:** Nancy DeCleene and Karen Toellner, both of them retired.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Local received a letter from the "House of Hope" asking for a donation.

The photo copier will be delayed in arriving to the local. The next issue of the Bay Breeze will have to be printed at Color Master once again.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The second reading of the NEWAL Constitution amendment that was posted for review was brought before the local. There will be a change in the wording of Section 1 of Article 4 to read "Members shall pay full per capita tax to the National, plus whatever dues and assessments may be required by this local;" and that the words "Value Plan" be added in place of "Low Option" in Section 2 of Article 4. A motion for acceptance was made by Nick Ratajczyk and second by Dave Villock. Motion carried unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Deb Nehmer and seconded by Nick Ratajczyk that the May meeting for NEWAL be on Wednesday, May 28 at 1100 hours. The place of the meeting will be at the Bay Family Restaurant. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Villock and seconded by Dave Kroll that NEWAL shall print and post for review, in accordance with NEWAL's constitution, a change in the wording of Article 7, Section 4, line 5 from \$80.00 to \$100.00; and in section 5 to delete the last sentence starting on line 4 to read these new words: "In those months when no paper is printed the Editor will receive Officer Meeting pay for attending meetings." Motion carried. Steve Paradise announced that he abstained from voting on this motion.

A motion was made by Danny Stoddard and seconded by Mary Duttweiler that NEWAL should send Mary Davis to the training seminars sponsored by the Postal Press Association at the national APWU convention in July. That expenses as lost time, per diem, lodging, transportation needs and registration fees will be covered by NEWAL. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jeff Hackl and seconded by Steve Paradise that NEWAL should send Dave Villock to the maintenance training on Thursday April 24 at the WI-APWU state convention in Appleton. That expenses as per diem and transportation needs and four hours lost (cont on pg 11)

(cont from page 10, April Minutes) time are to be paid by NEWAL.

Motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

A discussion took place on the concerns of 340 (standby time) being uti-

lized on tour 1.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Terry Wentworth and seconded by Bryce Thomas to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. NEWAL meeting adjourned

at 0805 hours.

The \$10 door prize was won by Kathy Heise.

Minutes submitted by Steve Paradise

**CREAM PUFF CAKE**

submitted by Gloria Shermo

1 CUP WATER

1/2 CUP BUTTER, CUBED

1 CUP ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR

4 EGGS

**FILLING:**

1 PKG (8 OZ) CREAM CHEESE, SOFTENED

2-1/2 CUPS 2% MILK

3 PKG. (3.3 OZ. EA) INSTANT WHITE CHOCOLATE OR VANILLA PUDDING MIX

1 CARTON (8 OZ) FROZEN

**WHIPPED TOPPING, THAWED**

IN A LARGE SAUCEPAN, BRING WATER AND BUTTER TO A BOIL. ADD FLOUR ALL AT ONCE AND STIR UNTIL A SMOOTH BALL FORMS. CONTINUE BEATING UNTIL SMOOTH AND SHINY. REMOVE FROM THE HEAT, LET STAND FOR 5 MINUTES. ADD THE EGGS, ONE AT A TIME, BEATING WELL AFTER EACH ADDITION.

TRANSFER TO A GREASED 13" X

**9" BAKING DISH. BAKE AT 400 DEGREES FOR 22-26 MINUTES OR UNTIL PUFFED AND GOLDEN BROWN. COOL COMPLETELY ON A WIRE RACK.**

FOR FILLING, IN A LARGE BOWL, BEAT THE CREAM CHEESE, MILK AND PUDDING MIXES UNTIL SMOOTH. SPREAD OVER THE CRUST; REFRIGERATE FOR 20 MINUTES. SPREAD WITH WHIPPED TOPPING. CHILL UNTIL SERVING.

**YIELD: 15 SERVINGS**



**Officers of the APWU-  
Northeastern Wisconsin  
Area Local:**

**President:**  
Lucy Hauser

**Executive Vice President:**  
Steve Beerntsen

**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
Bryce Thomas

**Recording Secretary:**  
Steve Paradise

**Clerk Craft Director:**  
VACANT

**Vehicle Maintenance Craft Director:**  
Jon Declene

**Maintenance Craft Director:**  
Jeff Hackl

**Editor:**  
Mary Davis

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1-414-297-4451

Congressman Reid Ribble  
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Green Bay, WI 54303  
1-920-471-1950  
ribble.house.gov/contact-me/email-me

Senator Ron Johnson  
517 E Wisconsin Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
1-414-276-7282  
ronjohnson.senate.gov/contact.cfm

Governor Scott Walker  
115 E State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702  
1-608-266-1212  
govgeneral@wisconsin.gov

Wi Legislative Hotline: 1-800-362-9472  
US House/Senate Line: 1-800-522-6821  
White House Comment Line:.....  
1-202-456-1111

*The Bay Breeze* is the official voice of the American Postal Workers Union, Northeastern Wisconsin Area Local, published six times a year. The due date for publication is the first day of the odd month unless otherwise published.

*The Bay Breeze* attempts to keep the membership abreast of all important issues. We are proud members of the National Postal Press Association and International Labor Communications Association. We are also members of the APWU of Wisconsin, Wisconsin State AFL-CIO, Greater Green Bay Labor Council and were the first local in Wisconsin to join the APWU Accident Benefit Association as a 100 % local.

Letters, correspondences, and articles by members and officers are encouraged. Send them to the return address on this newsletter. Articles must be signed by the author and names may be withheld upon request. Opinions are those of the contributors and not necessarily the Union, the Officers, or the Editor.

The Editor reserves the right to delete, edit, or rewrite to fit the format of this newsletter, to disallow any attacks of individuals, to disallow any attacks of individuals, and to refuse to print any article deemed improper or unfit for publication. Articles that are not credited are those of the Editor.

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**MOVING??**

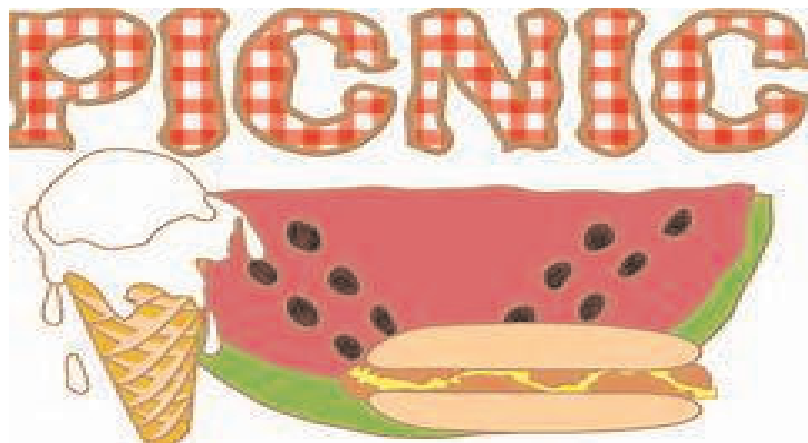
Please send us  
your NEW  
address so we  
can get your  
issue of the Bay  
Breeze to you!



**NEXT UNION MEETING:**

Wednesday, May 28 at 11:00 am  
at Bay Family Restaurant, 1301 S Military St, Green Bay, WI

**Annual Union**



**August 3, 2014**

**Reforestation Camp Lodge, Suamico, WI**

More information to follow...

NOTE: This newsletter printed at Xerox as we wait for our new black/white printer.  
Xerox was kind enough to let us print in color at their offices! Thanks Xerox!