



# the Vindicator

Volume #44, Issue #4

**COLUMBUS OHIO AREA LOCAL**  
**SERVING COLUMBUS AND CENTRAL OHIO**

July 2016

#### AREA OFFICES

Amlin	Brice	Circleville	Frazeesburg	Grove City	Johnstown	Magnetic Springs	New Albany	Pleasantville	Reynoldsburg	Stoutsville	Union Furnace
Alexandria	Canal Winchester	Coshocton	Fredericktown	Harrisburg	Kilbourne	Marysville	Newark	Powell	Rockbridge	Sugar Grove	Unionville Ctr.
Baltimore	Canesville	Delaware	Fresno	Haydenville	Lancaster	Milledgeville	Pataskala	Prospect	Rushville	Summitt Station	Wash. Ct. Hse.
Bloomington	Carbon Hill	Dublin	Gambier	Hilliard	Logan	Mt. Vernon	Pickerington	Radnor	Sedalia	Thornville	Westerville
Bremen	Carroll	Etna	Groveport	Jeffersonville	London	Murray City	Plain City	Raymond	South Solon	Thurston	West Jefferson
											West Lafayette

## The President's Message . . .



by Jennifer Sigmon

We held a Labor-Management Meeting with Plant Manager, Chris Smith. We addressed several issues. Starting with a Supervisor automatically charging clerks with LWOP for FMLA call-ins. If this has happened to you, let your steward know. We are waiting for names to further investigate this.

The next issue addressed is automatically giving a PDI for any offense. We have several clerks that have had sweeping errors in Automation. Instead of starting with a job discussion for a minor infraction like the contract calls for, Management jumped in with

a PDI. A PDI is a pre-disciplinary discipline interview. Management agreed to give a job discussion when a sweeping error occurs.

We addressed the repair and renumbering of the racks in Automation. We believe this adds to causing of sweeping errors.

Our yearly picnic will be at Zoombezi Bay. Tickets will be handed out before the picnic. Parking is free. If we can't for some reason get your tickets to you, there will be a will/call. Tickets are \$10.00 each. Limit of six per member.

When you order tickets, let your steward know if you will be attending Zoombezi Bay or the Zoo. Zoombezi Bay charges us less for Zoo tickets. For example, if you are coming just for the picnic and Bingo, get a Zoo ticket. If you order Zoo tickets, and change your mind and want to go to Zoombezi Bay, there will be an upgrade fee charged at the gate.

The AFL-CIO is having their annual Organized Labor of Central Ohio Family night at the Clipper's

on Saturday, July 23, 2016. They are selling vouchers for \$20.00. This ticket is good for four adult tickets or two adult and up to four children.

There are going to be seven (\$500) Meijer gift cards raffled throughout the evening. We have donated APWU t-shirts to be raffled. Gates open at 5:30 pm. Happy hour will be from 5:30 pm till 6:30 pm in the right field plaza. There will be a discounted price on food and drinks. If interested, call the Union Hall.

Safety had their quarterly meeting on June 7, 2016. If anyone has anything that needs addressing, submit it to their steward. Stephanie Keaton is our Safety Officer for the Union. There is a copy of the Safety minutes available if anyone wants to see them.

There is a FEGLI life insurance open season scheduled for September 1 through September 30, 2016. Coverage elected during the open season will be effective the first pay period beginning on or after October 1, 2017. For

more information, you can visit [www.opm.gov/life](http://www.opm.gov/life). Open season for Life Insurance does not occur yearly. OPM decides when there is an open season and at times it has been 10-15 years between open seasons.

The Union has a website at [vindicator232.worldpress.com](http://vindicator232.worldpress.com). This site was set up and is maintained by Tour 3 Steward Ken Hamrick. Many articles and a copy of the Vindicator are on it. Ken has done a good job on this. Take some time to check it out. If you have anything you would like to see on the Website, see Ken.

Our June meeting did not have a quorum.

We have started our Steward training program this month. There will be monthly training sessions. Our VP Dave Patterson is in charge of it and has set up a good training plan.

In closing, I will say let the Union work for you. If you have a question, problem or issues, ask for a steward.

**In Solidarity,**  
**Jennifer Sigmon**

## APWU ANNUAL PICNIC

**AUGUST 14TH, 2016**

**ALL DAY AT ZOOMBEZI BAY AND ZOO**

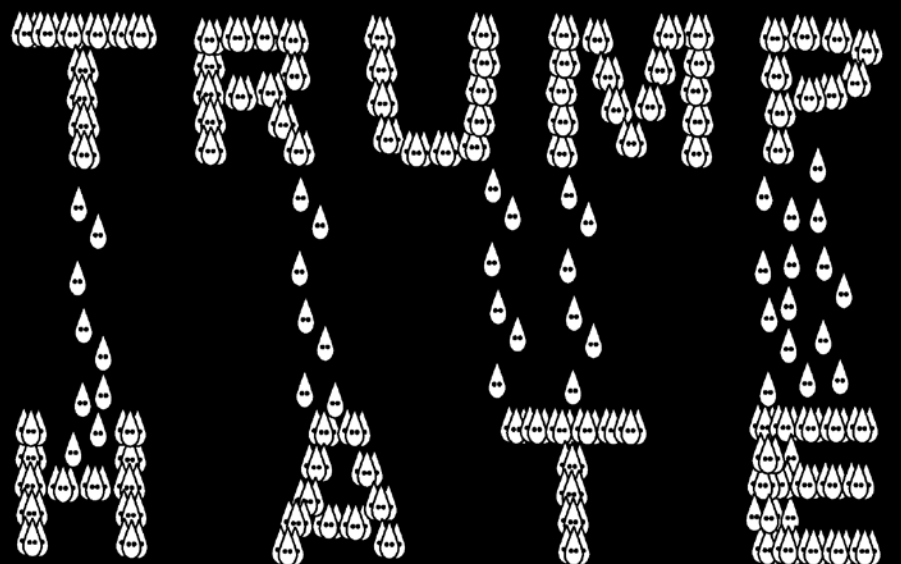
**Tickets are now available  
through your steward and at the Union Office.**

**Tickets are \$10.00 with a limit of 6 per member** (the Zoo admits children under 2 free so they do not need a ticket but please let us know how many). If you plan to only go to the Zoo with the picnic please mark that option on your ticket.

However if your ticket is Zoo Only and you want a Zoombezi Bay pass at the picnic you will be responsible for the upgrade fee charged at the gate. Children going to Zoombezi Bay must be accompanied by an adult so purchase tickets accordingly (ages are set by Zoo: **Jr./Sr.** = ages 2 – 9 & 60+; **Adult** = ages 10 – 59).

No tickets will be sold after the final count is submitted on  
**Monday, August 1, 2016 at Noon.**

### Trickle Down



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### OFFICERS AND STAFF at Your Service:

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jennifer Sigmon ..... President  
Dave Patterson ..... Vice President  
Holly Endurchat ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
Kim Harrington ..... Recording Secretary  
Sherry Pickens ..... Clerk Craft Director  
Tim Lott ..... Maintenance Craft Director  
Dave Collins ..... Motor Vehicle

#### CLERK CRAFT STATIONS

Phone: 614-472-0595 Fax: 614-473-0690

#### TOUR I

Zanetta Davis ..... Chief Steward/Editor  
Norma Mulhollen ..... Kenneth Hamerick  
Melissa Rubadue

#### TOUR TWO

Phil Ballou ..... Chief Steward  
Bob Springsteen ..... Sherry Pickens  
David Patterson  
Greg Vincent ..... Business Agent

#### TOUR THREE

Stephanie Keaton ..... National Safety Rep.  
Larry Canady ..... Chief Steward/Asst. Clerk  
Rick Farrell ..... Trustee  
Joel Waits ..... Gary Moore

#### Maintenance Craft Stewards

Phone: 614-472-0596 Fax: 614-473-0690

#### TOUR I Larry Butts

#### TOUR II Dan Woerner

#### TOUR III Renie Nelson

#### Twin Rivers

Phone: 614-469-4290 Fax: 614-469-4293

Walt Jones  
Shannon Barr ..... Assistant Clerk Craft Director  
Stations and Branches use Tour II Stewards

#### MVS CRAFT STEWARDS

Dave Collins ..... MVS Craft Director  
Dave Roberts ..... Tour III

#### STATIONS AND BRANCHES STEWARD

Stephanie Keaton ..... Dave Collins  
Angie Lyshe

#### AREA OFFICES

Greg Vincent ..... 614-472-0595  
Baltimore, Brice, Canal Winchester, Carroll, Groveport,  
Hilliard, Johnstown, New Albany, Pataskala, Pickering-  
ton, Reynoldsburg, Washington Courthouse

Greg Vincent ..... 614-472-0595  
Delaware, Dublin, Kilbourne, Powell, Prospect,  
Westerville

Greg Vincent ..... 614-472-0595  
Bremen, Circleville, Grove City, Harrisburg, Lancaster,  
Logan, London, Marysville, Plain City, Rock Bridge,  
Surgar Grove, W. Jefferson

Jennifer Woodward ..... 740-622-4821  
Coshocton, Frazeeburg, Fredericktown, Gambier,  
Thornville, Newark, W. Lafayette

Steve Waltman ..... Mt. Vernon  
Use designated steward first, then the designated  
alternative. Supervisors must call the designated steward's  
Supervisor to ensure their release.

Sherry Pickens Craft Director ..... 614-472-0595  
Terry Moeller ..... Workers Comp. Officer  
614-989-COMP (2667)

Union Hall-614-486-4837 or 4838  
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. MON. - FRI.  
Union Cubical Fax - 614-473-0690

#### OFFICE STAFF

Pati Shambaugh - Secretary

#### EDITOR/PHOTOGRAPHER

Zanetta Davis - editor  
Ken Hamrick, Associate Editor

e-mail VindicatorEditor@aol.com

## EDITORIAL POLICY

The Vindicator is published monthly and is the official publication of the COLUMBUS AREA LOCAL/APWU, 1820 Northwest Blvd., Columbus, OH 43212, 614-486-4837.

Editor ..... Zanetta Davis

Opinions expressed in the Vindicator are those of the individual workers and not necessarily those of the C.O.A.L. The editor reserves the right to approve material submitted for publication. The deadline for all articles is the 16th or at our regular union meeting, whichever is first. If for any reason the editor is not present at monthly meeting, the article is to be given to the president. Articles are to be typed, double-spaced and in duplicate. Article should not exceed approximately 1½ pages typed.

## The Nerve . . .

# Journalistic Review



**Editor Zanetta Davis, and Ruth Conniff RT Editor-in-Chief of The Progressive Magazine**

I had the honor of meeting one of our guest speakers during the PPA Conference in Madison,

Wisconsin. It was Ruth Conniff, the Editor-in-chief of The Progressive Magazine. The Progressive magazine is a monthly issue of investigative reporting, political commentary, cultural coverage, activism, interviews, and humor. It's famous for covering stories on environmental issues, social and economic justice, human rights, civil rights and liberties.

Ruth Conniff lives in Madison, Wisconsin with her husband and three daughters who all marched on the Capital in 2011 along with their public school teachers as part of the Wisconsin Uprising.

She attended Yale University in the late 80's and landed a job covering the Clinton Administration, and the rise of Fox News and the anti-Clinton right.

Ruth was a regular panelist on CNN's Sunday Capitol Gang. Her reporting on Governor Walker won her the Madison Magazine Editor's Choice Award. She is also a columnist for Isthmus, the weekly newspaper in Madison, and a regular on the Ed Show on MSNBC.

**Zanetta Davis, Editor**

## Clerk Craft News . . .

# Fellow Union Members:



**by Sherry Pickens, Clerk Craft Dir.**

Hope everyone is having a wonderful summer!

Well you'd think management would have learned by now that they need to follow the contract

with our vacant positions. I can only assume that they enjoy having grievances filed on not following the correct method to fill residual positions. As usual we have had to file another grievance on management reverting approximately 30 positions that were residual.

Also another grievance has been filed on not posting positions within the 28 day time frame of becoming vacant. Hopefully the cases on these issues that have previously been filed and went to step 3 will be resolved with positions posted and PSE's making regular.

On that issue, I was informed that 4 PSE's will be making regular hopefully by June 25. We are also working on getting 4 City Station vacancies filed that were scheduled to be filed over a month ago that management hasn't followed thru with the conversions on these positions as to date.

We are monitoring the changes made in the automation unit. It's clear that as usual its not working.

As to date, we have not been made aware of any more pending changes.

**In Union Solidarity  
Sherry Pickens**

# PSE Conversions Information

Recently, we have had some newly converted regulars. The following information will help you move to career. As a newly converted regular, you can't use your annual in your first 90 days. The TACS system doesn't allow it. Management may allow you to take LWOP if you need time off, but they don't have to allow it. Another option is a revised schedule. By using a R/S, you can change your days or hours. R/S's are up to management for approval. R/S's need to be signed by stewards.

If you don't have a time card, you will have to fill out a PS form 1260. Since this form does not come with a carbon copy, make sure you make a copy of it. Always check your paycheck to make sure it is right.

You should receive a new career employee benefits orientation. You have sixty days from conversion to sign up for your benefits. These benefits include health insurance,

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), dental & vision plans, flexible spending accounts and life insurance. If you don't get this done, you can't sign up until the next open season. You should get a blue benefits book. If you do not receive a blue benefits book, contact Human Resources at 1-877-477-3273, option 5. Tell them you are a newly converted career employee and you need your benefit book.

Open season for health benefits and flexible spending accounts is in December of every year.

The Union encourages every

## GET WELL WISHES!

PSE- Kenneth Harper  
Linda Jackson

## Congratulations Retirees!

James H. Jones  
Fred J. Jones

member to set up your TSP immediately upon conversion. We also strongly encourage at a minimum to contribute 5% to take advantage of the employer's matching. TSP is a Federal Government's version of a 401(K) plan. The Post Office will match up to 5% (pre-tax) of what you contribute to your account each pay period. This is automatically deducted from your paycheck.

If you have any questions or problems with your conversion, ask for a steward.

## New Arrivals

## Congratulations!

Jasmine Leonard on the birth of her baby boy Mekhi.

Kim Harrington and Ron Ferguson on the birth of their Grand-daughter.



# Convention News

by Steven H. Waitzman

**Fellow members:**

It was a great privilege for me to attend the state convention of the OPWU, held in Columbus the last weekend in April, the first convention I have attended as a delegate.

The main business of the convention was the election of new state officers. I would like to note the achievements of three of this Local's members. Former President, Steve Charles was elected without opposition to the State Presidency, succeeding long-time President Terry Grant. Former Local V.P. Bob Springsteen will retain his position as State Director of the Clerk Craft. And our own President, Jennifer Sigmon,

was elected to serve as Business Agent. Congratulations to all three. I am certain that they will all do fine jobs in their respective positions.

Attending the Convention were various National Officers. President Mark Dimondstein spoke at length before the assembled delegates, and then spent a great deal of time mixing and speaking with delegates individually Friday and Saturday. Executive Vice President Debby Szeredy also attended and spoke before the delegates, as did various other officers.

National Business Agent and prior Local President, Mike Schmid, was also on hand, sharing his vast wealth of knowledge with the delegates in a presentation Sunday morning.

Former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, current Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, spoke to the delegates Friday Evening, and then very graciously remained to speak with and be photographed with individual delegates. He was very generous with his time, staying there for over two hours.

Throughout the Convention, many well-deserved tributes were paid to out-going State President Terry Grant, and also to out-going State Treasurer Helmer Semjonous. Both men served the Union with dedication and distinction.

Saturday night there was an auction of donated items, with the proceeds going to COPA. Local V.P. Dave Patterson put up eight of his ar-



Photo of Post Office taken by VP Dave Patterson while on vacation in Canada.

tistic creations for bid. I was the high bidder from one of his lovely lamps.

The Convention was an interesting and worthwhile experience. I am appreciative to the leadership and membership of this Local for allowing me this opportunity.

## EAP HELP

In the aftermath of the nightclub massacre in Orlando, FL., USPS is offering counseling and other resources for employees and their families.

The Employee Assistance Program ( EAP) began outreach efforts within Suncoast District after the June 12 mass shooting, the largest terrorist attack in the United States since 9/11.

Traumatic events such as these can affect not only people who witnessed the tragedy firsthand, but also those who know individuals involved with the event and those who have heard about it through news reports.

Counselors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide confidential assistance at no cost to employees at 800-327-968 ( 800-EAP-4YOU). The TTYnumber is 877-492-7341.

### WELCOME!

### New Members

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Amy Henry               | LaCharla M. Farmer   |
| Sean R. Kirkwood        | Makayla N. Eggleston |
| Abdulgajis A. Nur       | Preston A. Everhart  |
| April M. Williams       | Jamie L. Hillery     |
| Ronnetta M. Abercrombie | Teresa Jones         |
| Portia M. Banks         | Jamere A. Sealey     |
| Brian Kimes             | Shannon Coburn       |
| Candace M. Radcliff     | Jeffery C. Oden      |
| Teresa A. Royal         | Asha M. Issa         |

### Scab List by Z.Davis

G R E F E E K K H N O E T H Z  
A H E L K R A M E U E N Q O T  
M N A T W I L S O N G S C L A  
M O R V R E T X E D T H N M R  
O S E P E O C S O R A S E E A  
N K V I K N P H G N I R P S J  
E C I C C H S I A R E N G A W  
H A L L A W A Y R R E H S I F  
C J O E P N Y O R E D C R U Z  
T Z P S V F M Y E L D N U H G  
I E F I N A R E T R A C U A A  
K B T M R A N A T E L G G I R  
N O P E X A V A Z B M A C K V  
N O T R O M S E K E E L S E E  
L U D W I G H A R P E R G R R

- |          |            |          |
|----------|------------|----------|
| CARTER   | CHANAY     | CRUZ     |
| DEXTER   | EBERLE     | ECHARD   |
| EVANS    | FISHER     | FRAZEE   |
| GAMMON   | GARRET     | GARVER   |
| GIANVITO | HAIKER     | HALLAWAY |
| HAN      | HARPER     | HAVENS   |
| HOLMES   | HUGHES     | HUNDLEY  |
| JACKSON  | JARATZ     | JENSEN   |
| KANAVEL  | KETTER     | KEELS    |
| KENT     | KITCHEN    | LUDWIG   |
| MACK     | MARKLE     | MORRIS   |
| MORTON   | NOETH      | OLIVER   |
| PACKER   | PICLESIMER | PIRAS    |
| PORTER   | RIGGLE     | ROSCOE   |
| SPRING   | WAGNER     | WILSON   |

### Quotes of the Month

Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend.  
— Theophrastus

Those who aim at great deeds must also suffer greatly.  
— Plutarch

### CALL CONGRESS

Please call your Congressional Representatives and ask them to support H.R. 357, the bill to support INSTATE-TUITION, for our Veterans. **Thank You!!!**

*In Sympathy*

*The members of Local 232 wish to express our condolences for your loss.*

Jeffrey Holliday – wife

Tomecca Russell & Curtis Armour, Jr. – sister

Sheila Lewis – brother

Kelsey Mullins – Cousin

Kevin Mullins & Debra Mullins – Nephew

**GET WISE ORGANIZE**

**WELCOME!**

**NEW SHOP STEWARDS**

Congratulations to the following NEW Shop Stewards for stepping up to the plate and for their efforts to protect members' rights and make management comply with the Contract.

Sue Epperd	Tour III Maintenance
Harold Colby	Tour II
Melissa Rubadue	Tour I Clerk
Gary Moore	Tour III Clerk
Angie Lyshe	Station Steward

# APWU WORKING FOR YOU

## Services Available For APWU Members At No Charge Or At Substantial Discounts

### SERVICES

**Limited Fax**—Free at Union Hall. For emergency use only. Not to take the place of the postal service.

**Limited Coping**—Free at Union Hall

**Notary**—Free at Union Hall

### ITEMS OF INTEREST

**Union Jackets**—Sm., Med., Lg., \$33.50 • 2X \$36.50 • 3X \$37.50 • 4X \$38.00

**Aprons**—\$11.00 - Male \$12.00 - Female

**T-Shirts**—Any size \$10.00—Red, Blue, Black or Gray

Available at Union Hall, 1820 Northwest Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43212 • (614) 486-4837

### TICKETS


These discounts are better than AAA's and are exclusively for Members only—It Pays To Belong

**AMC Movie Tickets**—\$8.00 each member (Reg. \$10.25)

**Columbus Zoo**—Adult .....\$12.00(our price) .....\$14.99(gate price)  
Jr./Sr.(2-9 & 60+) .....\$ 7.00(our price) .....\$ 9.99(gate price)

**Call 486-4837 for Additional Information.**

*"It Pays to Belong"*




## MONTHLY UNION MEETING

**Wednesday  
August 20th  
at 7:00 p.m.**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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Columbus, Ohio 43212

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## !!!Columbus Local Wins Casual in Lieu of Grievance!!!

The APWU won a huge settlement in the Causals in Lieu of Grievance. These Grievances were filed starting in 2007 in Columbus. Management utilized casual employees on overtime prior to using available OTDL Clerks. This grievance was resolved by NBA Mike Schmid. Mike signed a resolve for a total of \$409,916.

There were a number of stewards that filed and worked on these grievances. Thanks for their hard work and dedication goes out to the following: Business Agent Greg Vincent, Diane Norris, Mary Jones, Rich McCormick, Sherri Hill, Terry Moeller and John Sharpe. Clerk Craft Director Sherry Pickens and Industrial Relations Officer Bob Springsteen helped with the charting of the hours. Special notice and thanks is given to T3 Chief Steward Larry Canady and VP Dave Patterson who filed and worked on the majority of these grievances.

Management's Labor representative has already input the awards. These should be on the next paychecks received. This same grievance was filed and won in Cincinnati. But when it came time to get paid, the system kicked out about 100 members. The Union is posting a list of people to be paid. If you do not receive payment on your next check, ask for a Steward. I have been told the system takes longer to process awards over \$7,000, maybe up to three pay periods. Now for one last thing, there will be two payments. The second payment will be made in September. So if you have any questions, ask for a Steward.



### Address Correction

Please help us to maintain our membership mailing list. The form printed below should be completed and sent to the Local office whenever you make a change of address. This will allow us to continue our mailings to you without interruption.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ EID# \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_