COASTAL

Breeze



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF BROWARD COUNTY AREA LOCAL 1201

American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO



Jeff Riddell President

Seeing your friends retire is a strange process. Here is a person that you have worked closely with for 20, or 30 plus years, and all of a sudden they are gone. In many cases, you never hear from or see them again. So while I am happy for them, I am often sad for my own loss. To all those who have wisely prepared for this time, I wish you the best. Have a great retirement, and may all the dreams of that time come true for each and every one of you.

I am happy to report to you that the financial health of the BCAL 1201 is good. As a local, we had to make some hard choices in the past year, and we did. Secretary/treasurer Carl Johnson made his year end report to the membership at the January general membership meeting, and showed to all present that we are well in the black. In these times, that is great work.

With that in mind, and the future welfare of our local one of my major priorities, we need to make some more adjustments. With our friends and co-workers leaving January 31, this local will lose members---- and not

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

just a couple, or a few. We will lose a lot. The USPS will not replace them one for one. We will seek to situate ourselves so that we stay at the same level of representation (and better with your help), while simultaneously having only the president as a full time officer.

Again, at the January union meeting (you missed a lot if you weren't there), as we presented a plaque of honor to past President Carolyn Pierce, which will be hung in the union hall alongside the other past presidents of this local, another ceremony took place immediately after. Carolyn swore our new vice president into Kelly Shelli winner----anybody who has watched her work over the past years knows it. She is tireless and passionate about this local, and its members. She is selfless and not selfish. If you don't know her as an advocate for your rights, you will. I am proud to work with her.

And we have our work cut out for us. The coming year already has dark clouds hovering above us. Look at the motor vehicle craft in ft. Lauderdale. They are given letters notifying them of excess in early December, yet as of this date---mid January---the USPS has not given them (or us) the slightest piece of information about their work, or what their future holds. I refused to wait any longer for the USPS to provide information to these men and women, and requested the

APWU national MVS officers to come and speak to these members. That meeting will have taken place January 23 with MVS director Bob Pritchard and assistant director Mike Foster are flying in from Washington, DC to do so.

We will meet the challenge. I am so proud to be your president, and to have the continuing opportunity to be of service to you. I do love my job. While it is trying at times, there is nothing like having the opportunity to help somebody!

Thank you

Contents

- 2. Invaluable Information by Shelli Kelly
- 3. Events Past and Future by Jackie Quintana APWU Retirees by Carolyn Pierce
- 4. Don't Feed the Fish by Carl Johnson
 - 5. Stay Informed
 - by Diane North
 - 6. Picture page
- 7. Constitutional changes

Shelli Kelly Vice President

Congratulations to our new President Jeff Riddell and Best Wishes in retirement to former President Carolyn Pierce. For those who don't know me I have worked 31 years as a clerk in Ft Lauderdale and have thoroughly enjoyed my role as a Union Steward, I am looking forward to working with Jeff and will continue in the enforcing the contract's struggle provisions and representing our members. These are tough times and there are challenges ahead, but as the old saying goes, when the going gets tough, the tough get going.

STAFFING

The gaps left by our retiring co-workers will no doubt impact operations and the conditions of work. Their knowledge and experience will be missed and they will be difficult to replace. To better organize, management had the opportunity and the authority to post the vacancies of those leaving prior to their departure. However, the "Shared Service Bid Sheet Ship" had sailed ... and management missed the boat.

Invaluable Information

CHANGES TO SCHEDULES

Because of the staffing shortage situation I anticipate there may arise issues regarding schedule changes.

Keep in mind - management may not schedule employees for the purpose of intentionally circumventing the overtime desired list provisions. However, if you are approached regarding changing your schedule please inform the Union as soon as possible. Always get the information in writing – date it – and keep a copy. (very important)

If your schedule is changed, you are due compensation. (except for training or personal request) This is outlined in the ELM (Employee Labor Manual) chapter 434. You should be paid Out-of-Schedule Premium for the actual time worked outside of your regular schedule. Your Pay Check Stub will reflect OOS pay as "p" under the column "TYP" for these hours.

UNASSIGNED CLERKS HAVE SCHEDULES

All clerks have an assignment. Even if you are unencumbered (have no bid) you still have an assignment. You are not a flexible. Article 37.4.B states when a clerk becomes unassigned they can be given a new schedule, but additional schedule changes may not be made within 180 days of previous change. Again, if you are unassigned and your schedule is changed contact your union representative.

WORK YOUR JOB AS TRAINED

Too often we facilitate the understaffing situation by rushing and skipping steps. Do your job correctly just as you were trained. Do not take short cuts. Clerks should keep postal funds secured, always properly be cleared of accountable items, execute your jobs carefully and accurately. Do not feel you must compensate for the staffing problem that management created.

If directed to stop a task and begin another, be sure to clock onto the correct operation to record your movement. Report the truth and what is actually happening. Scan all mail and scan all bar codes correctly. These records describe what is (or is not) going on in your station/section.

If you receive instructions to deviate from the truth report it.

MAKE A DATE

I would like to invite you to "your" Union meeting. Yep, this is your written invitation. The meetings are the 3rd Sunday of the month at 9:30AM. (unless a Holiday) I guarantee you will enjoy it. You'll see old friends (or should I say older friends), keep up with current issues concerning your labor union and job, and as always enjoy refreshments including the world's best coffee (no pressure Kathleen)

I hope to see you there!

January journey of Shelli Kelly BCAL 1201 Member Sworn In Executive Vice President









Events Past

Jackie Quintana **Human Relation Director**

Hello All.

A belated Happy New Year to everyone! Hoping that everyones holiday was wonderful.

I was so happy that Carolyn Pierce had suggested that we resume the toy drive for Sheridan House Ministries this year. It seems that it has been several years since we had done this, and I was happy to take on the task. After flyers were sent out to the stations and branches, as well as to Opa Locka, I am proud to say that we collected approximately 500-600 toys. I was also fortunate enough to help wrap gifts on the day of the actual "toy shop", the day that the pre-selected Moms come to "shop" for their children. They each left with 4 wrapped toys per child, stocking stuffers, and a small goodie for themselves. The Director of the Sheridan House Ministries, Miriam Duame, would like to thank each and every one of you for your generous donations. Special thanks to Marlinda Spark, Jeff Riddell, and Barbara Pasetti as well. I hope to make next years toy drive even more successful.

Furthermore, I am in the process of putting together a golf tournament. Hopefully, I will have more specific information in the next newsletter.

Last but not least, we really need to put an emphasis on COPA donations. We are losing approximately 100 members to the early out/retirement, and at this time we are not sure what will transpire in reference to the MVO drivers. When we look to our political allies for support, or write letters against those politicians looking to destroy our service, it is our COPA money that gives us strength. Would you consider setting up a payroll deduction for COPA contributions? If you need help doing this, please contact me. I would be happy to guide you through it. Thanks for all of your support in 2012! I truly appreciate it. Jackie Quintana

DOES YOUR STATION/BRANCH HAVE UPDATED UNION INFORMATION ON THE **BULLETIN BOARDS?**

WE. **SEND** MEETING NOTICES. **IMPORTANT** INFORMATION, ETC. TO each station and branch several times a month. If your location does not have current information psosted. please contact Barbara at the Union office (954-792-2161

If you would like information sent to your attention please let us know.

Future APWU



Carolyn Pierce Assoc. Editor

Congratulations if you are retiring soon form the APWU. We hope you will continue the benefits of being a member of the Broward County Area Local/APWU as a retiree. This benefit is given to you for only \$3.00 a month, which is deducted from your annuity. You will receive a membership application in the mail from the National APWU. If you do not want to wait or did not receive your welcome package, call the union office at 954-792-2161 for an application. Your membership must be continuous from the date of your retirement. Once you send in your application a notice will be sent to you for a telephone, town hall meeting with all the new retirees and the national APWU officers at the end of February. The purpose of this conference is to give you valuable information about your will be many

retirement and there speakers from the answer all your Learning can, will insure what you hard to have ... a

comfortable You can start to the national

questions. much as vou you receive worked pleasant and retirement. now by going APWU website.

APWU

www.APWU.org, on the retirement and clicking department. You must have been an APWU member prior to your retirement in order to join.

PSE Information

If you are a PSE and have not received your second meeting with the BCAL/APWU representative, after your 365 days of service with the USPS, please call the union office at 954-792-2161 and leave a message. Let us know where you work and a number where you can be reached. This meeting is agreed to by the USPS and the national APWU in order that you can receive information about health insurance and its coverage. Your ability to be covered by a health insurance after a year is another benefit that was negotiated for you by the APWU.



Carl Johnson Secretary/Treasurer

Don't Feed the Fish

As you know, on November 17, 2012, a contractual pay increase went into effect. This was an increase of 1 percent. It was long overdue. Our last increase was November 21, 2009. We carried our fair share for 3 years during these tough times with the USPS waving their banner of bankruptcy. They got us into the mess; don't count on them to get us out. I don't know what the final solution will be. The USPS looks for ways to continue to cut costs, usually at our expense. I don't need to tell you all the ways, you have lived them, and continue to struggle everyday with them. My personal feeling is that its management, from the top down, that needs to be overhauled.

We are scheduled to receive Cost of Living Adjustment's (COLA's) in March and September of 2013. Don't look for it to be much. I had heard that the March increase would only amount to .03 cents an hour, but hey, I'll take it.

If you are a PSE, you do not receive COLA's. PSE pay increased 2 percent

on November 17, 2012 and will increase 2.5 percent on November 16, 2013(PSE's received the 1 percent and 1.5 percent that the rest of the bargaining unit receives on November 17, 2012 and November 16, 2013, and an additional 1 percent and 1.5 percent as PSE's respectfully, for a total of 2 percent and 2.5 percent)

For the rest of the APWU-represented employees they will receive a 1.5 percent increase on November 16, 2013.

It has been reported that over 25,000 employees are taking the \$15,000 incentive for retirement on January 31, 2013. What I find interesting is that 19 percent of the 25,000 are taking early retirement. From my dealings with employees and my own personal sentiment, a lot of employees are just fed up with the USPS. The USPS used to be a desirable place to work, and for some it still is. But for a lot of employees, the b/s that management dishes out day in and day out is just no longer worth the

hassle. Good Luck to all those that are leaving. There are a lot of you I know personally and I will miss you, not just here in Ft Lauderdale, but OPA too.Most of you have heard by now that Carolyn Pierce has retired from her position as President of our Local. I consider it an honor to have worked for her as a Steward and as Secretary/Treasurer. We will all miss her, but she will still be around.

Jeff Riddell is now our President. All I can say is that if you have a problem, and Jeff finds out about it, this guy doesn't stop until it's resolved. He is like a piranha. I would like to post a sign in his office, "Don't Feed The Fish".

Shelli Kelly is the new Vice-President. I have worked with Shelli for a few years now, she too is relentless. I wouldn't be feeding her fish either, if you know what I mean; but hey, even piranha's need to eat.

NEED A UNIFORM?

Bring any unwanted Postal uniforms to the next union meeting or the union hall. We will be making a collection of uniforms for those in need.

For further information call the hall at 954-792-2161.





STAY INFORMED

Community Activist

I am looking for someone in our local that is a community activist. Someone who donates their time to helping others or helping organizations that help others. Are you that person or do you know that person? Call Diane North at 954-849-9959.

Polical action needed

Tell your members of Congress to support President Obamas call for climate action. "We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that the future to do so would betray our children and future generations." President Barack Obama on January 21, 2013.,

APWU e-Team Report #04-13, Jan. 25, 2013

State Efforts Chipping Away at Union Membership, Especially for Public Sector Workers

According to a recent report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics the total number of union members in the U.S. fell by 400,000 last year. Not surprisingly, economic and labor specialists point to the adoption of state anti-union legislation such as "right-to-work" laws as a major culprit for the steep decline in organized workers. Local government employees have been hit particularly hard. In Indiana and Wisconsin, states which recently adopted 'right-to-work' laws, union membership fell by 18 and 13 percent, respectively.

Just What Is APWU POWER?

APWU POWER (Post Office Women for Equal Rights) is the women's committee within the American Postal Workers Union. It unites women, with their special concerns, yet works within the framework of the national APWU organization.

A POWER meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2013 at 6PM and will be at the Union Hall at 6500 W. Sunrise Blvd., Ft. lauderdale, 33313. for any further information please call Diane at 954-849-9959.

VETERANS NEWS

The APWU represents more than 50,000 veterans, Guards and Reservists. The Union Veterans' Council provides a collective voice to veterans who are union members. To learn more or to sign-up to receive e-mail alerts for union veterans visit www.unionveterans.org. The UVC will keep you informed about important issues and events, and let you know when your voice is needed to make a difference.-from the desk of Sue Carney, Natinal Human Relations Director

Visit www.va.gov/womenvet and www.womenshealth.va.gov to learn more about VA programs and services for women Veterans.

H.R. 6328

This bill went into effect this month. Now the TSA has to donate clothes that are left at the airport to veterans organizations and other charities. It will be known as "The Clothe A Homeless Veteran Act". The short version is below.

H. R. 6328

To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to transfer unclaimed clothing recovered at airport security checkpoints to local veterans organizations and other local charitable organizations, and for other purposes.

AFL-CIO News

Sharing with you information I received from the Central Labor Council of the Florida AFL-CIO.....

Vision



Mission United supports the men and women who served our country as they transition from military to civilian life in Broward County.

Mission

Mission United aligns and mobilizes resources to organize a comprehensive system of support.

What We Do

Mission United, through the United Way of Broward County, has provided funding to local health and service organizations to provide case management and behavioral health services to veterans who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq. We have provided funding to Legal Aid Service of Broward County to offer free legal assistance to veterans. We will link veterans to housing opportunities and connect veterans with financial assistance to meet basic family needs.

In solidarity,

Quettia Isoff AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison Coordinator

United Way of Broward County www.UnitedWayBroward.org

Ansin Building 1300 South Andrews Avenue Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316

Olsoff@unitedwaybroward.org 954.462.4850 x102

January BCAL 1201 Meeting Tribute to Carolyn Pierce President 2006 to 2012







Placque presented by President Jeff Riddell



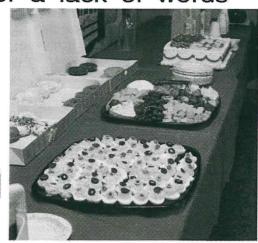
Past President Pierce swore in Vice President Kelly



Vever a lack of words



Serious meeting and time for retirement celebration



APWU -BROWARD COUNTY AREA LOCAL 1201 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE PROPOSAL

ARTICLE IV..GENERAL OFFICERS

Currently reads:

Section 1 President

Shall preside at all meetings of APWU Broward County Area Local and of the Executive Board. Shall enforce a strict observance of the Constitution and ByLaws; of any negotiated agreement(s) between APWU and the U.S.P.S., and the provisions of any negotiated agreement(s) between any affiliated organization and the U.S.P.S. Shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for in the Constitution and ByLaws. Shall appoint a member in good standing to any office declared vacant with approval of the Executive Board. Shall be responsible for all administrative work of the Local. Shall determine any and all LWOP time as needed for Union business.

Section 2. Executive Vice President

Will also be a full-time officer. At the direction of President, the executive Vice President may do Step 2 hearings at any of our installations, Step 3 appeals, arbitration's, EEOC hearings, attend Safety meetings, Labor Management meetings, State and Regional meetings, and the remaining work load.

Change To:

Section 1 President

Shall preside at all meetings of APWU Broward County Area Local and of the Executive Board. Shall enforce a strict observance of the Constitution and ByLaws; of any negotiated agreement(s) between APWU and the U.S.P.S., and the provisions of any negotiated agreement(s) between any affiliated organization and the U.S.P.S. Shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for in the Constitution and ByLaws. Shall appoint a member in good standing to any office declared vacant with approval of the Executive Board. Shall be responsinle for all administrative work of the Local. Shall determine and authorize all work hours as needed for union business.

Section 2. Executive Vice President

At the direction of President, the executive Vice President may do Step 2 hearings at any of our installations, Step 3 appeals, arbitration's, EEOC hearings, attend Safety meetings, Labor Management meetings, State and Regional meetings, and the remaining work load.

ARTICLE X...OFFICERS' AMND STEWARDS' BENEFITS

Currently reads:

Section 5.

The Executive Vice President shall be paid, as full time a salary commensurate to Top Level minus one, Top Step of the Postal scale and adjustments for COLA and contract raises during tenure of office. The Union, as the employer, will pay for all benefits (e.g. health, life) deductions incurred during Vice President's leave-of-absence from USPS and the employer share of social security and medicare taxes. The Vice President, as the employee, will pay the employee share of social security and medicare taxes. The Vice President will receive annual leave as normally earned and sick leave as normally earned if they are on LWOP from the USPS. The sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per pay period shall be set aside for these required benefits if they are on LWOP from the USPS.

Change to:

Section 5.

The Executive Vice President shall be paid an hourly rate commensurate to Top Level minus one. Top Step of the Postal scale and adjustments for COLA and contract raises during tenure of office for paid work hours or Iwop as authorized by the President. The Executive Vice President shall be responsibile for the employee share of social scurity and medicare taxes.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Submitted on 1/13/2013 by: Carl Johnson, Jeff Riddell, Diane North, Shelli Kelly, Jackie quintana and Dale Lopez



AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION **BROWARD COUNTY AREA LOCAL 1201** 6500 W SUNRISE BLVD PLANTATION, FL 33313



NON-PROFIT ORG. **US POSTAGE** PAID APWU

SIGN UP A NON-MEMBER

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Coastal Breeze

Official Publication of the Broward County Area Local American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO 6500 W Sunrise Blve, Ft Laud, Fl 33313 (954)792-2161 Fax (954)792-2162 e-mail:apwu1201@bellsouth.net Website: www.apwu1201.org Office Manager- Barbara Pasetti

EXECUTIVE BOARD

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS OWCP Specialists	President. Jeff Riddell Exec. Vice President. Shelli Kelly Secretary/Treas. Carl Johnson Editor. Diane North Clerk Craft Director. Dale Lopez Human Rel.Dir. Jackie Quintana Maintenance Craft Dir. Bill Pick
STEWARDS FT. LAUD. MAIN FACILITY Tour 1	OWCP Specialists
OPA LOCKA Carol City	STEWARDS FT. LAUD. MAIN FACILITY Tour 1
DEERFIELD BEACH STEWARDS Deerfield Annex	OPA LOCKA Carol CityFREDERICKA LARKIN-JOHNSON Opa LockaFREDERICKA LARKIN-JOHNSON
Deenleid Villade	DEERFIELD BEACH STEWARDS Deerfield Annex MICHAEL CLARK

STATIONS & BRANCHES FT. LAUDERDALE STEWAR	ns	PC Atla
Alridge		Co
Causeway	TAMI ACHESON	Co
Colee		Co
Coral Ridge		Lig
Crossroads Annex		Ma
Davie		N I Po
Everglades		Tro
Galt Ocean	TAMI ACHESON	
Gateway	TAMI ACHESON	<u>L&</u>
Inverrary	DIANE NORTH	To
Melrose Vista	CAROL ROZIER	To
Northridge	CARL JOHNSON	Ma
Oakland Park BrancH		Ma
Plantation	CAROL ROZIER	Ma
Sabal Palm	DOUG ELBAUM	Jef
Sawgrass	DIANE NORTH	citi
Southside		Ditt.
Sunrise		RE
Tamarac		Pri
Weston		15
Westside	DIANE NORTH	He
HOLLYWOOD STEWARDS		N/
Chapel Lakes	SANDRA MUNOZ	CL
Flamingo		Mi
Hillcrest		Mo
Hollywood Main		69.
Hollywood Maintenance	DANIEL TARANTINO	Ta
Miramar	SILVIA VILLAR	
Pem. Pines Annex	JEFF RIDDELL	M/ Jol
Pembroke Pines		80
Univ. Postal Store		Irv

W Hollywood Hills.....VERONICA BUTLER- MILLER

Dania.....Jeff Riddell

DANIA STEWARD

POMPANO STEWARDS Atlantic
L&DC OPA LOCKA STEWARDS Tour 1