



Michigan Messenger

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Labor Day





President's Report

Gary VanHoogstraten
President

large number of veterans we currently have, and those now returning from Iraq and elsewhere. I would like to thank the local presidents for their input on this selection.

In closing, I hope all are enjoying these hot Michigan summer days and beautiful nights. Please be careful on the roads so all are safe.

Until next time,

I have been considering this for sometime and maybe some of you can come up with some ideas as to my first subject and what can we do about it. Here in Michigan and many other states we are lucky to have an active retiree chapter. Under the leadership of President Al LaBrecque and his Board, they are extremely active throughout the state. This activism also trickles down to the local retiree chapters in the state and elsewhere. What we need to look at now is to get the MPWU Auxiliary back in the active mode also. I know it has been talked about for some time now, and I know for a fact that there are people that are willing to do this, but we to this day have not talked serious about it. I look at some of the other states and I see how active their auxiliary is and I say to myself, we can do this in Michigan if we set our minds to it. We have always liked a challenge and with this, we have one. I would ask that you talk it over at your local Union Meetings, on the workplace floor, or with your family and I am sure with all of us working to get this off and running, we can do this. Like the Retiree's Chapter, the auxiliary can be a huge asset to the members of the Michigan Postal Workers Union. We can discuss this also at the National Convention in Philadelphia and I plan on bringing it up at the fall meeting and at future meetings. We need to get this back and with your help, I know we can.

My next topic is one that you have probably heard quite a lot of talk about in your own locals and from the national tabloid, which is COPA. I know everyone is well aware of how important this is; especially with the upcoming elections this fall and our political leaders needing our help. Starting now, and working until the November election and beyond, we can make a difference. I know that all Union Officials who attend training and functions are extremely generous each and every time we meet; however, we need to address each of you, the worker on the floor, who has the most impact in the community where they live and work. Can you imagine how many dollars we can generate if each and every person were to give \$1.00 per week? For a cup of coffee a week, we could get our message across. I recommend that the next time you get your paycheck, look at some of the benefits that you receive and ask yourself: "Are some of these benefits worth \$1.00 per week?" It would be hard for me to believe that not too many would say no. So if you sit back and take a good look as to what this dollar could mean to you, I know you will make the right choice.

At the 20th Biennial Convention in May, the delegates voted to create the position of Veterans Director. I would also like to welcome John Smeekens from the 480-481 Area Local to that position. His vast experience will be relied upon heavily, especially considering the

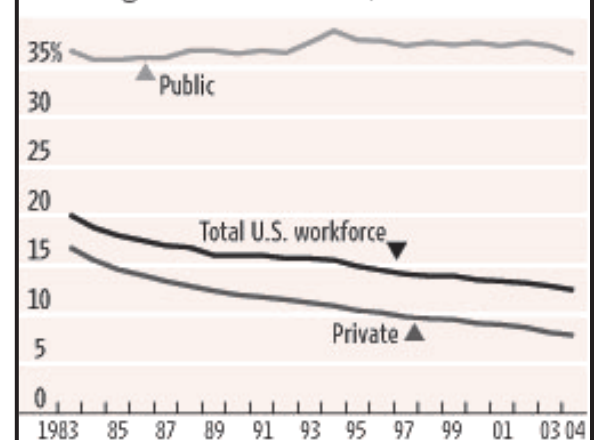
UNION JOBS MEAN



A BETTER COMMUNITY

Lack of Organization

Percentage of union workers, 1983-2004



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



The Long and Short of It

Michael A. Long
Editor

I would like to begin my article this month by saying thank you to each of you who contacted me last month about my article. I appreciated your words and will try to continue to provide this type of articles from time to time. Along with this, I happened to witness something the other day, or actually it dawned on me when I finally heard a few employees saying some other things.....Staffing!

These employees were talking about how it is prime time, sick leave is at an all-time usage high, and management will not hire employees. Management says that they can staff the machines as long as everyone shows up to work, so why hire? While I agree, that management can't staff for sick calls, management has had the opportunity to hire at anytime prior to avoid this situation; however, they haven't. Management has once again proved that their ignorance is without bounds. Management continues to staff the Postal Service in such a way to make themselves appear as if they are doing a great job to their superiors, supposedly; but at the same time, making the atmosphere more disdain for those of us working by and also causing our work areas to be cut more in staffing than we are currently.

Well, enough said on that....next subject is the new Federal Dental and Vision plan being offered by OPM for the upcoming year. According to their website:

"During the 2006 Open Season, OPM will offer new supplemental dental and vision products to FEHB eligible individuals for the first time on an enrollee pay all basis. We will announce the benefits and rates for these new products in the fall. While we recognize that some FEHB plans may be considering whether to make adjustments to their current dental and vision benefits in anticipation of this new product offering, we do not expect plans to make significant changes to their dental or vision benefits until we gain at least preliminary experience with this new program."

How I personally read this information, that while OPM will be offering the benefit, don't expect to see anything big this year. Once they "get their feet wet" then we might see new stuff down the road.

I would also like to take this opportunity to Welcome John Smeekens to the MPWU Executive Board as the first Veterans

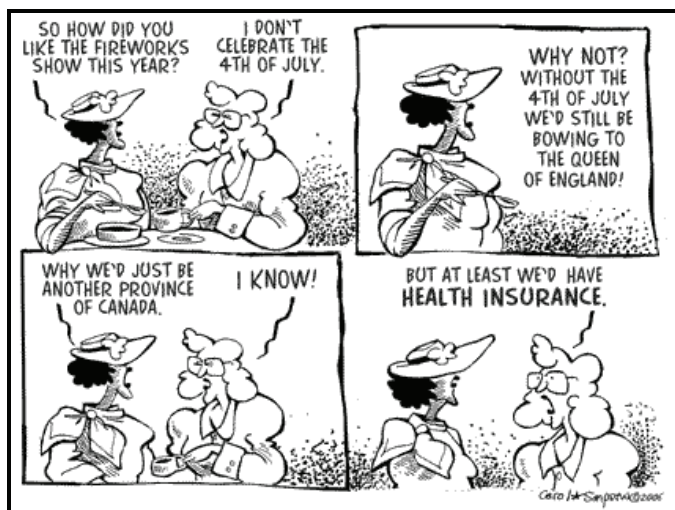
Director. As a veteran myself, I know it is nice to be able to rely on someone who knows where to go and what to do, to get things answered. Congratulations John, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

On October 6 & 7, Area 10, 11, & 12 will be holding their District Meeting at Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain. While an itinerary has yet to be made available at this time, as soon as it becomes available, it will be put on the website. Continue to check there for more information on this and any upcoming subject.

In closing, I hope each of you had an enjoyable summer. With Labor Day right around the corner, please take a moment to reflect on how people have worked, fought, and died to ensure that we have the benefits, and the laws that protect us now in place. Their fight is now or will it ever be forgotten. If you are nearby to many of the festivities that will be taking place to honor Labor Day, either by parade, fireworks, or taking the annual walk across the Mackinac Bridge, take a moment to remember.

Until next time,

Mike





Injury Comp Report

Ron Krumrie
Human Relations/
Injury Comp Director

RECURRENCE OF DISABILITY

I continue to see us mistakenly file a CA-2a (Recurrence Of Disability) instead of a CA-1 (Notice Of A Traumatic Injury) or a CA-2 (Occupational Disease Or Illness). This mistake is usually done on the advise of Mgmt.

What is a recurrence of disability, and how does it differ from a new injury?

A recurrence of disability is defined as an inability to work after an employee has returned to work, when the inability is caused by a spontaneous change in a medical condition which had resulted from a previous injury or illness **without an intervening injury or new exposure to the work environment that caused the illness.**

This term also means an inability to work that occurs when a light-duty assignment made specifically to accommodate an employee's physical restriction due to his or her work-related injury or illness is withdrawn (except when such withdrawal occurs for reasons of misconduct, non-performance of Job duties, or a reduction-in-force).

Finally, it means an inability to work that occurs when the physical requirements of such a light-duty assignment are changed so that they exceed an employee's established medical restrictions.

That is the Department of Labor's definition of a recurrence of disability, not Ron's.

So why would Mgmt advise us to file the improper form? The answer is simple, to create confusion, which will allow the Department of Labor to deny our claim.

Always remember that if we return to work and become disabled again and work factors contributed to it then it is a new injury and a new claim should be filed by using either a CA-1 or a CA-2 and NEVER, I repeat NEVER, file a CA-2a if work factors are involved in the condition worsening.

REPRESENTATION

What does representation mean and who controls it? Representation is what we all pay union dues for, and **the union controls it.**

Why do I bring this up, well it's quite simple. It seems Mgmt would like us to believe they control it. Now that in itself is a scary thought.

If that would be allowed to happen, then how often do you think we as union officials would be allowed to represent all the dues paying members (and yes at times, even the scabs, who continue to ride the backs of all good union paying brothers and sisters) as we should against the constant and blatant total disregard of our contract and laws that protect us as workers.

Many union officials have at one time or another had problems with Mgmt attempting to dictate when, where, how, and who our union will represent all the good dues paying members of this great union. The problem has raised it's ugly head in many ways, from denying union time on the clock for our stewards on the workroom floor, to attending training conferences, attending either state or national conventions, to assisting our dues paying brothers and sisters with work related injuries.

I have personally experienced almost all of the above denials, and I am done being denied. I will use every available source to stop this total disregard by Mgmt. We must demand that we be allowed to do what all of our dues paying brothers and sisters expect out of us as union officials. Anything less is a total disgrace to our union.

I must take a moment to thank Lynn Charles Walker, my mentor, who ensured before retiring, that I totally understood not only what my role was as an union official, but how to accomplish it also. I am fortunate to have been given the opportunity to serve this great union. Lynn I will never forget why I do what I do.

Ron





Legislative Report

Regina Favors
Legislative Director

We are rapidly approaching that time again when we have to make some major decisions and choices about what and who we need and want as our elected officials, representatives, judges, etc. We have lost so much as labor (or working folk, middle and low income) that it is not even remotely funny. But what is worse, is that we are in jeopardy of losing so much more. I sincerely hope that each and everyone of you get out and vote in your primary elections and I trust that you will make your choices based on the candidates who will most help and support you and yours jobs, your families and your neighborhoods. But for the upcoming November election, there are two **very important and critical issues** that we should pay close attention to and make sure that they are defeated. One is the so-called Michigan Civil Rights Initiatives and the other is the Stop Overspending Initiative. On the issue of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (or the ban on affirmative action which is what it really is) we must not allow it to pass. As I have stated before, it is not merely about allowing blacks/or other minorities into colleges. It is a very treacherous and deceitful act that took place to even garner enough signatures to put it on the ballot. We should make sure that Ward Connerly and his cronies are not successful. The Michigan Chronicle dated June 21-27 bears this quote from Mark Bernstein, Chairman of the Civil Rights Commission: "acts of misrepresentation occurred across the state, in multiple locations, in the same communities, and over long periods of time. The impact of these acts of deception is substantial." This was only a part of the quota, but the article goes on to say that the deception was so egregious that it warranted more state action. I will discuss the Stop Overspending Initiative next time.

Above all, it is my sincere hope that every citizen exercises their right to vote. When you do, please remember to not vote on the emotion, but on the issue at hand. Dick DeVos does not have working class family's best interests at heart. Don't be fooled by the constant running ads on television. Listen most importantly for what is not said. Also, keep this in mind at the polls: As President of Amway Corporation from 1998 to 2000, Dick DeVos laid off 1,400 Michigan workers, and invest over \$200 million in new manufacturing plants in China. If as an employer of a large million dollar operation, he opted for more profits for himself at the expense of the Michigan economy and Michigan workers, what will he do for you as Governor? Just a thought!

Regina

Veteran's Report

John Smeekens
Veterans Director

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank the Executive Board of the 480-481 Area Local, numerous Local President and anyone else who supported me, which cumulated in Gary Van appointing me to the newly created Veterans Director position for the MPWU. Thank You Gary. I received my appointment letter on Saturday July 8, 2006. I hope to serve well, as of my fellow Veteran brothers and sisters. Although this is a new position, I will be working along with Gary and others to come up with guidelines to go with this position. One of my main objectives will be to get the word out to Veterans, of any updates, whether negative or positive, that may affect them and/or their families. I will also strive to make them aware of the benefits that are due to them for service to our country. Again, thank you to all for your support and faith in me, in performing the job at hand.

GREAT NEWS

I had planned on devoting this whole article this month on what to do if your Veterans' information was released to some unscrupulous individuals and you started to experience problems, but the headline said: "**MILLIONS OF VETS' DATA SAFE ON RECOVERED LAPTOP SAYS THE FBI.**" I had been following this story very closely through my numerous sources to see just what had happened or what was going to happen. I was told after a through investigation, that it was looking like there were several laptops stolen from the suspect area, all during the same three days. It was looking more and more like some young thieves were targeting laptops to sell them to local students at cut-rate price. A tipster called the FBI and turned in the computer to the FBI in a Baltimore field office. Agent Michelle Crnkovich said the tipster likely was not the thief, but it is still under investigation. So that loud WHEW you heard on Thursday, June 29, 2006 was the collective sign of some 26.5 million Veteran. According to the FBI, it didn't appear that anybody had accessed the information from its hard drive. I guess only time

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Veteran's Report Continued

will tell. Here is a toll-free number for more updates: 1-800-FED-INFO or you can go to a special website through www.firstgov.gov. This website and phone number set up the Department of Veterans Affairs for Veterans to get up-to-date news and information.

MACOMB COUNTY VIETNAM MEMORIAL

If you were there, then you know what I am talking about, but if you missed it, you still get the feeling of pride, just by visiting it. July 4, 2006 at noon at Freedom Hill County Park in Sterling Heights, Michigan, the dedication and unveiling of the Macomb County Vietnam Memorial took place. A special tribute to the 149 people from Macomb County who gave their lives in Vietnam, plus the brave young men and women who have served so honorably in Afghanistan and Iraq were given special medals to say Thank you and Welcome Home. During the dedication, Pat Daniel, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 154 gave a stirring and emotional speech. What really caught everyone's attention was when the two F-16s did a low-level fly over during Pat's speech, not once but twice. Towards the end of his presentation, here comes the Huey with his sister ship, the Blackhawk, a double pass, and then they both came in for a landing and a static display for the better part of the day. It was an emotional day for me, my three daughters (Lisa, Angela, and Janet), who all showed up at the dedication. They were there to show me the brick paver they got me for Father's Day and my birthday. There is a circle around the memorial and you can purchase brick pavers personalized with your name and military information. I wrote an article about these pavers several months ago in my local paper for Royal Oak. What was amazing was that there were about 15 representatives from the Republic of South Vietnam, including several ARVN's in uniform. If you get a chance, go see it. If you need directions, call the union office and get a message to me, I will call you back and get you there. Heck, I will even visit it with you and how you my brick. For those that will fight for it, freedom has a flavor the protected shall never know.

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

For those of you with an Army background, you know just how high this rank is when compared to other ranks in the military. He is just 5 foot 7, has a clean shaven bald head, just like his brother, and he spent 31 years in the US Army. He attained the rank of Command Sergeant Major, has the same confidence, the same famous last name, but he has always been his own man. While

his younger brother made his history on the basketball court, James R. Jordan (Michael's older brother) forged a distinguished career in a different uniform – Army green. At 48, he has decided to retire after 31 years. 31 years, that one year longer than you have to do. Oh yea, he chose to stay that year, so he could accompany his union on a year-long tour of duty in Iraq. I guess class just follows the Jordan family around.

WELCOME HOME

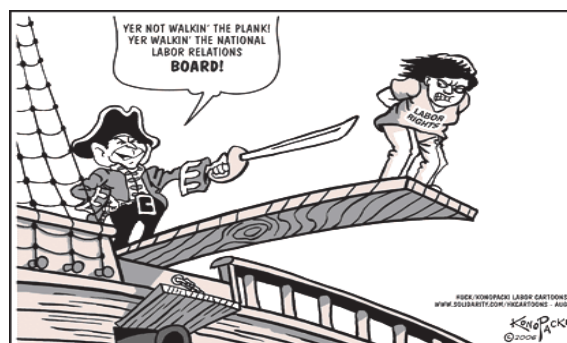
The Defense POW/Missing Personnel office (DPMO) announced that a US Air Force officer missing in action from the Vietnam War has been identified and is being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. He is Major John F. Conlon III from Wilkes-Barre, PA. His funeral is tentatively scheduled for Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, DC in the fall.

MR VETERAN

Former Mission Representative G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery died on May 12 at the age of 85. He was a Veteran of two wars, served in the Mississippi State Legislature, and later, in the halls of Congress, where he became a giant. He was one of America's strongest advocates for the men and women in uniform. His efforts to improve veterans' educational benefits reached a zenith in 1984 with what we now refer to as the Montgomery GI Bill of Rights. The original GI Bill of Rights was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 22, 1944. Colleges had a hard time finding the space to accommodate the influx of 2.2 million veterans who enrolled. Dropout rates went way down and veterans were the most serious and disciplined students professors had ever seen. Taxpayers paid \$5.5 billion for the GI Bill, but the result was 450,000 engineers, 240,000 accountants, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, 22,000 dentists, 17,000 writers and editors, and thousands of other professions.

In closing, thank you again for your faith by putting me into this position. Please remember one thing: "If you enjoy your Freedom....Thank a Vet."

John





Area 7 Report

Thomas Lothamer
Area 7 Director

Civil War

I have been with the Postal Service now for eleven years and a union representative in some form or fashion for the last half of that and I have noticed a trend that keeps cycling through not only my work place but other offices as well.

First and foremost let's look at 204b's. The majority of these are clerks at one time or another (especially in associate offices-small offices). Now we all get pretty tight in small offices and even begin some personal relationships with one another. This makes sense because this is our place of work and in theory where we spend a third of our day. It becomes common to begin acceptance of even our postmaster as one of us after awhile, I mean they seem alright, joking around, letting this become a "relaxed rule", maybe even buying donuts, bagels, or pizza (which the get reimbursed for with a postal form and receipt) sometimes to give off the impression that they are nice maybe even human. Danger!! Danger!!! THEY ARE NOT HUMAN! I am of the opinion that some of them among us are the evil spawn of the devil placed here among us to cause disruption and discontent or possibly aliens sent from another world to suck any amount of peace or serenity from our bodies to make us some type of "fragile, liquid, perishable, or potentially hazardous" zombie freak of nature that simply annoys the public that we serve rather than serve our public which is the core of our duties in this mans opinion.

Then begins the recruitment by the postmaster, "have you ever thought about going into management" they say things like how much money you can make, where they started in the postal service as a craft employee, the chances of having your own post office maybe in a little town near your home town so that you can become part of your "community" and achieve a certain status and income that isn't available for most people especially a non-college graduate.

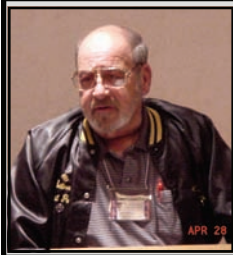
Then begins the sell out, you start off filling in here and there getting paid to train for the job which bumps up your pay immediately. Then maybe you start to do the scheduling and your able to quietly begin the transforma-

tion of evil. "That person said something snotty to me the other week and instead of being fair I will give them more splits than the other clerks or maybe schedule them for and extra Sunday or holiday." Here is one of my favorites; denial of leave and for what reason "needs of the service" because they claim they are shortanded. Duh! They are shortanded because they went into higher level and are not doing craft work or if they are doing craft work please contact me. My number is in the back of this magazine. If you're denied leave and want to check with me on that as well please fell free to call me. Anyway getting back to my article which the examples can go on and on with how they change as people, the greed, the power, and the lust for more drives them until they are no longer the person they once were and then they are anti-union. Maybe still paying dues because it is always nice to keep your foot in the door and attend local meetings in the event they are called upon to spy or possibly vote out a union representative that has given them some difficulty in their advancement.

Brother against brother, friend against friend, it seems that history does in fact repeat itself. The nation was at war a hundred years ago in a similar way. Granted the issues were much more involved but both weakened us. The war weakened us as a Nation and this idea of achieving more is weakening us not only as a Union but as a Service as well. We stand a better chance to fight management if we don't cross the line. You are not going to change them like so many believe they will when they start off as managers. You think to yourself, "I can do it different, I can do it better", the change will occur within you before it changes with them. Stay true to yourself, stay in craft, and if you do cross over to the dark side. Keep it real and try not to forget where you came from because this brother doesn't want to see you on the battlefield.

Tom





Retiree Involvement

Al LaBrecque
MPWU Retirees President

Notice To Delegates To The 2006 APWU National

Convention! Your retired member Sisters and Brothers need YOUR active support on the following retiree resolutions which will be reported out by the Constitution Committee (Usually Day #3. Wed., and Day #4. Thurs.), requiring a 2/3 majority vote of the delegates to amend the APWU Constitution. Please read the "Whereas" of each resolution carefully for the reasons WHY the "Resolved" language should be adopted. Develop your argument FOR the resolution, and THEN rise to take the microphones in support.

Word has it that only 2 of the 5 National Retiree Delegates will be in attendance to carry the ball on these resolutions. State Chapter V.P. George Hendricks will be a convention delegate from his home WMAL, and I'm certain will be a supporting voice. In a convention of an anticipated 3,000 delegates, that's not enough. That's why we NEED YOU!! The MPWU State Convention adopted these priority retiree resolutions to further inclusion of the APWU Retirees Dept. into our parent Union.

We retired members are dependant upon our active Sisters and Brothers to advance greater inclusion and an enhanced sense of maintaining a continuing link to the Union we helped build!

The heart and soul of a Constitutional Convention are **resolutions** which reflect the voice of the rank and file membership in the field. The following is a synopsis of each of our 4 paramount APWU Retirees Department issues submitted to the APWU National Convention Constitution Committee for their recommendation to the assembled delegates....**YOU!** Find them in your Constitution Committee Report book issued you at registration. Please study each "Whereas" carefully in advance to form your statements of support. We are counting on you!

"40-40-20" Amendment to APWU Constitution; Art. 16. Sec. 2. (i): Dues Rebate To State Retiree Chapters.

Resolved: "That, State Retiree Chapters will receive **twenty percent (20%)** of the annual retiree per capita tax per **ALL** Retirees Department members of that state....".

Currently, State Chapters receive 40% of the annual retiree per capita (dues) per retiree member of that State Chapter who DOES NOT belong to a Local Retiree Chapter. This proposed amend-

ment corrects deficiencies in the present formula. **1.)** - It will provide greater incentive for State Chapters to organize Local Chapters. At 20% dues rebates of ALL retiree members in a state, State Chapters will continue to receive sufficient revenues to remain solvent. **2.)** - It will resolve the current deficiency that as more Local Chapters in a state are organized, State Chapters lose the 40% rebate revenues of the Local Chapter members, eventually making it necessary to assess Local Chapters a per capita tax to keep State Chapters solvent, and, **3.)** - ALL Retirees Dept. members and Local Chapters in a state will automatically become affiliated with their respective State Retiree Chapter.

APWU Constitution; Art. 3. Sec. 4(d): Retirees Department Members Eligibility To Vote For The Top APWU National General Officers And Certain Resident Department Officers.

Resolved: "Members of the APWU Retirees Department shall be eligible to vote for the top APWU National General Officers; President, Executive Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and to include the resident Legislative and Human Relations officers, and Director, APWU Health Plan; excluding all Local, State and national officers not specifically mentioned herein, or in any matter pertaining to national agreement ratification, LMOU's, or proposed work stoppage."

Retired members who built this great Union have "paid their dues" through postal careers of loyal membership and service to their Union, should not be required to "buy" or be denied the right to vote for the National Officers who most directly affect their retiree membership welfare by requiring payment of full national per capita dues. The 2004 amendment to Art. 3. Sec. 4(d) adopted by the National Convention has not accomplished any significant increase of full dues-paying retired members. That provision is unnecessary language inasmuch as this is an 'option' that has always been available to retiree members-at-large, or retired members who do not choose to remain dues-paying members of their Local.

APWU Constitution; Art. 3. Sec. 4(e): Fair Compensation For The Elected APWU National Retiree Delegates To APWU National Conven-

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tions And Official APWU Retirees Department Duties As They May Be Assigned.

Resolved: Add to last sentence after the word "convention"; "...and shall be compensated at the eight (8) hour rate of Level 5, Step O, for each day Retiree Delegates are required to attend the National Convention, Retirees Department Conferences, and for any other authorized official APWU Retirees Department duties as they may be assigned, up to 40 hours in a week."

For the first time since the 5 National Retiree Delegates were **elected** to the 1996, and subsequent APWU National Conventions, it has been arbitrarily determined that our national Union **will not** compensate the National Retiree Delegates at the rate of Level 5, Step O. The 5 **elected** National Retiree Delegates give at least 7 days, plus travel time to **work** and **serve** the best interests of the 39,000 Retirees Dept. members at the pre-convention APWU Retirees Dept. Conference and 5-day National Convention at a sacrifice of their time, efforts, and in some cases; employment to supplement their fixed annuity income, while **appointed** members to Convention Committees are compensated at their "lost time" wage rate, including those full dues-paying retired members appointed to APWU Committees. Our **elected** Retiree Delegates are **Union** Sisters and Brothers, and the national leadership expects them to work for **nothing**, justifying this denial of fair compensation because the APWU Constitution only provides for "necessary expenses". Even management doesn't expect its employees to work for nothing! Furthermore, retired former national officers have been invited to attend the national convention for 2 days with **full expenses** paid by the APWU to do little more than

schmooze with the delegates at the same time our National Retiree Delegates are being denied fair compensation. This inequity must be unacceptable to any Union-minded delegate.

Amendment to APWU Constitution; Art. 6. Sec. 1(d), Subsection (1): Proportionate Representation At National Conventions For APWU Retirees Department Members.

Resolved: "Each Retiree Area Local/Local shall be entitled to representation in national conventions of one (1) delegate and one (1) vote for each twenty-five (25) members, or fraction thereof. Each State Retiree Chapter shall be entitled to one (1) delegate, and one (1) vote for each twenty-five (25) members, or fraction thereof of the unrepresented members."

The current 35 Local Retiree Chapters and 4 State Retiree Chapters have neither a voice nor a vote on resolutions and issues deliberated by this Union's highest governing body which directly affects the structure and direction of their Retirees Dept. and its 39,000 dues-paying members. 5 elected National Retiree Delegates to represent the best interests of 39,000 retired members diminishes the avowed democracy of this great Union, and demonstrates tokenism to minimally comply with Federal Elections Commission regulations so the APWU can continue to solicit and collect COPA monies from APWU retirees. It has already been established that APWU retired members **must** have elected representation with a voice and a vote in APWU National Conventions. By adopting this amendment to the APWU Constitution it will affirm credibility to the stated APWU principle of proportionate representation.

I'm asking that all our delegates to the National Convention keep this article for reference when preparing for the debate on these retiree constitutional

amendment proposals. This may well be the defining convention for the Retirees Dept. and its members. It's my considered opinion that if this convention doesn't open the door the APWU House for retired members, we may well see the beginning of the decline of our Department, as well as the level of retiree contributions to COPA. As Department Director, Douglas C. Holbrook, stated at our State Chapter Convention; **people need a reason to belong!**

I am not a delegate to the National Convention. However, I will be attending the pre-convention APWU Retirees Dept. Conference where I will be doing my level best to rally support for these paramount retiree resolutions. **The rest is up to you!!** Good Luck, God

Bless each of you, and may you have a safe trip to and from Philly.

Be Strong



Submissions for
the September /
October 2006
Edition of the
Michigan
Messenger is due
to the Editor Not
Later Than
September 15,
2006.

History of Labor Day

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country. More than 100 years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers. Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold." But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From them developed the movement to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states -- Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York -- created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take were outlined in the first proposal of the holiday -- a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.



Information for this was provided by: www.netglimse.com/holidays/labor_day

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Your articles are welcome! They must be signed to be printed, but your name will be withheld upon request. Articles sent via electronic media will be treated as being signed. Be aware that articles may be edited to fit the confines of this publication.

In addition, this paper is designed with everyone in mind, please be aware that all mistakes are intentional for the express purpose of keeping those happy that are most happy when finding errors in others.



The Michigan Postal Workers Union proudly represents the Members at Large within the Great State of Michigan. The following locals have also affiliated with the MPWU for assistance in the training of education and information between their members, stewards and officers of their own local and others throughout the state and nation:

Alpena	Battle Creek
Central MI	Detroit
Farmington	Flint
480-481	498-499
Gaylord	Hillsdale
Jackson	Ludington
Manistee	Muskegon
Petoskey	Pontiac
Roger City	Saginaw
Sault Ste Marie	Traverse City
Southwest Michigan	Troy Local
Western Michigan	

Upcoming Events to Plan For:

October 6 - 7, 2006 - Area 10, 11, & 12 District Meeting, Iron Mountain, MI

Mar/Apr 2007 - Area 7, 8, & 9 District Meeting, Jackson, MI

June 1-3, 2007 - MPWU Educational Convention; Sault Ste Marie, MI

August 1 - 4, 2007 - National Postal Press Convention; Reno, NV



Area 10, 11, & 12 District Meeting

When: October 6 & 7, 2006

***Where: Pine Mountain Resort
Iron Mountain, Michigan***

Hotel Rates: \$65.00 (plus applicable taxes)

Registration: \$50.00

***When making reservations, please inform the hotel that you are with
the Michigan Postal Workers Union to receive the negotiated rate.***



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