



Indy Info

Volume 41, Number 5
May 2013



NEWS FROM THE INDIANAPOLIS AREA LOCAL #130 - APWU - AFL-CIO

Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups. They have raised wages, shortened hours, and provided supplemental benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor. ---President John F. Kennedy 1962

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...



THE WRIGHT WAY —

The 2013 Indiana State Convention has now come and went and it was a successful convention as well. The many trials and tribulations one must go through to host such an event is an enormous task, one that could not have been possible without the help of the many volunteers, and I personally would like to thank them for all of their efforts. We had members volunteering that we simply did not use as all items were covered and I thank you for offering as well.

As delegates from all over the state were arriving on Wednesday April 17, they all would ask if there was anything they could do to help, this demonstration of union solidarity definitely defines our purpose. Our national business agents presented training on NTFT assignments and PSE issues. The training handouts are available to any member, just come by the hall and get them. Additionally we had OWCP training provided by our local's longtime friend from Muncie Randy Downard, who has been the state OWCP director for as long as I can remember. Last, but not least, the Indiana Postal Workers Union outstanding editor, and now our own Indy Info editor Don Packwood presented Postal Press Association training.

Obviously with only one day to conduct actual convention business delegates were faced with tough decisions on a few resolutions, once again the decision that we are constantly faced with is the economic status of our diminished but surviving locals. In order to continue to function, our state

organization must vacate many of the policies and procedures dictated by what has rapidly become an antiquated constitution. Our state constitution has stood the test of time, the many union leaders that this organization has had, have modified its existence to serve the members well. I have the utmost confidence in our current leaders that they too can evaluate it with the futuristic visions that maintains our union's strength.

Sandwiched between the training and the convention was a theme to memorialize the efforts of retiring Business Agent Russ Bugary, to many of you I would be preaching to choir about all the accolades that could be bestowed upon him for all he done for the APWU, in a nutshell I can assure you that all Clerk Craft employees in this installation have been touched by his efforts over the last 18 years. The local received a Thank You card from Russ, where he conveys the following message:

W.W. & the Indy Local
Thank you so much for the kind words at the convention. I really appreciated the new boards, bags, hat and new ponytail. Most important, thank you for the support and friendship you have provided me over the years. You guys have always treated me like family and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.
There is never a good time to leave union office because the job is never done but personally for me and my family the time is now. I just hope they allow me to make up for all the times I missed!
Again, you guys are the best Thank you so much.
All the best.....
Russ

The message is simple, dedicated union officers and steward devote so much time, and this time takes away valuable time from their families that can never be returned. Please give a shout out and Thank you to your union officials.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2013

June 8, 2013

General Membership Meeting
10:00 am - 1509 E Prospect St

July 9, 2013

General Membership Meeting
6:00 pm - 1509 E Prospect St

August 10, 2013

General Membership Meeting
10:00 am - 1509 E Prospect St

August 11, 2013

Annual Membership Picnic
Sycamore Shelter
Fort Harrison State Park

For more information on these events go to: www.indyapwu.org

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Indianapolis Area Local #130
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
1509 East Prospect Street
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-634-1783

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Loretta Maydwell.....Membership/Insurance Coord
Janine Yowell.....Recording Secretary
Charles Jemison.....Sergeant at Arms
Debra Gilbert.....Clerk Craft Director
Vickie Crouse.....Assistant Clerk Craft Director
Greg Jones.....Motor Vehicle Craft Director
John "Mike" Hale.....Maintenance Craft Director
Don Packwood.....Chief Trustee
Linda Daniels.....Trustee
Vincent Norris.....Trustee
Pamela Plummer.....OWCP Director
VACANT.....Area Coordinator
Loretta Maydwell.....Chief Steward
Nancy Helms.....Research & Education

STAFF

Pat Gregory.....Office Manager
Lena Williams.....Office Assistant

STEWARDS' PHONE LINES

P&DC Steward's Room.....(317) 464-6163
Motor Vehicle Steward's Room.....(317) 464-6404
Associate Offices.....(317) 634-1783
MPA & P-1 Steward's Room.....(317) 870-8894

NOTE: Stewards are not always in the Steward's Room, your supervisor is responsible to make the appropriate contact to the Union for representation, or call the Union hall.

ASSOCIATE OFFICES

Beech Grove	Brownsburg	Carmel
Danville	Fishers	Fortville
Franklin	Greenfield	Greenwood
Lebanon	Martinsville	Mooresville
New Palestine	Noblesville	Plainfield
Shelbyville	Westfield	

EDITORIAL STAFF

Don Packwood.....Editor
Martha Foote.....Associate Editor, Clerk
VACANT.....Associate Editor, Maintenance
VACANT.....Associate Editor, MVS

AFFILIATIONS

American Postal Workers Union
Postal Press Association
Indiana State AFL-CIO
Central Labor Council of Marion County
Indiana Postal Workers Union

The INDY-INFO is the official publication of the Indianapolis Area Local, APWU, AFL-CIO. Opinions are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Indianapolis Area Local APWU. All copy must be typewritten and triple spaced for acceptance for publishing

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EDITORIAL STAFF OF THE
INDIANAPOLIS AREA LOCAL #130
AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION

Report from the State Convention

2013 Indiana State Convention (IPWU): Delegate Report Glenn Littrell: State & National Delegate IAL #130:

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2013 Convention Resolutions:

Convention Resolutions are submitted by locals from around the state prior to and during the convention. The resolutions are sent to one of two committees at the state level for review and consideration. The committees then present the resolutions to the convention body with a recommendation of concurrence (support) or non-concurrence (non-support) and their reasons for their recommendation. The recommendation of the committee carries no authority, it is simply offered as a critique. The delegates then debate and vote on the resolution.

Some resolutions only affect the business of the state organization (IPWU). If passed the resolutions become part of the state's constitution or operating procedures. Resolutions that are not strictly state business, such as contract issues or national constitutional changes, if passed are forwarded to the national where the process is repeated at the next national convention (Chicago, 2012). This is how the members, through their delegates, local and state organizations, direct national officers on how to proceed in regards to internal policy, public action and contract negotiations.

Passed:

Resolution 1 submitted by the Kokomo Area Local: Resolution #1 was the only contract related resolution submitted at the convention that passed. Resolution #1 addresses Article 8 of the contract dealing with overtime and the utilization of PSE's. The purpose of the resolution was to insert language that awards overtime to the ODL FTR employees prior to utilizing a PSE. The Resolution Committee concurred with Resolution #1 and the convention body (delegates) passed it.

Resolution 2 submitted by the Kokomo Area Local: Resolution #2 affecting the IPWU (state) constitution. The resolution affects the start time for convention business at the State Convention. The committee concurred and the resolution passed.

Resolution 3 submitted by the Kokomo Area Local: Resolution #3 affecting the IPWU (state) constitution. The resolution changes the order of some items in Article 7 of the state's constitution.

The Constitution Committee concurred and the resolution passed.

Resolution 6 submitted by the IPWU: Resolution #6 affecting the IPWU (state) constitution. The resolution called for changes in the constitution with the intent to cut or reduce six (6) mandated budget items from the constitution. The Constitution Committee concurred. With much debate the resolution was amended to cut only 3 items and after further debate was passed as amended by the convention body.

Resolution #7 submitted by Indianapolis Area Local #130: Resolution #7 affecting the IPWU (state) constitution. The resolution reduces the number of training days at state conventions. The Constitution Committee concurred and after debate the convention body passed Resolution #7.

Resolution #8 submitted by the Indianapolis Area Local #130: Resolution #8 affecting the IPWU (state) constitution. The resolution called for the elimination of the State's Winter Meeting effective in 2014. The Winter Meeting is one of several meetings throughout the year to exchange information and gain training for officers and stewards. The Constitution Committee concurred. After lengthy debate and only after a vote to end debate the convention body passed Resolution #8.

Resolution #9 submitted by the Columbus Area Local: Resolution #9 inserts language in the State Constitution that requires the State Auxiliary to submit an annual report to the State Convention for the money provided to them. This resolution was presented in response to the failed Resolution #5 (below). The Constitution Committee concurred and convention body passed Resolution #9.

Failed:

Resolution #4 submitted by Kokomo: Resolution #4 was the only other contract resolution submitted at the convention. It dealt with the definition of the "over the cap" violations in the JCIM. The committee recommended non-concurrence and the resolution failed for lack of a second (meaning no delegate supported it) resulting in a pseudo unanimous defeat. Since there was no second there was no debate. I am not a steward, therefore without witnessing for or against arguments I must defer to delegates who are stewards to report on this resolution.

Resolution #5 submitted by the Terre Haute Area Local: Resolution #5 would remove language in the State Constitution that mandates the State financially support the State Auxiliary. There was much debate on this resolution (I spoke out against the Resolution) and as the

debate continued it was clear that research and pertinent information was lacking. Attempts to table and substitute for the resolution failed on procedural grounds. The committee had recommended non-concurrence and after debate the motion failed as presented. Later a motion to suspend the rules was made and Resolution #9 was introduced to address the issue of reporting finances; see Resolution #9 above.

This Delegates Opinion

Since there is no National Convention this year there were only two resolutions that dealt with issues to be addressed at the national convention. Most of the resolutions dealt with modifying language in the state's constitution or cutting expenses. The most heated debates centered on cutting expenses; particularly Resolutions #7 and #8 submitted by the Indianapolis Area Local which sought to reduce convention days and eliminate the winter meeting.

The state (IPWU) and locals throughout Indiana, just like the national union, and the Indianapolis Area Local are all struggling with expense issues. Early retirements, non-dues paying members (freeloaders) and growing expenses are stretching budgets once bloated with excess revenues. In the Indianapolis Area Local we have seen funds for the local's Winter Party, Annual Picnic, the Indy Info, and lost time compensation for Stewards being cut drastically. Even so, through more effective management, extraordinary efforts by committee volunteers, and stewards, these functions not only continue but are being rejuvenated.

Several delegates from Indianapolis spoke for Resolution #8, discussions from the convention floor were heard from both those for and against the resolution.

We too often resemble the extremes of Congress: the slash and cut right-wing conservatives or the tax and spend left-wing liberals. Like Congress the extreme elements rule the debates. Because those in the middle are too few to control the debate they are reduced to affecting outcomes by choosing sides, not always in unison. Like Congress, because of political alliances and cliques, the word compromise becomes a dirty word. If only we could substitute the word efficiency for the word compromise.

It struck me at the convention that some of those that supported resolution #8 were more or less 'kicking the can down the road.' In other words they were trying to curtail local expenses by cutting opportunities to spend at state meetings. On the other hand we could be equally cynical and assume that some of those opposing the resolutions could be trying to protect their opportunities to attend state events. Neither of those arguments were put forward during debate, and based on the arguments that

were, and the closeness of the final vote it would be my opinion that in this case it was the balancing act group that carried the day on all expense resolutions. The only resolutions to fail did so by overwhelming majority and one of those, Resolution #5 came back to the floor as Resolution #9 and passed overwhelmingly. Resolutions #6 and #9 were amended/compromise resolutions, and Resolutions #7 and #8 were extensively debated and passed with small majorities.

The arguments at the state convention differed little from the same debates at the local level. Generally opponents fall into one of two camps; those that put forth the fiscal responsibility argument and those that put forth the need for training and networking. There are those who try to argue for a balance between the two arguments, but they are usually drowned out by the two more adamant camps, vocal fiscal camp vs. training camp.

I am one of those that argue for the balancing act because I believe it can be done:

- o A past Legislative Director made motions to cut the Legislative budget while increasing Legislative activities during his term in office.
- o From 2011 thru 2012 the Editor of the Indy Info returned the local's newspaper to a monthly publication while staying under budget, a budget that used to be five times greater.
- o The current Entertainment Committee is on schedule to bring the Winter Party and Annual Picnic in under budget for the second year in a row while improving/increasing activities and attendance.

These are success stories that should serve to guide us.

What do I think we can do better?

As someone who has studied, written on, and voiced opinions on our budget and spending, it would be fair to say that I might be one of those in the fiscal camp. But as someone who has never been a steward I have always supported and defended our steward corps, so I believe I could defend myself against any accusations of being strictly on the fiscal side of the argument. I believe that I can say I never argued against a pro-steward motion. That doesn't mean that I blindly supported every pro-steward motion either, but if I disagree with a pro-steward motion I try to argue for compromise or a more efficient action. If in the end the motion cannot be improved to meet my concerns then a majority of the time I will vote on the fiscal side of the argument. These are my consistent and stated positions and because of that I am sometimes mischaracterized as being on the wrong side of those arguments. So be it.

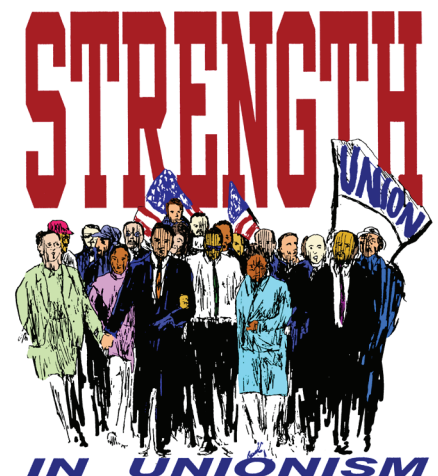
The subject of conferences, training and conventions comes up when the Executive Board makes a motion at a membership meeting to send rep-

resentatives. The recommendation is usually to send six or more representatives with two or three of them being stewards for training and the majority being Executive Board Officers (*NOTE: The majority of the Executive Board Officers consist of the Craft Directors and Stewards*). This is almost always followed by an amendment to send two or three more stewards 'because they need the training'. Speaking out against increasing the numbers could be assumed or identified as being against training, but that is no more accurate than saying those seeking to increase the number are trying for fiscal ruin. This is how 'cliques' seek to control and win arguments. This pattern can be constantly repeated with the end result of never progressing past a steward or anti-steward debate.

Consider these points:

1. If events are a combination of training and information why not send representatives to just the days that pertain to their roles (Officer and/or Steward) and not all event days.
2. The local's constitution identifies Executive Board Officers who attend by virtue of their offices in regards to Conventions, not meetings, events or conferences. Are there reasons we send Executive Board Officers to these events instead of training other Stewards?
3. Often those who are arguing to send more stewards are Executive Board Officers who are attending the same event.
4. When we do send Officers are they meeting their obligation to submit reports and provide training to the membership upon their return?
5. Instead of sending stewards to conferences, and meetings where there might be one or two hour classes, wouldn't it be more effective to save those expenses and send more stewards to the more comprehensive training at the Tri-State Steward School?

I hope you can see that it is more complicated than just being for or against the fiscal side or the steward training side.



Secretary/Treasurer

Martha Foote

Secretary/Treasurer

INDIANAPOLIS AREA LOCAL



Balance Sheet As of MAY 14, 2013

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking & Savings

PETTY CASH	100.00
PNC BANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT	
INTEREST EARNED	18.97
ENTERTAINMENT	4,714.45
EDUCATION	3,924.23
CONVENTION	8,661.53
5% CONTINGENCY	8,667.11

TOTAL PNC BANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT 25,986.29

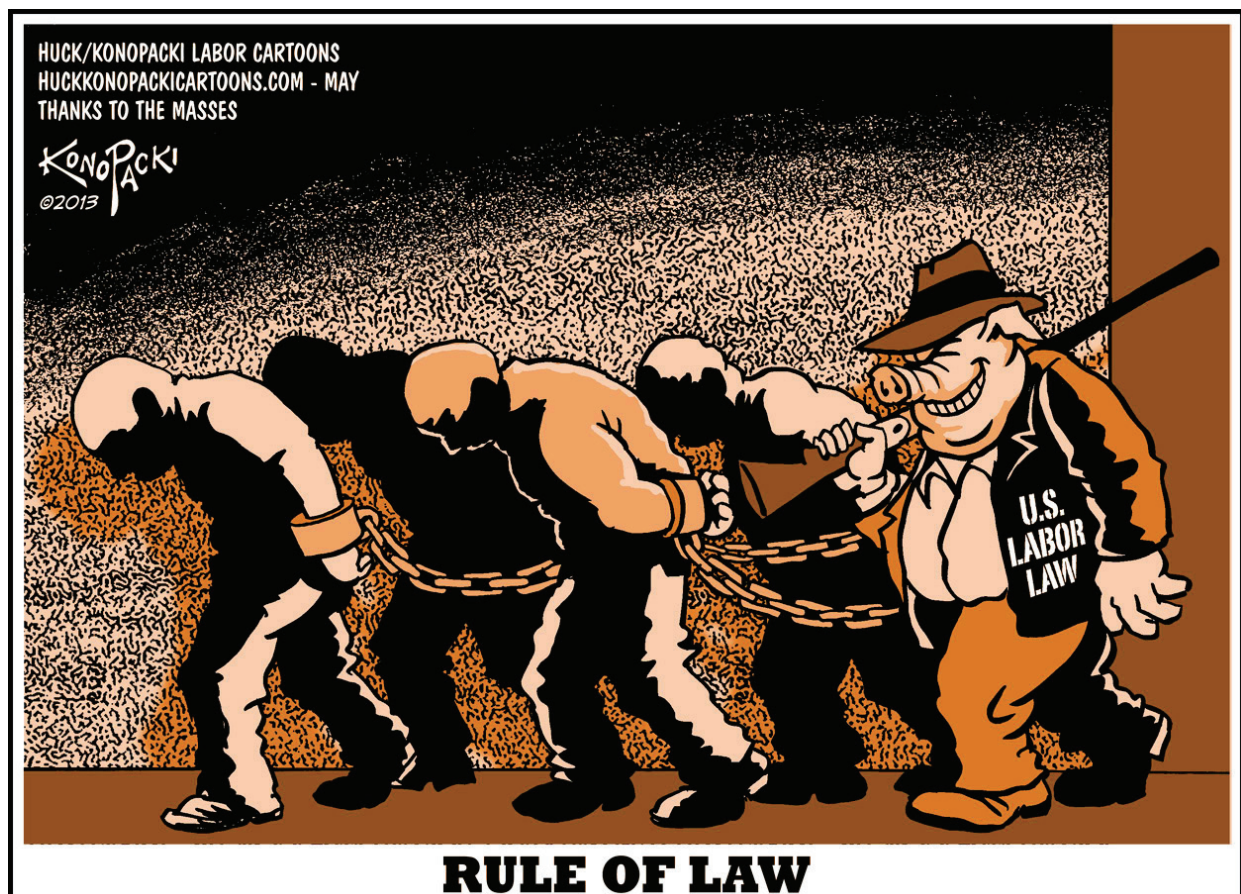
ELECTION FUND	3,781.45
RESERVE FUND President AL/SL	9,501.98
POWER FUNDS	(1,305.04)
GENERAL FUND checking	15,586.59
PAYROLL FUND checking	2,726.22

Total checking & Savings 57,682.53

Total Current Assets 57,682.53

GOLDMAN FUND	2,359.45
RETIRES FUND	25,451.74

Martha Foote
Martha Foote – Secretary/Treasurer



The Calculated Risks of High Blood Pressure

About 1 in 3 adults in the United States has High Blood Pressure (HBP). The condition itself usually has no signs or symptoms. You can have it for years without knowing it. During this time, though, HBP can damage your heart, blood vessels, kidneys, and other parts of your body. HBP is a serious condition that can lead to coronary heart disease, heart failure, stroke, kidney failure and other health problems. Untreated HBP can damage and weaken your arteries.


Risk factors for developing HBP

- Family history
- Advanced age
- Gender-related risk patterns
- Lack of physical activity
- Poor diet, especially one that includes too much salt
- Being overweight and obesity
- Drinking too much alcohol

Categories for Blood Pressure Levels in Adults

Category	Systolic (top number)		Diastolic (bottom number)
Normal	Less than 120	<i>And</i>	Less than 80
Prehypertension	120–139	<i>Or</i>	80–89
High blood pressure			
Stage 1	140–159	<i>Or</i>	90–99
Stage 2	160 or higher	<i>Or</i>	100 or higher

APWU Health Plan (High Option) Hypertension Management Program



Hypertension Management Program
Enroll and participate in the program to receive \$0 out-of-pocket costs for:

- In-network medical office visits for the specific purpose of lowering your blood pressure
- In-network lab tests related to hypertension management
- Generic drugs from Express Scripts by mail for the specific purpose of lowering your blood pressure

To Enroll

- Call 1-800-582-1314:
- Prompt 6 (for Hypertension Management Program)
After you enroll and speak to a Health Coach, you will be mailed a letter and Management Program ID card showing the effective date of entitlement to the \$0.00 incentives. Show this card when you visit your in-network physician.

**Maximize your
Health Care Spending**

Ways to control HBP

If you have HBP, have medical checkups or tests as your doctor advises. Your doctor may need to change or add medicines to your treatment plan over time. Routine checkups allow your doctor to change your treatment right away if your blood pressure goes up again. Healthy lifestyle habits can help you control HBP. These habits include:

- Following a healthy diet
- Being physically active
- Maintaining a healthy weight
- Quitting smoking
- Managing your stress and learning to cope with stress

If you combine healthy lifestyle habits, you can achieve even better results than taking single steps. You may find it hard to make lifestyle changes. Start by making one healthy lifestyle change and then adopt others.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Loretta Maydwell

Memembership/Insurance Coordinator

INDIANAPOLIS AREA LOCAL



MAY 2013

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Clerks.....	930
Mail Handlers.....	7
Motor Vehicle.....	126
Maintenance.....	207
Associate.....	9
Check Off	1,279
Cash.....	4
Total.....	1,283

Including 277 PSE's

Non-Pay.....	56
Cancel.....	5
Death.....	0
Retired.....	2

Welcome New Members



NEW MEMBER

Thomas Steward
Andrea Turner
Joinnie Maddie
Duane Pack
Nora McKamey
Keithlanae Fuqua
Josh Swartz
Benny Fields
Angela Colen (Butlerville)

SIGNED BY

Orientation
Orientation
L. Daniels
L. Daniels
N. Helms
M.Hale
L. Maydwell
L. Maydwell
Orientation

RETIRED

Laressa Tardy Mary J Rogers

SEPARATED

Courtney Burdine Kelly Foo
Cody Offutt Nikky Robinson
Chancellor Stovall

CANCEL

Jodie Warthen Wilber Feltner

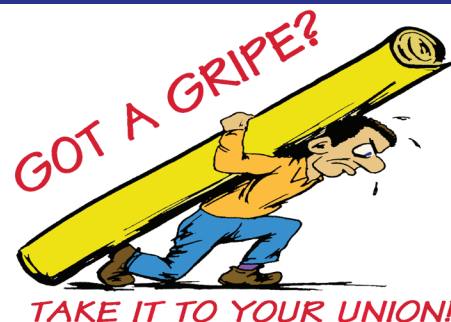
CLERKS RETURNED TO CRAFT

Nashia Abdul-Aleem	Willa Banks
Lawana (Thurman) Begret	Stephen Brown Jr.
Harold Cotton	Steven Cowherd
Lester Crain	Kathryn Devlin
Mark Embree	Pamela Gallagher
Dion Gartin	Danielle Johnson
Mildred Lewis	Lorraine McClug
Donald Moore	Marietta Page
Elizabeth Parnell	Nancy Pierce
Monica Ray	Bok Shaffer
Gurmeet Singh	Theodore Smith
Carlos Snow	Jeanie Stafford
Jacqueline Stevens	Valerie Stubblefield
Sylvester Taylor	Nicole Thompson
Mona Wilson	Yolanda Winbush
Deborah (Mabry) Wine	Tierra Winters
Terry Woods	

TALK TO NON-MEMBERS



PERSUADE THEM TO JOIN THE UNION



STEWARDS

MVS

Tony Moore
William Wood
Greg Jones, Craft Director

MAINTENANCE

Phillip Ashby
Keith Bornstein
Charles Finney
Tony Gray
Paul Sevenish
Steve M Vaughn
Steve W Vaughn
John (Mike) Hale, Craft Director

CLERKS

Nancy Helms
Tami El Amin
Dianna Coleman
Loretta Maydwell
Lorenzo Tucker
April Pryor
Floyd Stanley
Debra Gilbert, Craft Director

CLERKS, Station & Branches

Chantel Beckwith
Linda Daniels
Robin Miles
Pamela Plummer
LaTonia Smith
Dianna Coleman
Don Packwood
Vickie Crouse, Assistant Craft Director

CLERKS, Associate Offices

Helen Scott
Tina Haskett
Jacqueline D Henson
Kathy Miller-Hunt
Jeffrey A Moore
Suzanne Wiltermood
Jackie Williams

Webmaster/Website Updater

HTTP://WWW.IAL130.ORG
Glenn Littrell

50/50 DRAWING

Proceeds go to support the Annual Picnic, the Winter Party, and related activities.

Raffle Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Raffle ticket sales end on August 10, 2013 at the General Membership meeting.

The drawing is between 3 and 4pm, August 11, 2013 at the Annual Picnic.

Need not be present to win.

Guaranteed Jackpot at least \$250.00

The way a 50/50 raffle works is that the winner gets 50% of the funds raised by raffle ticket sales.



Last year's final Jackpot was \$1,350.00 !!!

The more tickets bought the better your chances and higher the jackpot. See your Stewards, Officers and Entertainment Committee member to purchase tickets.

Indianapolis Area Local #130, APWU, AFL-CIO

Annual Picnic August 11, 2013 Mark your calendar!



Sycamore Shelter, Ft. Harrison SRA (same locations as last year)

Planned Activities:

Hay Ride, Free Fishing Clinic for the kids, Miles of Hiking Trails, Playgrounds next to the shelter, 50/50 Drawing (see below), Pony Rides, Horseback Rides, Military Museum, Games, Music, FOOD! ...More information to follow.

Sign the Petition Save the Postal Service!

The APWU is asking union members and supporters to sign an online petition urging the White House to Save the Postal Service and Save American Jobs by supporting the Postal Service Protection Act (H.R. 630 in the House and S. 316 in the Senate).

The We the People petition must garner 100,000 signers by May 24 to generate a response from the White House. We still need more than 80,000 additional signatures!

To sign, visit <http://tinyurl.com/cae4wqcd> or scan the QR code with your smart-phone. (To sign, you will need to establish a *We the People* account, which is a quick and easy process.)



"Please post a link to the petition on your Facebook page and share it on any social media you participate in," Reid said.


"Stalled legislation must be re-introduced – and win support – in each new session of Congress," Reid explained. "So even if you've written to your representative and senators before, please sign the petition and contact your members of Congress again now."

The petition advocates re-establishing overnight delivery standards to ensure the timely delivery of mail and to prevent the closure of mail processing plants; opposes the move to five-day delivery, and proposes allowing the USPS to generate more revenue by offering new products and services.

Timing Is Critical

"The timing is critical," said President Cliff Guffey, "because the USPS is reneging on its commitment to lawmakers, customers and postal workers by closing more than 70 mail processing centers this year that were originally scheduled for possible closure in 2014."

The APWU has called on the Postal Service to postpone any consolidations until Congress acts, and has called on lawmakers to move quickly to prevent the USPS from implementing the devastating cuts in service the closures would cause.



We welcome original articles, stories and artwork from our union members and their families. All opinions expressed herein are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the editor, officers of the Indianapolis Area Local or the publisher. The editor reserves the right to determine whether the material submitted for this publication shall be printed and may edit letters and articles for length, style, grammar and spelling. Articles submitted must deal with labor issues or related topics, not personalities. Libelous statements or personal, unwarranted attacks will not be printed. **Deadline for submitting material to the editor is by 12:00 Noon on the Wednesday following the regularly scheduled monthly General Membership meeting.** Articles and letters to the editor should be submitted on disk, if possible. All material must have the author's name, address, phone number, and be signed, however anonymity may be requested. All communications concerning the paper should be addressed to:

Indy Info, 1509 E Propect St, Indianapolis, IN 46203



**Indy
Info**

INDIANAPOLIS AREA LOCAL #130
American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO
1509 E Prospect Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46203

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Keeps You Informed*

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ADDRESS BY MAIL OR ONLINE AT:
<http://www.indyapwu.org>**

Eight More U.S. Reps. Co-sponsor Postal Service Protection Act

APWU Web News Article 056-2013, May 2, 2013

In the past week, eight more members of the U.S. House of Representatives became co-sponsors of the Postal Service Protection Act (H.R. 630), a bill that would help solve the USPS financial crisis without hurting workers or mail service.

The latest representatives to sign on as supporters of the measure are:

Karen Bass (CA-37)
Denny Heck (WA-10)
Andre Carson (IN-7)
David Joyce (OH-14)
Lois Frankel (FL-22)\
Peter King (NY-2)
John Garamendi (CA-3)
Maxine Waters (CA-43)

Meanwhile, 20 U.S. senators have pledged to support the legislation as introduced in upper chamber of Congress (S. 316).

"The Postal Service Protection Act would provide desperately needed financial relief for the USPS and make many of the planned cutbacks in service unnecessary,"

said APWU President Cliff Guffey. "It would protect postal jobs and give the American people a Postal Service they can count on for the future," he added.

Guffey called on union members to continue reaching out to lawmakers who have not yet signaled their support for the legislation.

"APWU members must make sure that lawmakers — and the public — realize that widespread plant closings will delay mail by two to three days all week long, in cities and towns across the country," he added. "Additional closures will cripple service, further weaken this great American institution, make it less relevant, and make it less competitive."

"Gaining that more support for the Postal Service Protection Act," said APWU Legislative and Political Director Myke Reid, "will help convince lawmakers that Congress must act soon to pass a responsible bill that will improve service, protect postal workers, and strengthen the Postal Service in the digital age."

The Postal Service Protection Act would:

- Fix the Postal Service's immediate financial crisis by ending the mandate that requires the USPS to pre-fund healthcare benefits for future retirees — a burden no other government agency or private company bears;
- Allow the Postal Service to recover overpayments the USPS made to federal pension plans;
- Re-establish overnight delivery standards for first-class mail, which would ensure the timely delivery of mail, help keep mail processing facilities open, and protect jobs;
- Protect six-day delivery;
- Allow the USPS to develop new products and services that would generate new sources of revenue, and
- Protect post offices by giving the Postal Regulatory Commission binding authority to prevent post offices from being closed based on the effect on the community and the effect on the employees.