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I hope you have had a good summer and have been able to spend time with your family. As summer ends . . . election season begins. We have many important races here in Massachusetts. With the many attacks on organized labor and working families, it is more important than ever to vote and to vote for the candidates that support workers and their families, particularly Postal workers. Every one of you who has taken the time to read this article knows what is happening with the Postal Service and just how very real the threats to our jobs are. It's really true that it has never been so important to get out and vote. There are those in Congress that are moving to privatize the Postal Service. As a matter of fact, the Republican Candidate for President has expressed that this would be his agenda.

We have both Senate and Congressional races taking place. I urge you to Google the voting record of Senator Brown prior to voting day because what is important is *how* he votes — not what he drives or how nice a guy he is. You may be surprised to see that his voting record hasn't made him a friend of labor. Take a look at both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party platforms as well. The Republican platform seeks to privatize many postal operations. If this happens you would be out of your job. The Democratic Platform supports workers and their families. It does not favor the rich or disregard the poor.

THE BOSTONIAN



Vol. 35 No. 5

July-September, 2012

by Robert Keough, Director Industrial Relations . . .

Get Out And Vote!

Senator Brown does not have the support of labor; his voting record on labor issues has been dismal. Candidate Elizabeth Warren has the support of Labor and has been endorsed by this local. Every Democrat candidate for Congress here in Massachusetts has been endorsed by labor. They have always had our back and it's time to show them we have theirs.

Voting is a right. There are still places that do not have a democratic process — many of these places not only restrict the ability for your average person to vote, but they also restrict other rights and freedoms as well. We are very fortunate to live in this great country where we have the right to decide who shall lead us. Why would you want to leave it to others to choose who represents you?

Your vote does matter. Tens of thousands of soldiers have fought and died for your right to vote. If you need a reason to vote, then vote for them. Vote for your family, vote for your job. Support candidates that support working families. Your money, children's future, health care, and jobs are all at stake. Sometimes the true nature

of what our leaders actually do is lost in 30 second sound bites or videos of brown jackets and pickup trucks. Look past the fluff, look at just how our current Senator votes. The Democratic candidate, Elizabeth Warren, has a proven record of working on behalf of working families. The outcome of this election will have profound implications and will determine which direction this country moves. Supreme Court appointments, health care, a woman's right to choose, are just a few examples of just how important your vote is. Vote so you can have a say in what happens.

The leaders of this local are committed to the fight to protect your job but we can't do it alone. Be prepared, the attacks on your job continue. None of us can afford to let the other guy do it. A strong united work force is a mighty thing. It has been made clear that forces are coming after us. Get involved, attend union meetings, and be proud to be union, file that grievance and remember your boss is **not** your friend.

The APWU has been successful in getting back work that was taken from us. President Guffey recently signed

several agreements. I commend President Guffey and our national officers for their hard work. These settlements provide for more clerks jobs and protect seniority. They are as follows.

- The advanced facer canceller machines will now be staffed with clerks. This is a huge win for our union. A number of new clerk positions will be posted. This work has been done by mailhandlers in the 010 unit of the GMF. This is a major win for the APWU. Positions will be posted.

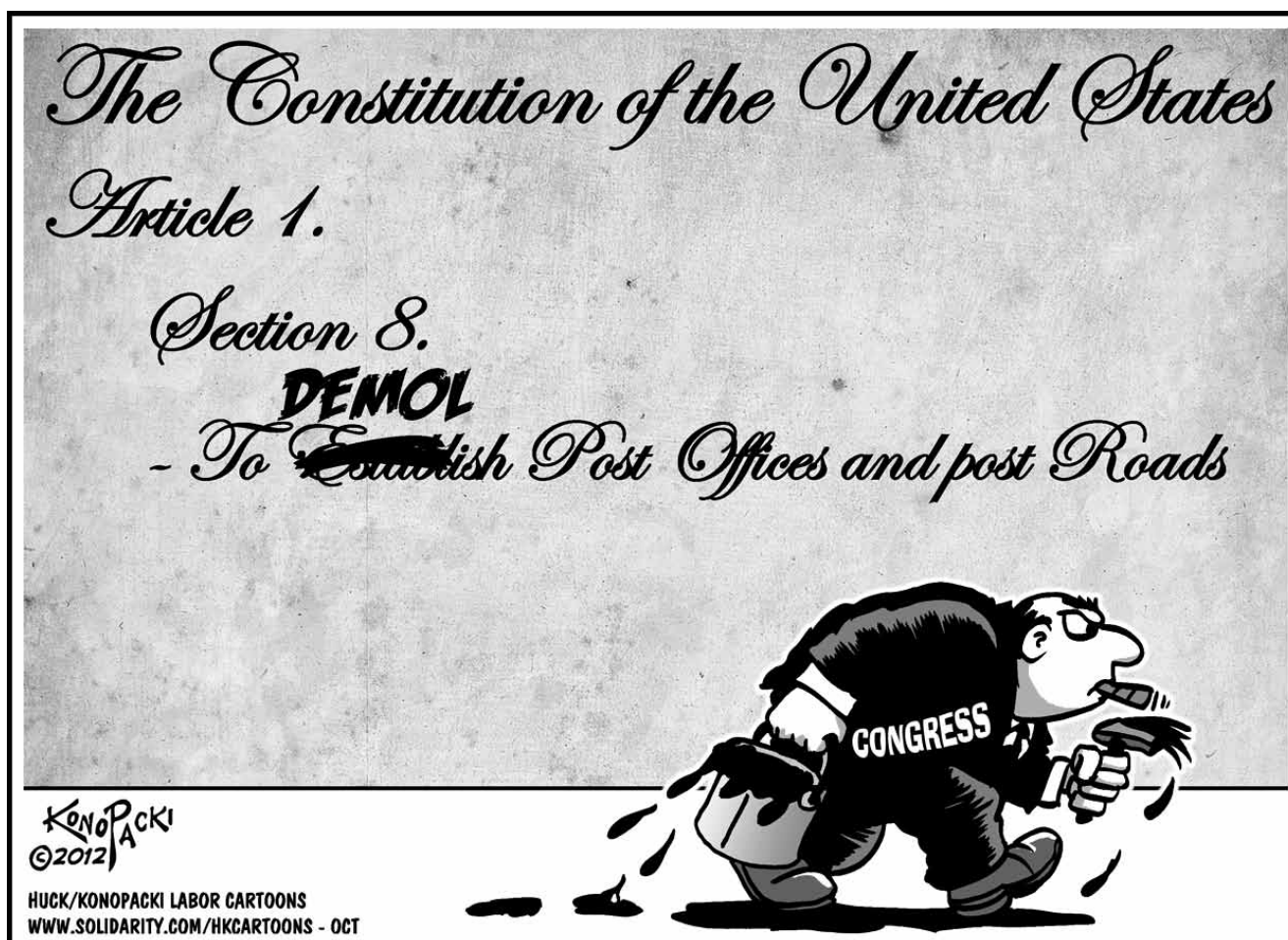
- Advanced Management System (AMS) duties that have been performed by management will now be performed by clerks. Positions will be posted.

- When excessing occurs — **seniority** will be the determining factor alone. Level will no longer be a factor. This agreement protects your seniority and is long overdue.

- Lastly, management has agreed that hours worked by PSEs will be added to any non-traditional bids (less than 40 hours) whenever feasible. I expect a number of positions to be created from this agreement and more 40 hour jobs. We are currently examining PSE work hours and will be pursuing this issue further.

At the request of our General President, Paul Kilduff, I have begun to schedule training classes for our stewards. We have many great stewards who do a great job day in and day out. We are committed to giving them the best tools and training possible. If you happen to work in an office where there is no steward, I ask you to consider being one. The job is not an easy one, but there is satisfaction in representing your co-workers. Enforcement of our contract protects our work and jobs. If you are interested in being a steward please give me a call.

And please remember to VOTE !!!





by Bob Dempsey, Vice President/Treasurer . . . — Endorsements —

I was surprised at the amount of phone calls that I received after my last article in *The Bostonian*. Some were to congratulate me for taking on

the additional role as the state's new Legislative Director and others were to question and comment on our endorsements announced. I figured this issue would be the perfect opportunity for me to share with you on how these endorsements come about.

Over the last few years I've become very active and involved with the Massachusetts AFL-CIO and the Greater Boston Labor Council (GBLC). Our NBA's Steve Lukosus and Frank Rigiero are on the Mass AFL-CIO Executive Council, and I'm on the Executive Board of the GBLC. In February, we attended the Mass AFL-CIO annual state of the union conference down in Plymouth, MA, and the Mass AFL-CIO made a big splash by voting on and announcing their endorsements so early in the year.

Prior to receiving an endorsement, candidates have a criterion they must meet. The APWU, for example, has a questionnaire developed by our national legislation department (and you can view Elizabeth Warren's responses to these questions in this issue) on where they stand on our issues.

There are Committees On Political Education (COPE) that interview the candidates with their own set of questions. These COPE committees also take into consideration the candidate's voting records. The AFL-CIO keeps a scorecard on how our elected officials vote on our working family issues. After reviewing all of the information the committee gives the report to the body before any votes for endorsement.

I had to explain during these phone calls that unfortunately Scott Brown's voting record is horrible on working family issues. This is the reason why he did not get the Mass AFL-CIO's endorsement or our Local's endorsement. Everybody agrees he's a "nice guy" and talks a great game, but he cannot hide from his voting record (which is a matter of public record):

- He **opposed** President Obama's plan to create jobs and invest in our infrastructure.
- He **weakened** the laws Elizabeth Warren helped create to protect the middle class from Wall Street.
- He **opposed** keeping student loan rates down.
- He would **cut** Social Security and Medicare benefits before asking the

wealthiest 1% to help pay their fair share.

- He **opposed** prevailing wage laws, collective bargaining rights and project labor agreements.

I believe we need Elizabeth Warren in the U.S. Senate. Elizabeth Warren knows what challenges our families are facing in this economy, and how to get Washington working for us again:

- She supports our Postal issues (**she has promised to have our backs**) and union rights by standing

return our APWU questionnaire to headquarters. If you want my support and vote, you have to earn it !!!

Elizabeth Warren has promised she will have our backs all of the time!

I want to remind everyone of the endorsements in the last issue that were unanimously voted on at our February 2012 General Membership meeting;

- Elizabeth Warren for U.S. Senate
- Congressman Richard Neal for re-election to the 1st Congressional District

- Congressman James McGovern for re-election to the 2nd Congressional District

- Congresswoman Niki Tsongas for re-election to the 3rd Congressional District

- Joe Kennedy, III, for U.S. Congress in the 4th Congressional District

- Congressman Ed Markey for re-election to the 5th Congressional District

- Congressman John

Tierney for re-election to the 6th Congressional District

- Congressman Michael Capuano for re-election to the 7th Congressional District

- Congressman Stephen Lynch for re-election to the 8th Congressional District

- Congressman William Keating for re-election to the 9th Congressional District

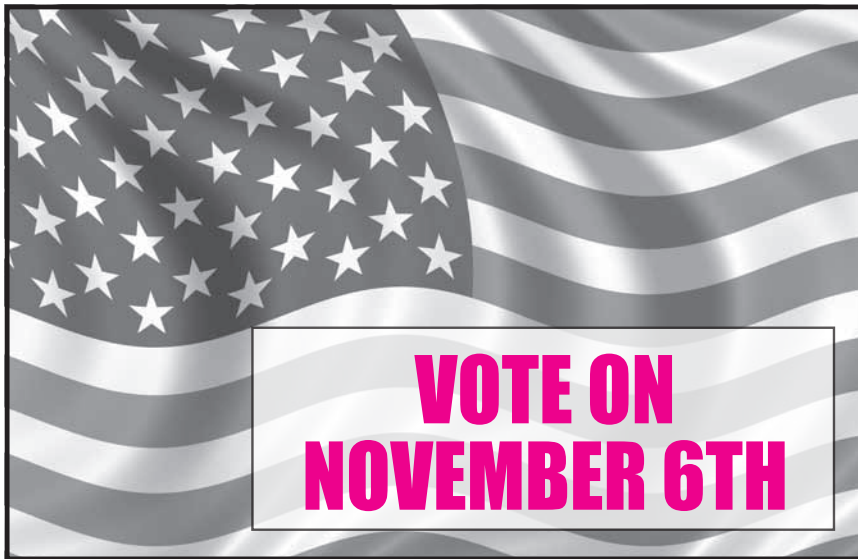
National Convention/Update

For the most part it was an uneventful convention but I was however glad to see a lot of the issues put to bed by our national officers by the end of the week. Everybody was expressing the same frustration with the Postal Service and the new contract.

The part that really sucks is the way this new agreement is being implemented. I was one of the many that agreed last year that PMG Donahoe has got to go. Less than three months after signing our new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), Postmaster General Donahoe was urging Congress to restructure our Agreement by getting involved.

I couldn't believe this guy negotiated and signed an agreement with this union and then pulled that stunt. That atrocious act should make it very clear to us exactly who we are dealing with. The USPS asked Congress to allow them to screw us in order to help alleviate their money problems and

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THE BOSTONIAN

GENERAL OFFICERS

General President Paul Kilduff, Jr.
 V.P./Treasurer Bob Dempsey
 Dir., Ind. Relations Bob Keough
 Assist. Treasurer Dennis Avery
 Recording Secretary Marie Allouise
 Vice President, North Raymond Bell
 Vice President, South Barry Holland
 Vice President, Central Robert White
 Vice President, West John Uccello
 017 Vice President Vacant
 020 Vice President John Milso
 Dir. Human Relations Dale Denham
 Dir. Org. Leg. & Educ. Bob Waterhouse
 Sgt.-at-Arms Bruce Pearson

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Pres. Clerk Craft Scott Hoffman
 Dir. Mech. Distr. Matt Dodd
 Trustee Clerk John Tobin
 Trustee Clerk Dan Gonsalves
 Trustee Clerk Paul Holland
 Trustee Clerk Linda Cheevers

MAINTENANCE CRAFT OFFICERS

President, Maintenance Wayne Greenside
 Trustee, Maintenance Joseph Joyce

MOTOR VEHICLE CRAFT OFFICERS

President, MVS William Weaver
 Trustee, MVS Ned Hogan

BOSTONIAN STAFF
PAUL KILDUFF, JR.
 Editor

Website: bostonmetroapwu.com

AFFILIATIONS:
 Mass State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Greater Boston Labor Council
 AFL-CIO
 American Postal Workers Union,
 AFL-CIO
 American Postal Workers Union of
 Mass., AFL-CIO
 Postal Press Association
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United We Stand – Divided We Fall!

(Published Quarterly)



by Scott Hoffman, Clerk Craft President . . . *The Enemy Is At The Gate*

The enemy is at the gate. We need everyone on the wall . . . this means EVERYONE. This means YOU. The Boston Installation staffing packages are rolling out. The plants, the stations and branches, you name it, they are here or on the way.

The Local has kept the devastation from you for a long period of time. For the most part, we have kept the enemy from destroying your houses, your work locations, for over a year. Other parts of the country have already been ransacked, obliterated. They are here for us now. There is not enough time, stewards or officers to combat this onslaught. We need every single sister and brother, front and center, on the wall to fill in the line. It is too thin.

If you think merely paying dues entitles you to sit back and have everyone else fight your battles, you are deadly mistaken. If you think that overlooking the glaring and rampant violations occurring daily will somehow make it better or easier, you are deadly mistaken. If you think that currying favor from your immediate boss by your silence and unwillingness to act will somehow make things better, you are gravely mistaken. If you compromise with the destruction, you are part of the destruction. Their intentions are crystal clear. No one will be spared; no one will be unaffected. Some of this is not news to you. You see firsthand the degradation of the service to the public, the disregard for your contract and rights, the deliberate circumvention of regulations in place to protect the interests of the employees, the service and the public. Yet most of you say and do nothing. Maybe a snide comment or some

mutual commiseration — quietly in a back room. This is how the devastation is accomplished. The Postal Service puts forth that nothing is wrong; everything is running smooth. Therefore, cuts are appropriate. As long as the sanctity of the registry cage is not protected by

corners, then they can cut hours. In other words, as long as we keep doing business as usual, put our heads in the sand, remain afraid of retribution that is already on the way, then they can cut hours.

There is fraud being perpetrated on a grand scale. You would think that having that many people on the inside, they could not pull it off. But they are!

“There is fraud being perpetrated on a grand scale. You would think that having that many people on the inside, they could not pull it off. But they are!”

— collectively and aggressively. We have to match their aggression, their lies with truths, and the resolve of the destroyers with our resolve to maintain. This is not fear mongering; it is a stark dose of reality in hope that we awaken from our catatonic state. Sometimes I feel like the guy in every horror movie . . . You know — the one nobody listens to. Well, the body count has started. Maybe for once, we can change the script. In Unity.

Brothers and sisters, we are on the inside. We see this fraud daily. We have to act now — collectively and aggressively. We have to match their aggression, their lies with truths, and the resolve of the destroyers with our resolve to maintain. This is not fear mongering; it is a stark dose of reality in hope that we awaken from our catatonic state.

Sometimes I feel like the guy in every horror movie . . . You know — the one nobody listens to. Well, the body count has started. Maybe for once, we can change the script. In Unity.

— Endorsements —

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circumvent the bargaining table. This in my opinion was inexcusable and a perfect example of management’s lack of credibility and integrity.

Delegates ratified a series of resolutions that highlighted the frustration of the 21st Biennial Convention: “. . . The APWU must continue to develop national and local strategies to aid the fight to Save America’s Postal Service; join with other postal unions and allies, and do everything in our power to elect labor-friendly candidates in November . . .” Delegates the day before voted unanimously to endorse President Barack Obama for a second term.

“. . . Convention delegates also endorsed a resolution calling on all locals, state organizations, retiree chapters, auxiliary chapters and other affiliated organizations to write to the chairman of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors demanding that he:

- Instruct the Postmaster General to adhere to the 2010-2015 APWU Collective Bargaining Agreement and,
- Work with the postal unions — which represent hundreds of thousands of dedicated postal employees — to Save America’s Postal Service . . .”

I couldn’t believe the stories I was hearing at the convention about the subcontracting of the MVS routes in California. I guess the Postal Service

was blaming the new California emission laws for this decision. From my understanding the union even agreed to help pay for the updating/retrofitting of the current fleet to comply with these new standards in order to keep the work. This offer must’ve fell on deaf ears with the Postal Service as usual because they plan to go ahead and excess all of these employees.

I’ve been reading and writing about the true intent of the Postal Service and their plans for our futures for years now. The Postal Service would love to have L’Enfant Plaza as a “shell Corporation” that simply manages subcontractors. This is why we need to protect our work and our futures. If you see a violation, please ask for a steward and file a grievance to help protect our futures.

In the last couple of days we’ve seen some of the sign-offs/agreements that were talked about at the convention. I want to thank our national officers for their hard work in achieving these and getting some clarification needed for the locals. I also want to congratulate them for getting some of the work finally returned because it is what we thought we were getting last year with this new agreement.

In closing, I cannot stress enough to please remember to vote on Tuesday, November 6th.

DEADLINE
for the next issue of The Bostonian is
November 1, 2012

Any member or officer wishing to submit an article is advised to send it, typewritten and double spaced, to the Union Office by the deadline date. (Articles subject to editing and available space.)

MAIL COUPON

**Boston Metro Area Local 100
COPA Fundraiser**

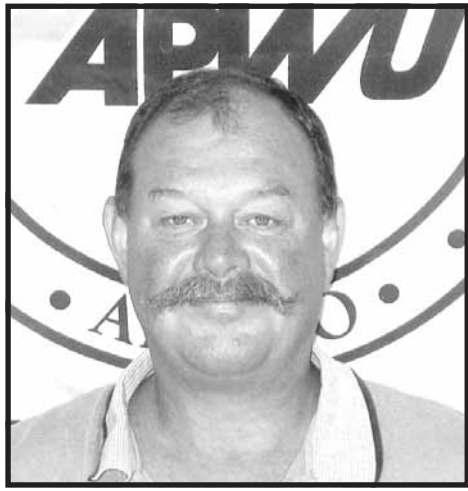
**Drawing to be held at the
FALL Steward Seminar**

1st Prize – Block of \$10 scratch Tickets (or \$1000 cash)
2nd Prize – \$250
3rd Prize – \$100

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
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Donation \$10 per ticket and checks need to be made payable to:
APWU COPA

**Mail coupon and check to: APWU Boston Metro
137 South St., 4th Floor • Boston, MA 02111**



by Bill Weaver, MVS Craft President . . .

Locking The Yellow Boxes Is The "Key" To The S.O.P. And Safety On Our Docks

We all know that in many cases the Platform at both the old and new buildings were severely understaffed to begin with, and with the added mail and doors from (024) Waltham, it has only gotten worse. The Yellow Boxes that secure our truck keys are being left open more than ever. Also, help loading and unloading trucks, as required per the dock S.O.P., is non-existent.

The expeditors are spread out — working more doors, and management has pulled off the mailhandlers from the dock area to help transport a larger volume of mail to the doors from the machines. This is leaving a huge void on the dock with little and — most times — no coverage at the doors where the M.V.S. drivers wait to lock their keys in the secured Yellow Boxes and assist in loading the M.V.S. trucks.

Remember, the S.O.P. that management created and wants implemented states: M.V.S. drivers are to report to the expeditor, scan their trip and secure the keys in the Yellow Boxes, then assist in loading if required. It also states that the

expeditors will make sure that the load is properly secured and the door of the M.V.S. truck locked before the Yellow Box is opened and keys handed to the driver. **This is not happening, and management knows this.** We are not being provided help to even assist in loading the truck. Instead they are hoping we will load the truck ourselves and once done, just remove our keys from the unlocked box and depart, skipping vital parts of the Dock S.O.P. This has been creating a serious safety issue.

An increasing number of M.V.S. drivers have resorted to loading and unloading their truck with no help and not following the S.O.P. They risk an inevitable injury and almost assured discipline because if you load your truck by yourself and get hurt — in the eyes of management — you have committed an unsafe act and will receive discipline for not asking for help. Make no mistake about it — management will have no problem disciplining and firing you if you do not follow the S.O.P. and something goes wrong!

We are sick of constantly asking our immediate supervisors in Central Control (CCO) for help. They **do call** the Plant Platform supervisors of both buildings, seeking help loading and unloading our trucks and to secure our keys — but to no avail. It is time that the Plant takes respon-

sibility for the safety and well being of the M.V.S. drivers and the mail we deliver.

Drivers have been issued seven and fourteen day suspensions, and have been fired for not following the S.O.P. We need to protect our jobs. **Follow ALL management rules which include having your keys secured in the Yellow Lock Box, and assist in loading and unloading if required.** Do not rush or cut corners. That's when mistakes happen. Take your time, be methodical and safe. We are here for eight hours; then we go home. Let management worry about the mail getting out on time. Take your time, do not hurry, work safe, and protect your health and your job!

Higher Level List

In November, management soon will be soliciting names for qualified MVOs who wish to volunteer for the Non-Supervisory Higher Level list (Tractor Trailer Level-8). In no way does this list entitle you to work overtime. This list is strict-

ly for qualified MVOs who may work a tractor trailer **at the straight time rate.** This only allows management to pull you out of your Level-7 bid run to cover an open Higher Level-8 Tractor Trailer assignment on straight time.

Drivers should not get on the Non-Supervisory Higher Level list thinking they are going to get overtime. This list has nothing to do with overtime, and does not entitle you to work overtime — so drivers should not get on this list if they think they are getting overtime. **This list does not entitle you to overtime!**

The Local Memorandum of Understanding (LMOU) states: The MVOs on the Higher Level List consistent with this article may be used on straight time to cover Tractor Trailer Operator (TTO) work.

We do not believe you should get on this list unless you want to drive a tractor trailer at the higher level straight time rate.

Semper fi.

— LETTER TO THE EDITOR —

Paul Kilduff, General President
Boston Metro Area Local
137 South Street, 4th Floor
Boston, Ma 02111

Dear Paul:

I read the excellent column on the Local's History and the 1970 strike. The following are names of some tour 3 clerks that I remember who were on the picket line with me and my wife Pat: Bob Compagna, Bobby Lane, Norm Richards, Eddie McGinnis, Paul Kilduff Sr., Bob Martel, John O'Neal, Harry Gordon, John Lyons, Tommie Creed and many more. I can't remember all their names. Many are deceased now.

The tour superintendent (Sheffield) came out of the SPA with Postal Inspectors to get us on film. We attempted to block postal trucks from leaving and entering to the platform on the canal side of the SPA. A grand time was had by all!

Nick Diliberto, Retired former Executive Vice President
Boston Metro

DISCOUNT MOVIE FORM

NAME: _____

Employee ID # (EIN): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CINEMA REQUESTED

SHOWCASE — # of Tickets @ \$7.00 = \$ _____

A.M.C. CINEMA — # of Tickets @ \$5.50 = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

- Limit of ten (10) tickets per order for each cinema
- Enclose check or money order made out to: **BOSTON METRO APWU**
- Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

* **Mail to:** Bob Dempsey, V.P./Treasurer
Boston Metro Area Local #100, A.P.W.U.
137 South Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02111



Welcome New Members

Samenta Abraham
Victor U. Akukwe
Barry P. Bassett
Thomas J. Burke, Jr.
Michael R. Carey
Samuel L. Chalfin
Fredrick Daniels

Paul L. DiPesa
Aidaliz A. Felix
Frisco Anthony Hanley
Nicholas B. Johnson
Niles E. Hill
Simon Liu
Felix Maldonado
Shane P. Marena
Luis A. Marquez

Cameo R. Martin
Christine Nilsen
Robert W. Norton
Nnaemeka Ogbenna
Mark A. Rodgers
James H. Simmons
Timothy E. Skinner
Robert M. Smith
Jose A. Torres



by Wayne Greenside, Maintenance Craft President . . . **2012 APWU Convention & Other News**

In August, I had the honor of representing our local at the APWU Biennial 2012 Convention in Los Angeles, California. Along with Maintenance Steward & Trustee Joe Joyce and Maintenance Steward Pete Veneto, the Boston delegation participated in the equivalent of our Union's congress. Many resolutions were brought forth to the convention floor for the delegates to vote on. Everything from Labor-Management issues (items for contract negotiations) to Constitutional issues (how we run our Union) and a host of others in between.

Prior to the delegate's deliberations during the General Session, I had an additional honor by having been selected by National Maintenance Craft Director Steve Raymer with the recommendation by our Business Agent Rich Logan to serve on the Maintenance Resolutions Committee. Along with the Committee Chairman and Pittsburgh Maintenance Craft Director Ed Devey, Salt Lake City Maintenance Craft Director Karen Ewell, Detroit Maintenance Craft Director Jason Rushing and Jacksonville BMC Maintenance Craft Director Conrad Gomez, we were tasked with reviewing all the submitted maintenance resolutions, checking for proper language, whether or not a resolution had been previously adopted in past conventions as well as separating out any duplicative resolutions.

It was also our duty to inform the delegates if any resolutions, if adopted, would conflict with other parts of the contract. After the committee adjourned on Friday, Joe, Peter and I then attended the Maintenance Craft conference (Sat & Sun) where those resolutions specific to the Maintenance Craft Article 38 were debated and voted on before they were sent to the General Session of the Convention for a final vote by all the delegates. There were a number of other resolutions that were submitted that were either previously adopted or were voted down by the delegates for various reasons. All of the previously adopted resolutions can be viewed on the APWU website at www.apwu.org. The latest resolutions that were adopted were then moved to the General Session for a vote by the entire convention. All the adopted resolutions were

then added to the previously adopted resolutions from years past and will be passed on to our negotiators for the next contract negotiations. During the General Session there was a multitude of other resolutions affecting all crafts. For example: Our internal union structure was up for debate to Article 12 excessing to annual and sick leave to subcontracting issues and many more. All in all, the Convention was very productive, allowing us as a Union from Locals all across the country including the territories to come together and get on the same page regarding what we want in our contract and the way we will run our Union.

On the home front we're still waiting for the other

shoe to drop on the Northwest Boston excessing of MPE section employees from each of the three tours and the impacts to all the MOS section employees for the entire Boston Installation. I and the other local officers, along with Rick Logan our Maintenance Craft NBA and Steve Lukosus our Clerk Craft NBA, attended an area meeting concerning the excessing impacts of the entire Boston Installation. Management had laid out some numbers of impacted employees but as it turned out, one of the necessary things they needed for the maintenance craft impact notification meeting was an "approved" staffing package, which they did

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BIG SMILES. BIGGER SAVINGS.

Universal Dental Plan is Your Dental Insurance Alternative!

APWU-Boston Metro is pleased to offer a membership-based discounted dental program to all members at 20% reduced rates.

Universal Dental Plan is a dental insurance alternative. It is a discounted dental program with network dentists offering their services to members at reduced rates according to their published rate schedule. To see the participating dentists and how much you can save, log on to www.universaldentalplan.com. The plan can be used as a supplement or stand alone. *This is a great way to save money on dental care without insurance.*

For an affordable monthly membership fee, members receive an initial and periodic exam at no charge and 20% to 50% discounts on all dental procedures.

- **No yearly maximums**
- **No age limitation**
- **No waiting period**
- **No pre-existing condition exclusions**
- **No deductibles**
- **No claim forms**

Sample Fee Schedule: Our reduced fee schedule shows exactly what each procedure costs with network dentists, as well as the usual fee and the savings.

	Member Pays	Usual Fee	Savings
Initial Oral Exam	No Charge	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Adult Cleaning	\$ 66.00	\$ 98.00	\$ 32.00
Filling-(1 surface permanent)	\$1 02.00	\$ 148.00	\$ 46.00
Crown (Porcelain)	\$ 985.00	\$ 1350.00	\$ 365.00
Root Canal (anterior)	\$ 640.00	\$ 985.00	\$ 345.00
<small>Excluding final restoration</small>			
Gingivectomy (per quad)	\$ 425.00	\$ 635.00	\$ 210.00
Extraction (simple)	\$ 165.00	\$ 215.00	\$ 50.00
Partial Dentures (acrylic)	\$ 735.00	\$ 1125.00	\$ 390.00

When you become a member of UDP, you'll first select a dentist from the Universal Dental Directory and will be charged according to the Universal Dental Plan Fee Schedule every time you visit the dentist. All you'll need to do is present your UDP ID card at the dentist's office and make your discounted payment at the time of service, unless other arrangements are made.

MEMBERSHIP PLAN OPTIONS	NON MEMBER RATES	APWU MEMBERSHIP RATES (20% off)
Family	\$ 14.60 / month	\$ 11.68 / month
2 party	\$ 11.25 / month	\$ 9.00 / month
Individual	\$ 7.95 / month	\$ 6.36 / month



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Universal Dental Plan is a local company. Please call 617-859-1777 if you have any questions.



by John H. Dirzius, Coordinator Northeast Region . . .

All Elections Have Consequences . . .

the 1930s. They told us that our very survival is in jeopardy.

If there is a Republican House, a Republican Senate and a Republican president in January, it won't be a matter of years . . . it will be a matter of days before postal workers lose their right to bargain collectively and we return to the days of collective begging.

Begging a heartless Congress, begging an uncaring Senate, and begging a president who hopes to destroy collective bargaining and turn our industry and our jobs over to the lowest bidder. Begging those who advocate the elimination of our right to bargain, who want eliminate our no-lay protection, change our health plan system and our pensions.

Their mantra is postal workers should pay more and receive less. And yes, the privatization of the USPS is part of their party's platform.

This election has serious consequences, sisters and brothers. And it's time we, the American working class, take back

our country — the country we built with our hard work, our sweat, our blood, and a nation we defend, without question, with our lives and the lives of our children. As Brother Trumka proudly proclaimed to our convention delegates, "This is our country! We wake it up and make it run, every single day . . . and we put it to bed every night. And we do whatever it takes . . . no matter what the cost . . . and its time that we took America back!"

If you still need more convincing of the importance of this year's election, consider this: It is also about exposing the connection between the congressionally-manufactured crisis facing the Postal Service, its negative impact on us as postal workers, the potential destruction of the oldest American institution itself, and other efforts to undercut and destroy public service and public workers.

Postal workers are not alone in being attacked. Many Republicans and their fringe groups openly say that America should not pay for postal workers,

teachers, public employees, fire fighters, and police, and should not pay for their benefits. These fringe elements suggest their health benefits, sick leave, and pensions should be stripped away to subsidize sizable tax cuts for their millionaire friends.

In their view, sacrifice should come from the backs of hard-working decent Americans, while billionaires enjoy tax cuts. Sisters and brothers, every election has consequences.

Let's put the "wedge" issues that divide us aside for this election and in this vitally and important race let each of us vote for our standard of living, our industry, our jobs, our pocketbooks, our right to bargain collectively, and for our very survival.

You cannot make any difference nor play any role if you do not vote. Heed the words of Thomas Jefferson . . . "We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

Part 2 Boston Local #100 Of APWU Chartered In 1970 . . . But It Wasn't Easy

by Steve Albanese

Things were starting to fall into place after the strike of 1970 got settled. Stu Filbey was named as the President of the newly formed organization. The American Postal Workers Union was given its charter by the AFL-CIO in July of 1971. President Filbey ordered all cities to merge their various officer structures, develop a local constitution and hold local elections to create local executive boards. The Union would have three levels of organization, Local, Regional and National. State organizations would be formed later.

As I mentioned in my previous article regarding the history of the Boston local of the American Postal Workers Union, the period following the strike of 1970 was a very difficult one here in Boston. The core of the problem was that clerks still had two groups of officers fighting for the right to head up the new local of the APWU. At that time the United Federation of Postal Clerks (UFPC) had exclusive representation rights, and that group was headed by John Bercury. The other organization fighting to represent clerks was the National Postal Union, and that group was headed by Jim Murphy. There was no love lost between Murphy and Bercury and each refused to cede power to the other and each refused to facilitate merger. Let me explain a little history as to why.

In 1958 a National Convention of the United Federation of Postal Clerks was held in Boston. During that convention

a floor fight over union policy took place and Jim Murphy of Boston led a walkout of delegates from the convention floor. Those delegates were from a number of the larger cities and they later formed the National Postal Union (NPU). From that day forward they fought for the exclusive right to represent clerks in those cities. Every year or so one of the groups would force a representation election and the group that won the election had exclusive bargaining rights in that particular city. When I first began working at the Postal Service I was a member of the UFPC. Later when the NPU became the exclusive bargaining representative I joined that organization. By 1970 I was back in the NFPC. This back and forth representation battle caused many clerks to simply not join either Union and as a result almost half of the clerks were non-members.

The Federation had control most of the time, but the NPU had a loyal following due in large part to the fact that they operated a credit union. Any employee who needed fast cash could go to the NPU for a quick loan with few questions asked but they had to join the NPU to get it.

Meanwhile merger talks in Boston were barely moving and President Filbey was losing patience. At one point he threatened to decertify all of the local Union officials and place the Boston Local under trusteeship to force the elections. Boston Local officials went to court to stop the national but finally agreed to hold the elections. Months had gone by but

everything finally came to a head at a special union meeting held at the Park Plaza. (A few years later the Park Plaza would again be the place of a historic meeting but that will come in another article). Hundreds of members turned out and voted to finally hold the local elections. As expected, the National Postal Union put together its slate of officers and selected Daniel "Tim" Hurley to head their ticket.

The United Federation of Postal Clerks put together its slate of officers and John Bercury headed that ticket. By then I had been named as a steward by John Bercury and I supported the Federation slate but I was not a candidate for any office.

Members were angry that it took so long for these elections to be held and most blamed the Federation since they were the group in power at the time the process started. The election turned out to be a landslide win for the National Postal Union as they won every position on the ballot. Bear in mind five different Unions were involved in this merger. The clerks had two, maintenance had one, special delivery had one and MVS had one, so when the election was over Boston had an executive board with 40 members.

The Boston Local of the American Postal Workers Union was finally formed in 1971 and we were issued Charter #100. I stayed on as a steward representing the LSM area on tour 2.

The next step was to negotiate the first National Agreement where we would negotiate pay and benefits for the first time. That will be the next installment.

U.S. SENATE CANDIDATE ELIZABETH WARREN'S RESPONSE TO APWU CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE, 2010-2012 ELECTION CYCLE

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lists in their state. If successful, it could have a dramatic impact on mail volume and the Postal Service's ability to maintain "universal mail service" at a consistent and uniform rate. Currently advertising mail makes up almost 50% of the mail base. If companies lose their ability to utilize this form of advertising, they will have to go to a more expensive process and increased costs will be passed on to the consumer. If elected to Congress, how would you vote on a proposal like this, should it be introduced at the federal level?

While I understand the impetus behind "Do Not Mail" registries, I am skeptical of any proposal that undercuts the efficiency of the Postal Service.

11. Bills have been introduced in Congress to allow voters to vote by mail. Studies have shown that this form of voting increases voter participation and results in a more accurate vote verification process. Do you support or oppose this type of legislation?

As a Senator, I would consider proposals for how vote-by-mail can facilitate the electoral process. I would want to explore how VBM could expand access to voting for a larger proportion

of our citizens and to be sure that it is unlikely to result in fraud.

12. In recent years, the Postal Service has announced plans to consolidate and/or close postal facilities without allowing input from businesses and communities. Would you support legislation that would require such input prior to decisions being made by the USPS?

Yes.

13. The Postal Service has recently announced its intention to reduce mail delivery to 5 days by eliminating delivery services to residents on Saturday. We oppose that reduction as it will erode the public's confidence in the Postal Service to provide them essential services 6 days a week. There would be a tremendous impact to the transportation of medicine, business documents, and bill payments and would be the first step towards the degradation of "Universal Mail Service" guaranteed by the constitution. If you were a member of Congress would you support such a reduction?

No.

14. In a number of states efforts are underway to disenfranchise voters by establishing unreasonable eligibility requirements before a person can cast their vote. If elected, would

you support efforts to pass national legislation that would standardize voter eligibility rules and insure all voters have full participation in the election process?

I strongly believe in the right to vote and that attempts to suppress and intimidate legitimate voters have no place in the American political system. I believe that legislators and government officials should do all they can to prevent such activities, and that when such efforts take place, the courts should uphold voting rights under the Constitution and laws.

15. The Postal Service has gone through a difficult financial period due in large part by the current recession and an unreasonable congressional requirement that it pre-fund its future retiree health benefits at a cost of over \$5 billion dollars a year. The current statutory mandate requires the USPS fund the next 40 years of potential unfunded liabilities in a 10 year period. Independent studies have shown that the USPS is already overfunding these accounts by billions of dollars. Legislation has been introduced to resolve this problem and we support clean bills that address only the pre-funding

problem and the overpayments that have been made. Some have taken this opportunity side step that matter and have introduced legislation that would force service cuts and eliminate over 100,000 jobs rather than adjust the pre-funding levels and give the USPS credit for its overpayments. If elected, would you support legislation that addresses the pre-funding and overpayments and still retains the present level of postal services to the American people?

Congress must take action to help the Postal Service address its financial situation in a way that maintains a strong and effective postal system. As a starting point, accurately-calculated pension overpayments to CSRS should be examined and if appropriate, returned to the Postal Service, FERS overpayments should be returned to the Postal Service, and Congress should change the law so the Postal Service is not forced to pre-fund decades of retiree health benefits in a short time period. The Postal Service must be allowed to compete on a level playing field.

U.S. SENATOR SCOTT BROWN'S RESPONSE TO APWU'S QUESTIONNAIRE — NO RESPONSE

2012 APWU Convention & Other News

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not have. It seems that postal headquarters had not signed off on their staffing package yet. So without it, no maintenance members can be excessed (yet). So once again we're waiting on management to make their next move. The longer it takes them will be the more time that any impacts will be delayed and any potentially affected employee will get to remain where they currently are.

Also, now that the Voluntary Early Retirement procedure has been announced along with the Retirement/Separation Incentive monetary offer, it is hoped that attrition will alleviate some of the pressure on excessing of any APWU members in the Boston Installation.

By now all maintenance members who participated in the Maintenance Selection System procedures should have received their final ratings. If you have not received a final rating (either eligible or ineligible), then you should request to see a steward and file a grievance. For those employees that tested to acquire "eligible" qualification ratings for any lower level positions — they will not see their names listed on those lower level Registers but they will maintain those "eligible" qualifications in the system.

For those employees that have re-

ceived an "eligible" rating for any occupational groups of the same or higher level — then they should be listed on the appropriate Promotion Eligibility Registers. Those employees who find themselves listed on any same or higher level Promotion Registers will need to fill out and submit "Promotion Rejection" forms which are used to notate which duty assignments within another occupational group that an employee is willing to be promoted into.

Remember, a lateral move from, say, a MPE-9 to a BEM-9 or AMT-9 is still treated like a promotion so a "Promotion Rejection" form should still be used. There are "Promotion Rejection" forms for each individual occupational group, so employees should request from their manager a "Promotion Rejection" form for each register that they are listed on or have been notified that they have a same or higher level "eligible" rating.

The form is filled out in the reverse manner compared to a "dream sheet". When filling it out you'll be marking off the individual duty assignments that you're not willing to be promoted into in each individual occupational group. Don't wait. Get your forms and look them over. Fill them out exactly according to the instructions. Submit them via your manager to be faxed

over to the maintenance manager's office at the Boston P&DC to be entered into the computer system. Most importantly **always keep a copy of everything for your records!** If you fail to fill out and submit a "Promotion rejection" form, you could possibly be promoted into a vacant duty assignment of an occupational group that you did not want because you are listed on that individual Promotion Register without a rejection form on file.

In closing, I hope everyone had a good summer and had an opportunity

to take a vacation. Remember, with management switching their plans around so much, keep up to date with all the news by reading the bulletin boards and the APWU National website (at www.apwu.org) and the Boston Local APWU website (www.bostonmetroapwu.com) I can be reached at the Boston P&DC at 617-728-4975 Sat-Wed or you can e-mail me at bostonmaint@hotmail.com. Remember, when you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to ask to meet with your steward while on the clock. It's your right. Exercise it.



The President's Report . . .



by Paul Kilduff, Jr.,
General President

Brothers and Sisters, this issue of *The Bostonian* will focus on the upcoming election in the State of Massachusetts and the Nation as a whole. I normally wouldn't talk politics but this November could be either the beginning or the end of the Postal Service as we all know it. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that nothing is happening in Washington lately because the Republican Party is stalling any legislature on Postal issues until the elections are over.

They are rolling the dice that their Party can control Congress, the Senate,

and lastly the Presidency. Please for one moment, brothers and sisters, think about what will happen to the Postal Service if the Republican Party is in control of our future? Is there anyone reading this article that really believes we will be better off? Is there anyone out there that believes Scott Brown has your back? This is the most important election in our lives if all of us intend to keep a good job with good benefits, not to mention protection as far as our Collective Bargaining Agreement. If anyone thinks we will enjoy our no lay-off protection if we lose control of the

Senate and the Presidency, then I have a planet I want to sell to you at a cheap price.

I have attached an APWU CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE that was sent to Elizabeth Warren and Scott Brown concerning issues that affect all Postal Employees. Please read all the answers to the questions carefully. Oh, one last thing, if you are looking for Scott Brown's answers to the questionnaire — you won't find them. Senator Brown did not fill one out. The questionnaire is probably still on the backseat of his brown truck as he travels the

State in his brown jacket. He is not our friend and his voting record will speak for itself.

Lastly, I am asking everyone to please appeal to your friends, family members, and anyone that will listen to you that this Election could decide the future of the Postal Service. We have to mobilize NOW and vote for only those that have our BACKS. Please take the time to read this questionnaire and you will see for yourself a candidate, Elizabeth Warren, that will have your back if elected in Washington.

In Unity.

U.S. SENATE CANDIDATE ELIZABETH WARREN'S RESPONSE TO APWU CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE, 2010-2012 ELECTION CYCLE

1. Do you have a primary opponent? Yes

2. Do you have the AFL-CIO endorsement? Yes

3. Do you have the endorsement of the local APWU? Yes, the Boston Metro APWU February 2012

4. Every year someone initiates legislation to privatize the Postal Service and/or outsource its work to private corporations. Would you support or oppose efforts to privatize/commercialize the US Postal Service?

I oppose efforts to privatize the Postal Service. I think Congress should

closely scrutinize efforts to outsource USPS delivery services, and it should not hesitate to stop contracting practices that undermine the future of the Postal Service.

5. Virtually every federal budget considered by Congress in recent years proposes cuts, abolishments, or delay of postal and federal retiree COLAs. Would you support efforts to protect these retirees from cuts in annual cost of living adjustments?

Yes. I strongly believe federal workers are entitled to the benefits they have earned, and I am opposed to legislation

that would unfairly reduce those benefits.

6. Small donors must maintain an ability to participate in the electoral process. Working men and women may be able to afford a few dollars to help the candidate of their choice, but the wealthier can afford much larger contributions to a candidate or candidates. In light of a recent Supreme Court decision Campaign Finance Reform must retain the ability of working people to match the influence of corporate officials and the wealthy by allowing these small donors to band together in political action committees (PACs). If elected, will you support the right of workers to maintain political action committees (PACs)?

Washington is so clearly wired to work for the big guys, and I think it is essential that we find ways to counteract the effects of Citizens United. We need to level the playing field so that Washington is on the side of working families — not those who can pay for an army of lobbyists and lawyers to get them special deals — and we need to curb the influence of corporate interests in our elections.

7. In recent congressional sessions, bills have been introduced that would require the Postal Service to bargain with Postal Unions, before contracting out its work. Do you support a Union's right to collectively bargain over outsourcing?

I firmly support the right of collective bargaining, and I believe unions should have a role in addressing any potential outsourcing of USPS services.

8. The Windfall Elimination Provision severely limits the income of many postal and federal retirees by cutting benefits for those who receive both Social Security and a federal pension. The Government Pension Offset reduces or eliminates Social Security spousal benefits by two-thirds of the amount of a person's government annuity or pension. No such offset applies for those who receive private sector pensions. Legislation has been introduced in this Congress to rescind both provisions and has garnered bipartisan support. Do you support efforts to eliminate these penalties?

I believe that people should receive the Social Security benefits that they have earned, and that we must preserve the initial intent of supporting financially dependent spouses. We must protect against any unfair advantages in the system.

9. Would you oppose any effort to reduce the pension benefits of federal and postal employees?

Yes, I support a strong pension and benefits system, and I oppose any efforts to take away benefits that federal and postal employees have earned.

10. Several states have introduced legislation to set up 'Do Not Mail'
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