



# COURTESY COPY 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

POST OFFICE BOX 39 ◊ SLOVAN ◊ PENNSYLVANIA ◊ 15078  
JOHN P. RICHARDS, *President and Editor*

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## PMAPWU SOLIDARITY PICNIC 2012



Rege Davis

Ed Devey

John Richards

Three Maintenance Craft buddies comparing notes about the past and present at the Solidarity Picnic. Rege Davis is a Retiree Chapter Trustee, Ed Devey is the current PMAPWU Maintenance Division Director, flanked by Chapter President John Richards. The "boys" reminisced about how things at the Post Office have changed over the years, including the passing of a number of colleagues who are no longer on the scene. Reflecting on that conversation brings the following to mind:

### A TRULY 'INDUSTRIAL' UNION LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

Our 20 year administration of the Local may well mark the end to diversity in the officer structure of the Local. The structure for full time officers was ~ a Maintenance Mechanic as President, a Mail Handler (Joe Anthony) as Ex. Vice President/Business Agent, a BMC Clerk (Joe Gruener) as Secretary Treasurer, and a GMF Tour 1 LSM Clerk (Desi Neurohr) as an appointed assistant to the President. Within that time frame the part-time Executive Board saw a parade of women, African Americans, more Mail Handlers, and a grievance staff across the board that reflected and represented all elements of the Local. It was an enviable diversity that is unmatched today, and probably will never be repeated in the current climate of go along to get along. We were able to achieve that diversity by forging our way from the membership at meetings and sheer will and determination to change the status quo. When the discussion turns to 'the good old days' as it usually does when retirees get together, the achievements of that administration and those that were part of it are fondly remembered.

(over)

## LOYALTY DEFINED???

The Chapter receives a printout every month from national that lists our members. This month when the printout came, included thereon was Desi Neurohr, who was actually the longest serving full-time officer of the Local who retired recently after receiving a huge causal in lieu of grievance award (while off the work floor for many years), and moved to Florida. When I communicated about the printout with Retiree Director Judy Beard, she advised to remove Desi from our list, since he was now opting to be registered elsewhere. It should be noted that the Chapter has members as far west as New Mexico and Arizona, and also throughout the Eastern seaboard and several Midwestern states.

I recruited Desi when he was a Tour 1 LSM Operator and appointed him to a full-time position in the Local. He served in that capacity from then until he retired, advancing to the office of Secretary Treasurer. So after all these years of earning his living from the Local, he chooses to deprive the Chapter of the meager monthly dues that means so much to us. Moreover, on a personal basis alone, is this the demonstration of loyalty that one would expect in these circumstances? **I think not!** We do not in any way criticize his right to choose, **but we certainly find his choice to indicate disloyalty. With the significant resources that he retired with, thousands coming from the Local as well, one would expect a little more loyalty and support for the Pittsburgh Retiree Chapter.**

The same could be said for Russ Knepp, who retired from the Local as a full time national officer, who also declined to join our Chapter. Loyalty is in the mind of the beholder!

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR:** The Retiree Record received a comment concerning our report of the meeting with Cong. Tim Murphy. The thrust of the communication was a hint that we may be in support of Murphy, noting that he signed on to the 5% increase in employee deductions for retirement which is a 5% cut in take home pay if it comes to pass. The facts are that we castigated the Allegheny County Labor Council when they endorsed him several years ago, worked on the O'Donnell campaign and others that opposed him, and have consistently voted against him. We met with him because the APWU administration urged all active and retired members to meet with our representatives during their recent break. Murphy happens to be my Congressman, therefore I complied with the Union's request and forcefully presented the Union's position on all the issues mentioned in the report, and others. Nothing more should be inferred from that meeting.

**INTERESTING DICHOTOMY** ~ A number of Union publications, including APWU newsletters, have commented on the May 1, 1886 demonstration of @ 300,000 workers in Chicago in order to achieve the eight hour work day. If memory serves correctly, there were also mass demonstrations of workers in Australia to achieve the same goal. Once established, the eight hour work day was the standard in this country and elsewhere. In the APWU a mere handful of workers have discarded the eight hour work day for huge numbers of Postal Workers, (less hours, less pay) present and future. One cannot help but wonder if the APWU event of 2012 departing from the eight hour work day will also be chronicled in labor history in the future. Time will tell!

**NEW MEMBER** ~ Keith DeHaven. Welcome aboard!

**SHUT-IN LIST** ~ Bill Adams, 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/DUPLICATED**