

# the Vindicator

Volume #52, Issue #2

February 2024

## AREA OFFICES

Amlin	Brice	Circleville	Frazeysburg	Grove City	Johnstown	Magnetic Springs	New Albany	Pleasantville	Reynoldsburg	Stoutsburg	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	Summit Station	Wash. Ct. Hse.
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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

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, lack of building safety inspections, 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

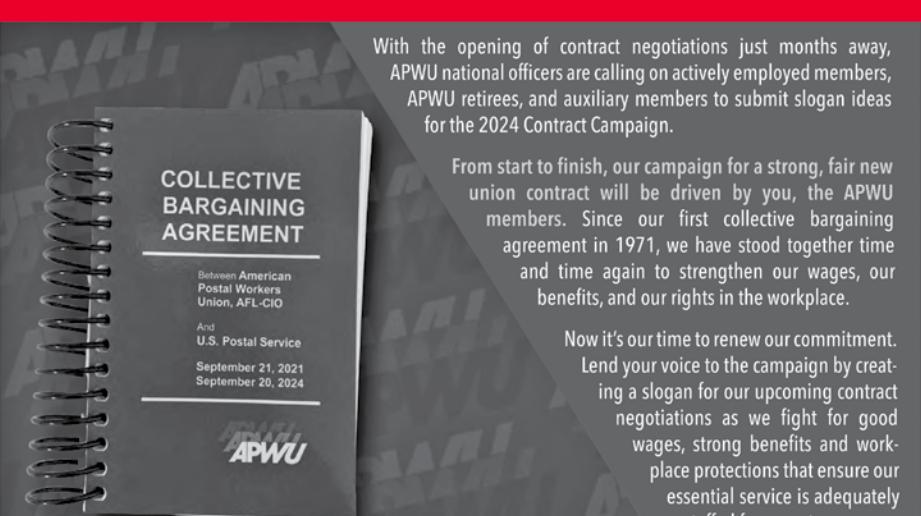
it to the monthly meeting or call the Union Hall. Last year it was held at COSI.

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**

## APWU 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](http://apwu.org/slogan) or emailing [ncc@apwu.org](mailto: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.

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**the Vindicator**

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

**TOUR I**

Chatty McKay ..... Steward  
Shakaira Davis ..... Steward  
Damien Crawley ..... Steward

**TOUR II**

Brenda Hudson ..... Steward  
Evan Correa ..... Steward  
Treniee 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 ..... Assistant 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 Staten ..... 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 Staten ..... 740-622-4821  
ALT: Jennifer Sigmon ..... 614-501-1900  
Bremen, Carbon Hill, Conesville, Coshocton, Frazeysburg, Fresno, Hayndenville, 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  
Bloomingburg, Harrisburg, Jeffersonville, Middletown, 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 1 1/2 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](http://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.

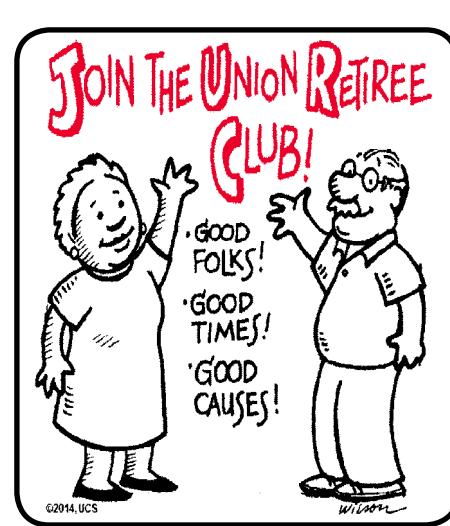
In closing, I must say I do sincerely hope for the best, but we must prepare for the worst lest we be caught off-guard. There are many changes that will be taking place over the next few years as DeJoy's "Network Modernization" plan rolls out, and by the end of it nearly every worker in the Postal Service 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



## 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!**

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### Investment Fundamentals:

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- ✓ 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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH  
10:00 AM or 2:00 PM

APWU UNION HALL  
610 LANCASTER AVE  
REYNOLDSBURG, OH 43068

PLEASE CALL TO RSVP: (614) 515 - 6085

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH  
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TSP STATEMENT, &  
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New Arrivals

Congratulations  
to the Brad Toth Family  
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## 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

# Valentine Word Search

N	S	U	V	B	F	F	S	S	Z	T	D	W	F	V	Z	V	P	E	M
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X	Z	G	E	F	H	E	Z	X	F	Z	Z	Y	L	H	U	G	P	D	J

HEART	TRUE LOVE	VALENTINE	RING
CUPID	COUPLE	CARD	TEDDY BEAR
FRIENDSHIP	CHOCOLATE	ROSES	ROMANCE
KISS	CANDY HEARTS	FAMILY	SWEET
SWEETHEART	FEBRUARY	LOVE	AFFECTION
	PINK	FLOWERS	
	HUG	DIAMOND	

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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	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

PLEASE ATTEND  
YOUR UNION  
MEETINGS!

**APWU UNION HALL**  
 610 Lancaster Ave. • Reynoldsburg  
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**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.

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**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.TicketsatWork.com](http://www.TicketsatWork.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”*