

Inside This Issue

Vice President/Treasurer Report.....	Page 2
Director Industrial Report.....	Page 3
Clerk Craft Report.....	Page 4
Fifth Annual Scott Miller Rescuer's Award.....	Page 5
MVS Craft Report.....	Page 5
Maintenance Craft Report.....	Page 6
Matt Bowen Memorial Scholarship Program.....	Page 8

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The President's Report . . .



by Paul Kilduff, Jr.,
General President

I felt at this time I would give a general update on the status of the Postal Service through Union eyes. I have been in office as General President since June 1, 2011, and I wish I could say things have been great. As many of you know, the constant attack on postal workers continues with no end in sight.

At this moment still on the table are the closure of possibly 22 Post Offices in the Boston Installation and one Plant closure. I, along with Bob Dempsey, Bob Keough, and Scott Hoffman, have attended each and every town meeting to inform the public of why their Post Office should not close. All these meetings were heavily attended by the residents of each city, along with clerks who work in these offices. I want to commend the clerks that showed up to speak against the closings and also the hard work to get out the word to their respective communities. I also must say I was very disappointed in the Letter Carrier Union for not showing up to ONE meeting, whether Station closings, the Northwest Plant meeting, or the Grove Hall Rally.

We now must wait until at least May 15th to see what is in store for each of the closings. The Postal Regulatory Commission spoke against any of the closings so I hope some of those knuckle heads in Washington wake up and do the right thing by not closing ONE Post Office — nor ONE Plant. There are other ways to make money, such as raise the rates to the big rich Mailers and also to wait for relief from Congress to get us out of this hole that they put us in. Whatever is decided will either go a long way into dismantling the Postal Service or to keep the Postal Service as a stable service to the American public like it should be.

Now that months have passed since the signing of this contract I would like to give my views on the contract itself. Back in May, I was summoned to New

The State Of The Union

York to listen to President Guffey to hear him speak about the tentative agreement. A presentation was given to the Northeast Area to explain how the negotiations went and why the APWU would be in a better place if the membership would accept this tentative agreement. This is our President speaking to everyone in attendance from the entire Northeast Area. After President Guffey spoke, he allowed the other officers in all the crafts to speak one by one. We were all lead to believe that the American Postal Workers Union took the Postal Service to the cleaners in most issues. At that same time a Republican Congressman, Darrell Issa, requested a hearing in Washington to object to our tentative agreement stating the agreement was too good and we were greedy postal workers. He suggested at this hearing that there should be layoffs starting with the most senior. He wanted this contract voided before the ink could dry. Issa stated this to President Guffey and the Postmaster General during this hearing.

So after listening to the leadership of our Union and a crazy Republican, I felt this contract had to be good. I am not afraid to admit that on the day of that

hearing on Capitol Hill, that was the day I decided to vote yes on the contract but at the same time still feeling uncomfortable about my decision. At the same time I didn't come out and fully endorse this contract to this Local. I can tell you as of today I feel our leadership was actually taken to the cleaners on most of the agreements they made with management. We all know it doesn't matter what is in the contract that management will always violate it when it comes to overtime, assignments, and zero tolerance. What I am talking about as being taken to the cleaners are major issues such as eliminating PTRs, creating the new employee category titled NON-TRADITIONAL employees, PSEs with a lower rate of pay, and from what I see — the end of the 40 hour job in 20 years. It is easy for anyone to sit at home and be a Monday morning quarterback and say I told you so. I listened to the entire presentation from the President of the American Postal Workers Union, hoping he was doing the right thing for our membership by giving us leadership. After all, he is our National President that was overwhelmingly elected by the membership.

What he has agreed to is to allow Postal management in Boston to establish ALL NTFT jobs in each station when operationally necessary. What that means is management now has language that they will try as they may to create as many NTFT jobs as possible in any station once someone bids out. That presentation in New York in May of 2011 had many of us in attendance thinking we just kicked the Postal Service's ass in every aspect of our new contract, when in all honesty we were taken to the cleaners and gave up a lot of things that we as a Union have fought to keep for years.

Lastly on the contract, this local from day one has never ever agreed to the abolishment of the category titled Part-Time Regular. This local going back to former President Steve Albanese has always fought for the category of Part-Time Regular clerks. I know there are many ex-PTRs that are upset, and I don't blame them. That being said, there are also many ex-PTRs that wanted to bid full time and will finally will be able to do so. I am man enough to state I believed in the leadership of our National but I also feel

continued on page 3

The State Of The Union

continued from page 1

let down by them. At a recent Presidents' Conference I told President Guffey my membership wanted answers regarding the contract and also stated in very strong words that we were sold a bill of goods at negotiations by the Postal Service.

On the horizon for this local to fight is the possible abolishments of many jobs in several stations. By the time this article is published I would expect us to be in the middle of a war trying to save as many jobs as possible. We are dealing with people in upper management that have their marching orders . . . that is to cut . . . cut . . . cut as many 40 hours jobs as possible. I am disappointed that as many as 10 clerks who held a 40 hour bid recently bid a 30 hour position. I am sure they had their reasons for doing that but that will eliminate 10 bids of 40 hours. Management is praying more employees do this. I will state this until I am blue in the face . . . "never bid less than 40 hours if you are a traditional full time clerk. You can never be forced into a bid of less than 40 hours if you are an unassigned traditional (40 hour) employee".

I wish I could say there is a light at the end of the tunnel but I can't. I am a positive person even though people in my office don't think so. How can anyone be positive when there are people in upper management trying to hurt each and

every single one of us? Having to sit in a room with these people and listening to their bull of how they have to do what they're doing is insulting to all of us. I feel 2012 could be the worst the Boston Metro has ever experienced. This office will not sit by idly and let these heartless people destroy the lives of our members.

Please — if you are doing more than your share of work, I would ask you to stop. Your manager is hoping you continue so he or she can cut another job. If you are a suck pump in your office and you feel your boss is going to save you, then you are mistaken. If you are an acting supervisor, then I ask you to stop now. You will lose your bid if you violate the contract and I will personally take your bid myself. If you do lose your bid, you have no one to blame but yourself. You are helping to eliminate a bid by wearing

two hats. Why would you do that? So you can make another buck an hour?

When I took the office of General President, I informed everyone I will always be honest and speak my mind. I never intend to hurt anyone but only to say the truth. What has happened to the old days when members said "enough is enough" and asked for a steward when the wind changed directions? We need you to go back to those days; we need the same people that wouldn't take bull from anyone. You pay dues for representation from your union. Use your status as a member and pay back these heartless bastards that are trying to send you packing. Take a look around you . . . do you see the same amount of employees as you once did? Do you see any NTFT supervisors in your station? ASK FOR A STEWARD EVERY DAY — STARTING TODAY!!!

Mailing Address Update

by Paul Kilduff, Jr., General President
To All Boston Metro APWU Members:

We are currently updating our mailing lists, which are used for mailing out local & national election ballots, grievance information, the local publication, the "BOSTONIAN", and the national publication, "THE AMERICAN POSTAL WORKER".

If you are not receiving the "Bostonian" or "The American Postal Worker" at your present mailing address, please call (617-423-2798); or write to us at the local office and notify us of your correct address.

Even though you may have notified the Postal Service of a change of address, we would not be notified by them of any change. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Thanks