



# The RETIREE RECORD

A NEWS BULLETIN FOR MEMBERS  
AFFILIATED WITH APWU POSTAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

PITTSBURGH AREA RETIREE CHAPTER  
OF THE AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO

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## REPUBLICANS IN DISARRAY? WHAT IS GOING ON?

The Republican march toward the nomination for President stumbles onward. The constantly shifting of position between the pretenders to the throne from state to state as primaries and caucuses occur and are put behind them has more than one pundit, including this observer, watching in disbelief as they try to destroy each other as they campaign in the various elections.

By this time in 'normal' elections, a front runner would have emerged and the troops would be rallying behind her/him. But it is obvious that this cycle is far from normal. First it was Romney that surged ahead. Then in South Carolina Gingrich bested him to become the temporary front runner. Santorum then emerged in the Midwest to squeak out a leadership claim. Romney countered in New England with a couple victories there to reclaim the front runner title. Then here came Santorum again in the upper Midwest to overtake Romney. Now the media is giving tons of ink to Santorum as the current front runner.

## WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN FOR RETIREES? (AND ACTIVE MEMBERS TOO!)

NO MATTER WHICH ONE OF THE ABOVE FINALLY EMERGES AS THE NOMINEE THAT WILL FACE PRESIDENT OBAMA IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION, IF ANY OF THEM WIN THAT ELECTION, IT WILL BE BAD NEWS FOR US. THAT IS A FACT. A COLD, HARD, FACT! Because each of them, in their own way, has staked out positions about Medicare, COLA raises, Social Security, and Postal issues that, if implemented, would result in harm to all who read this publication. Moreover, they are more likely to shift our health care and retirement to the bargaining table, where we are sure to take a bath either through direct bargaining, or the award of an Arbitrator. Round after round of negotiations would weaken our position even further. Look to the recent Collective Bargaining Agreement that was **agreed to**, not the result of Arbitration, to see where we would be headed if we are faced with that prospect.

## WE EARNED IT

Our retirement, health benefits, and Medicare are not gifts from a benevolent government. NO WAY! We earned them through decades of toil in service to our country. There can be no tampering or reduction in these provisions that we have built a working career to achieve them.

As to the opinions set forth above ~ don't just take our word for it. Pay attention to the threats coming from the lips of these Republican candidates. One positive aspect of the never ending campaign is that they are unmasked and stand naked as they vie for advantage.

## PMAPWU ELECTION 2012

Nominations for the PMAPWU election of officers were held at their February Membership Meeting. THE ENTIRE SLATE OF INCUMBENT OFFICERS WAS NOMINATED WITHOUT OPPOSITION! The result ~ all will continue as elected for another three year term. Within that group my wife Charlotte was reelected as Recording Secretary. Congratulations Charlotte!

The election heralds a "new" kind of "leadership" for what once was a proud and effective Local. Now the stench of capitulation emanates from the Local. The team of President Pugar and Vice President/Business Agent Jones, advocates and supporters of the most regressive contract in the history of the APWU, waltzed into another term without any opposition from the work floor. To review the shameful low points of the contract, this is what they support and shoved down the member's throats: Clerk work/with assignments handed to Postmasters, affected Clerks excessed; non career PSE "casuals" replacing regular assignments; loss of overtime pay for work in excess of eight hours; "regular" assignments of as little as thirty hours per week thus also reducing retirement annuities in the future; and a wage freeze including loss of some COLA, etc., etc.

As retirees, we might well just cluck and pity the poor workers who will suffer under the contract and that administration. But, hold the phone, because the Postal Service is pulling all stops trying to get OUR retirement and health benefits onto the sacrificial altar of the bargaining table. If they succeed, this is the crowd, spearheaded by the Guffey APWU administration, that would face management across that table and accept those concessions. Their failure to protect and advance active workers is a predictor of how retirees would fare if it comes to that. So our pity is tempered with the chilling prospect that we may well find ourselves as retirees in the same jackpot as active members. We can and must do all in our power to prevent that horrible prospect. We urge in the strongest way that all our members and the active members become informed and actively contact Congressional figures to compliment the direction coming from the Legislative Department. Make that phone call or send that letter to preserve and protect our interests. It is now or never! 'Nuff said!

### ??? MEMBERSHIP MEETING ??? ~ ~ GO FIGURE!

The Chapter faces a weather dilemma every Winter. In previous years and for last year, we conducted Chapter business at our December Christmas Party. We usually schedule that meeting and party early in the month hoping to avoid bad weather that could limit attendance. Ironically, the last couple of parties, while held in the first week of the month, saw some snow fall, but not enough to make travel an issue.

Our history for the months of January and February has not been good over the years. When we scheduled meeting for those months, because of advance notice, meeting days showed up with snow or ice storms. One February meeting was so bad that only one member was able to get there. So we no longer schedule meetings for those months. Lo and behold, January was mild and snow free, and February started out that way. As this is written we have had snow throughout the area, 7" in Washington County, and frigid temperatures. Now the sun is shining! Who can figure or plan with this bizarre weather pattern? Therefore, we will hold to our plan and schedule the next meeting for late in March.

**SHUT-IN LIST** ~ Bill Adams, Janaan Burkhart, Norbert Conway, Jeanne McCarthy, Laverne Heil, Dorothy Walker, and Ruth Marlett are on the shut-in list. Please keep a good thought for our shut-ins. There but for the grace of God..... (To be included on the shut in list, call the Chapter at 724 947 9374.)

**MAY BE PASSED AROUND/REPRODUCED**