





the Vindicator



Volume #52, Issue #2

COLUMBUS OHIO AREA LOCAL
SERVING COLUMBUS AND CENTRAL OHIO

February 2024

AREA OFFICES												Union Furnace
Amlin	Brice	Circleville	Frazeysburg	Grove City	Johnstown	Magnetic Springs	New Albany	Pleasantville	Reynoldsburg	Stoutsville		Unionville Ctr.
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Bremen	Carroll	Etna	Groveport	Jeffersonville	London	Murray City	Plain City	Raymond	South Solon	Thurston		West Lafayette

The President's Message . . .



by Jennifer Sigmon

As I am writing this, spring is officially 41 days away. As you can see, I am counting the days. I hope everyone is staying warm and safe. Make sure you keep at least a half tank of gas in your car. This was something my Dad emphasized. Of course, I let mine drop below a quarter tank on one of the coldest days of winter. It froze. It only takes one time to learn that life's lesson. Especially when my Dad was the one to unthaw my tank.

City Gate had its first safety committee meeting under our new safety person, Dave Black. Only Mr. Black did not show up. He was ill. There were many safety concerns addressed. Some of the items on the list that were discussed included lack of safety drills, facility security concerns, BMC's coming off long riders and lack of gloves in the Tour office. The Union is looking for anyone interested in being a safety captain. We need one for each Tour. If you are interested, let a steward know or call the Union Hall.

I understand recently management sent some people home when they showed up without their ID badge. This was improper. Management in the past has allowed employees to leave their driver's license and would issue you a visitor's badge. If this happens to you, ask for a steward.

It has been asked at several Union meetings what direction is our local Union headed in. I would like to address that issue. First and foremost, training and educating our stewards is my top priority. They are the backbone of our Union. I want the members to be able to ask the stewards for information and get the right answers. Our Local is sending 14 stewards to the Tri-State School in March. This is a week-long training program. It is one of the best training programs for stewards in the country. It is taught by our National Business Agents and officers of the OPWU. These instructors are some of the most knowledgeable and experienced Union men and women. As I have said before, our stewards are a bright group and have showed they are eager to learn.

The Network Modernization Plan is rolling along. It has touched the Columbus Local earlier than we expected. The Pickerington Office had a residual bid on E-reassign. I thought it would lead to a conversion for the senior pse. Instead, a person that was excessed in Georgia, due to the new modernization plan, bid

on the residual from Pickerington and was awarded the bid. This was unexpected but a correct part of the bidding process. We will continue to update the membership as we get information on the Modernization plan.


Our National is organizing for ways to fight for a better staffed Postal Service. They have produced a pamphlet with five keys for winning Better Staffing and Better Service at the Postal Service. These will be available in the Union Cubicle at City Gate and at the Union Hall. Come to our next monthly union meeting for more information.

It's that time of year to plan the yearly picnic. If anyone has an idea on where to hold it, bring

it to the monthly meeting or call the Union Hall. Last year it was held at COSI.

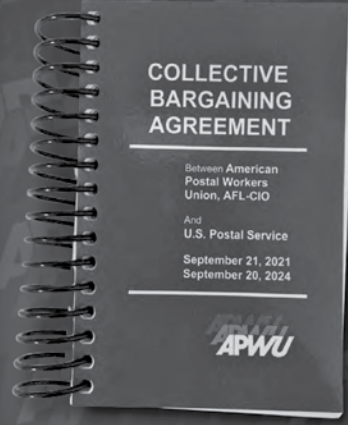
I will close with now is the time for our members to step up. The top issues that we are facing as a Union are short staffing, harassment, implementation of the Network Modernization Plan and poorly trained supervisors. We are going to need every member to step up in some capacity from writing and signing petitions, walking in an informational picket, leaflet customers; let postal customers know we can and should do better, talk to our local leaders and neighbors. Every member can and should help in some capacity.

Jennifer Sigmon



2024 Contract Campaign Slogan Competition!

APWU actively employed and retiree members, & the APWU Auxiliary: Submit slogan ideas for the 2024 Contract Campaign!



With the opening of contract negotiations just months away, APWU national officers are calling on actively employed members, APWU retirees, and auxiliary members to submit slogan ideas for the 2024 Contract Campaign.

From start to finish, our campaign for a strong, fair new union contract will be driven by you, the APWU members. Since our first collective bargaining agreement in 1971, we have stood together time and time again to strengthen our wages, our benefits, and our rights in the workplace.

Now it's our time to renew our commitment. Lend your voice to the campaign by creating a slogan for our upcoming contract negotiations as we fight for good wages, strong benefits and workplace protections that ensure our essential service is adequately staffed for years to come.

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN:

FIRST PRIZE:
\$2,500

SECOND PRIZE:
\$1,500

THIRD PRIZE:
\$500

CONTEST RULES

- Open to all actively employed APWU members, APWU retirees, and auxiliary members.
- Must be submitted no later than April 20, 2024 (exactly five months before our contract expires)!
- Enter as many times as you wish by filling out the online form at apwu.org/slogan or emailing ncc@apwu.org. Ideas can also be submitted by mail in a letter addressed to:

APWU Contract 2024
National Campaign Committee
1300 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

- Include in the submission your name, address, phone number, email, local/state/chapter name, Employee ID number, and union title (if applicable).
- By entering the contest, participants agree to grant the APWU exclusive rights to use the chosen entry.
- The winning entry will be determined by the APWU National Executive Board. The Board reserves the right to pick a second and third place entry to be used as a secondary slogan.

Remember to keep the suggestions focused and short – it will need to fit on T-shirts, buttons and stickers. The winner will be featured online and in *The American Postal Worker* magazine.

EAP

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TTY: 1-877-492-7341 • www.EAP4YOU.com



OFFICERS AND STAFF
at Your Service:

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jennifer Sigmon President
Rick Farrell Vice President
Angie Lyshe Secretary/Treasurer
Edward Lyshe Recording Secretary
Larry Canady Clerk Craft Director
Ken Bradley MVS Craft Director
Xaviare Reed Maintenance Craft Director

CITYGATE CLERK CUBICAL

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

TOUR I

Chatty McKay Steward
Shakaira Davis Steward
Damien Crawley Steward

TOUR II

Brenda Hudson Steward
Evan Correa Steward
Treniece Taylor Alt. Steward
Jacob Wayt Alt. Steward
Anita Henry Steward

TOUR III

Larry Canady Clerk Craft Director
Angela Lyshe Steward
Jamaica Galloway Steward
Tammy Savage Steward

CITYGATE MAINTENANCE CUBICAL

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

TWIN RIVERS CUBICLE

Phone: 614-469-4290 No Fax:

TOUR I

Renie Nelson Alt. Steward-Citygate
Cameron Taylor Steward-Citygate

TOUR II

Xaviare Reed Maintenance Craft Director-Citygate
James E. Miller Alt. Steward-All Tours-City Gate
Shannon Coburn Chief Steward-Citygate
Tina Chapman Assisant Craft Director-Twin Rivers

TOUR III

Tina Chapman Assistant Craft Director-Twin Rivers
Renie Nelson Alt. Steward-Citygate
Harold Colby Steward - Citygate
Danielle Beggs Alt. Steward - Citygate

MVS CRAFT STEWARDS

Ken Bradley MVS Craft Director-Twin Rivers

STATIONS AND BRANCHES STEWARDS

Ken Bradley Chief Steward-Twin Rivers
Erica Goins Steward
Denise Seman Steward

AREA OFFICES

Jennifer Sigmon 614-501-1900
ALT: Jennifer Staton 740-622-4821
Baltimore, Brice, Carroll, Pleasantville, Reynoldsburg, Thornville

Nancy Broughton 740-335-5540
Circleville, Grove City, Lancaster, Washington Court House

Jeff Lorenz 740-345-4021
ALT: Brooke Swinford
Newark

Jennifer Staton 740-622-4821
ALT: Jennifer Sigmon 614-501-1900
Bremen, Carbon Hill, Conesville, Coshocton, Frazzysburg, Fresno, Haydenville, Logan, Murray City, Rock Bridge, Rushville, Sugar Grove, Thurston, Union Furnace, West Lafayette

Jennifer Sigmon 614-501-1900
Alexandria, Amlin, Fredericktown, Gambier, Kilbourne, Magnetic Springs, Mt. Vernon, Prospect, Radnor, Raymond, Unionville Center

Jennifer Sigmon 614-501-1900
Bloomington, Harrisburg, Jeffersonville, Midegeville, Sedalia, South Solon, Stoutsville

Amobi Nwokejiobi 614-472-0540
ALT: Jennifer Sigmon 614-501-1900
Canal Winchester, Groveport, Hilliard, Marysville, Pickerington

Eric Hoffmann 614-889-0531
Dublin, London, Plain City, West Jefferson

Amobi Nwokejiobi 614-472-0540
Delaware, Powell, Westerville

Jennifer Sigmon 740-345-4021
Etna, Johnstown, New Albany, Pataskala, Summit Station

Use designated steward first, then the designated alternate. Supervisors must call the designated steward's Supervisor to ensure their release.

Amobi Nwokejiobi – Business Agent 614-472-0540
Larry Canady, Clerk Craft Director 614-472-0595
Renie Nelson, Veteran's Affairs Officer 614-501-1900
Shannon Coburn, Safety Officer-Citygate 614-472-0596
Denise Seman, Health Plan Director 614-469-4290

Union Hall – 614-501-1900
610 Lancaster Avenue
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. MON. - FRI.
Union Hall Fax – 614-501-1917

OFFICE STAFF
Kim Ference - Secretary

VINDICATOR

E-mail: Vindicator – apwulocal232@yahoo.com
Website: vindicator232.wordpress.com

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Vindicator* is published monthly and is the official publication of the COLUMBUS AREA LOCAL/APWU, 610 Lancaster Ave., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068, 614-501-1900.

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.

Challenges Ahead

Greetings, brothers and sisters!

We might have a challenging year ahead of us, and not only because of the looming 2024 elections.

My name is Cameron Taylor - I'm an Electronic Technician, Tour 1 Maintenance Steward at Citygate, and editor of the online Vindicator website (www.vindicator232.wordpress.com)! This is my first article for the printed Vindicator, but some of you may already know me through the website, or you may have seen me out on the workroom floor. I recently wrote an article online (please check that out!), and I'll try to summarize some highlights regarding Citygate's future here. I'll hopefully cover other topics in a future issue.

As I've written about online, the last concrete documentation we received regarding Citygate's future was part of an Engineering Design Schedule released by the USPS via the National APWU back in August 2023. This Schedule listed Citygate as being downgraded to an LPC, where most of our mail processing capacities would be relocated to Cincinnati as the new RPDC. After that, Management at Citygate assured

us that everything was okay, but unfortunately gave no proof. Recently our Plant Manager Mark Wilson transferred to the RPDC in Georgia, and some EAS in the building seem to think we'll be in for bad news soon. Whatever happens, I'll update everyone via the website as soon as we receive something more concrete.

Another significant possibility is that Citygate is apparently being considered for transition to a new pilot badge/timecard system called "SELS" (Senor Enabled Location System). This badge/timecard replacement additionally serves as a real-time tracking device for every employee in the facility at any given time, with some areas blocked out (e.g. restrooms). Portland P&DC in Oregon was the first pilot site for this program back in 2021.

And my last Citygate update for now is that OSHA has been investigating our facility on and

off since November, conducting inspections and interviews. This investigation appears to mostly be Maintenance-related in nature and is reminiscent of OSHA's investigation of Columbus back in 2010 that resulted in a \$210,000 fine against the USPS. Whether any such outcome will occur this time or not remains to be seen.

In closing, I must say I do sincerely hope for the best, but we must prepare for the worst lest we be caught off-guard. There are many changes that will be taking place over the next few years as DeJoy's "Network Modernization" plan rolls out, and by the end of it nearly every worker in the Postal Service will be impacted in one way or another. It is more important than ever during these times that we stand together as a Union.

**In Union Solidarity,
Cameron Taylor**

Welcome To the AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION

Deshaun Boyd-Anderson
Komalpreet Kaur
Nancy Mora
Aisha Abdi
Khaled Benmessaoud
Kevyon Brown
Raymond Clifford
Christopher Forrest
Marlene Herrera
Mae Johnson
Amina Kooreeye
Byeongjin Lim

Eunika Marshall
Deshonna Moore
Destany Nelson
Trinity Nichols
Daniel Ortiz
Elza Owens
Nya Packer
Dionne Roebuck
Marcus Saint
Raynell Stukes
Tre Torrence
Isaiah Watson



HAPPY RETIREMENT

HAPPY RETIREMENT

HAPPY RETIREMENT

HAPPY RETIREMENT

HAPPY Retirement!

Janice Hanshaw
Alberto Barranada
David Fisher
Patrick Green
Kevin McClain
Steven Pendleton
William Coventry
APWU Clerk Craft
Director - Larry Canady

JOIN THE UNION RETIREE CLUB!

GOOD FOLKS!
GOOD TIMES!
GOOD CAUSES!

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GET WISE

ORGANIZE

UCS

February

APWU MONTHLY

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

TIME: 7:00 PM

APWU #232 UNION HALL

610 LANCASTER AVE.

REYNOLDSBURG, OH 43068

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND! GET INVOLVED!

STREET KINGZ CAR CLUB TOY DRIVE



COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING CLASSES

Investment Fundamentals:

- ✓ Debt Strategy
- ✓ Objective Approaching Risk Tolerance
- ✓ Understanding Your Fund Allocations
- ✓ Account Types: Rules & Uses
- ✓ Differences Between Tax Qualifications

Tax Implications:

- ✓ The Impact of Required Minimum Distributions
- ✓ Social Security & Retirement Income
- ✓ Taxes For Beneficiaries
- ✓ Contributing to Traditional vs Roth
- ✓ Roth Conversion Strategy



Optimizing Your Retirement Decision:

- ✓ Streamline The Retirement Process
- ✓ Target Annual & Sick Leave Balances
- ✓ FEBH & Medicare
- ✓ Life Long Term Care Insurance Elections
- ✓ Survivor Benefit Options

Income & Priority Planning

- ✓ Maximize Your FERS Pension & Supplement
- ✓ Social Security Strategy & When To Take It
- ✓ Constructing & Forecasting Your Effective Income Target
- ✓ Calculating Needed Assets To Cover Your Income Gap
- ✓ Efficiently Segmenting Funds For Future Priorities

New Arrivals

Congratulations to the Brad Toth Family on their new baby!

GET INVOLVED

COMMITTEES TEAMS RETIREES NEWSLETTER

YOUR UNION NEEDS YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH 10:00 AM or 2:00 PM	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM	ASL INTERPRETERS: MUST BE REQUESTED 5+ DAYS BEFORE
APWU UNION HALL 610 LANCASTER AVE REYNOLDSBURG, OH 43068	HOLIDAY INN COLUMBUS EAST 6305 E. BROAD ST COLUMBUS, OH 43213	QUESTIONS: TEXT 618-205-9417
PLEASE CALL TO RSVP: (614) 515 - 6085		PLEASE BRING: SPOUSE, TSP STATEMENT, & PAYSTUB

JANUARY 2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MOTIONS
AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION
COLUMBUS OHIO AREA LOCAL 232
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT	JENNIFER SIGMON	PRESENT	CLERK CRAFT DIRECTOR	LARRY CANADY	PRESENT
VICE PRESIDENT	RICK FARRELL	PRESENT	MAINT. CRAFT DIRECTOR	XAVIARE REED	PRESENT
SECRETARY/ TREASURER	ANGELA LYSHE	EXCUSED	MVS CRAFT DIRECTOR	KEN BRADLEY	PRESENT
RECORDING SECRETARY	EDWARD LYSHE	EXCUSED			

Xaviare Reed made a motion to spend funds for 3 concrete bases for the parking lot. Second by Rick Farrell. ~ MOTION PASSED

Rick Farrell made a motion to spend up to an amount of funds for handicap signs, posts and hardware for parking lot breakaways. Second by Larry Canady. ~ MOTION PASSED

Motion by Jennifer Sigmon to donate an amount of funds to the 2024 backpack/school supplies giveaway at the Howard Community Center. Second by Ken Bradley. ~ MOTION PASSED

Motion by Ken Bradley to adjourn the meeting. Second by Xaviare Reed. ~ MOTION PASSED

EDWARD LYSHE
RECORDING SECRETARY
APWU/COAL 232



The Vindicator
610 Lancaster Avenue
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Valentine Word Search

N S U V B F F S S Z T D W F V Z V P E M
W T P R I H L N R Q Y R Y R A U R B E F
N R N Y W G O U U A K V U H G K N T H Z
F A R G D M W G S U S Z J E W Q A D M O
X E A R V J E P W D D Q K W L I C L E U
P H E I K V R U E A R V R J C O O P C L
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HEART TRUE LOVE VALENTINE RING
CUPID COUPLE CARD TEDDY BEAR
FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATE ROSES ROMANCE
KISS CANDY HEARTS FAMILY SWEET
SWEETHEART FEBRUARY LOVE AFFECTION
PINK
HUG FLOWERS
DIAMOND

UNION YES

Mark Your Calendars !!!

FEBRUARY 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	Union Meeting 21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	Union Meeting 20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

PLEASE ATTEND
YOUR UNION
MEETINGS!

APWU UNION HALL
610 Lancaster Ave. • Reynoldsburg
at 7:00 P.M.

Quotes of The Month

“February is the border between winter and spring.” ~ Terri Guillemets

“While it is February, one can taste the full joys of anticipation. Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch.” ~ Patience Strong

“No one’s ever achieved financial fitness with a January resolution that’s abandoned by February.” ~ Suze Orman

“While reflecting on past relationships and learning from them can be helpful, February isn’t the best time to try and gain insight.”
~ Amy Morin

“You’ve gotta dance like there’s nobody watching, Love like you’ll never be hurt, Sing like there’s nobody listening, And live like it’s heaven on earth.” ~ William W. Purkey

“New month, new intentions, new goals, new love, new light, and new beginnings.” ~ April Mae Monterrosa

APWU WORKING FOR YOU

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

SERVICES

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

Copying: Limited Copying available at the Union Hall at no charge.

Website: vindicator232@wordpress.com

Notary Service: Available by appointment only

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Aprons: Male Denim \$11.00 - Female Denim \$12.00

T-Shirts: Black and Red – New - \$10.00

Event Hall: Hall Rental available at a discounted rate for APWU Members.

Available at Union Hall, 610 Lancaster Ave., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 • (614) 501-1900

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

AMC Movie Tickets—\$10.25 each member

All other tickets will be available online through the Tickets At Work website. Go to www.Ticketsat-Work.com, then click “Become a Member” to fill out your information. When asked to enter a Company Code you will type in **KIAPWU**.

"It Pays to Belong"