

State Convention

– by George Prusak, President CPWU

Just a reminder that our State Convention will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Grand Junction this year. This is a business year and only elected delegates will be allowed to conduct any union business.

The convention, which is held biennially or every other year, will be held May 20, 2010 thru May 23, 2010. All business of the union will be conducted at that time. So, if you have any resolutions, whether to the State Constitution or to the National Convention, this is the time to present them. You must submit them to the Secretary/Treasurer, Jill Taulbee prior to noon of the second day of the convention. These resolutions can be any change you feel is necessary to our State Constitution, the National Constitution or the current contract. Your resolutions will be heard and discussed at the state convention for further action.

In addition to the resolutions, submissions for the John Kelly Solidarity Award must also be submitted. The award is presented to a member in good standing in the State of Colorado. The award shall consist of recognition of the individual at the convention and a plaque in the members name and a cash award not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

The criteria for the award shall be as follows: Nomination for the Award shall be done in writing and shall be presented to the Secretary-Treasurer by April 28th, preceding the convention. Nominations can be done by anyone, however, the individual nominated must be a union member in good standing who has either excelled at teaching or promoted or encouraged unionism in the State of Colorado.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall verify the nominee's member status. The nomination shall detail the actions of the member nominated.

The President shall appoint a committee to preside over all nominations. The committee shall then select the recipient of the award, based on the above criteria and inform the President as to the nominee selected as the recipient of the award.

NATIONAL REASSESSMENT PROCESS

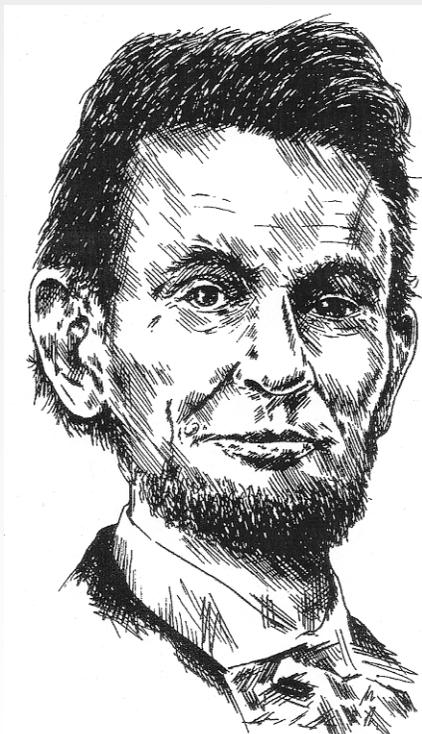
Though the NRP is still being implemented and utilized by the Postal Service, it has been slow to reach the smaller offices of Colorado. Postal management has been through Colorado Springs, the GMF, NDC and other larger areas. I expect them to be coming to the smaller offices within the next month or two.

Again, do not meet with these people without a steward. They do not have your best interests at heart. If you are called into a meeting with them just tell them that you require union representation and to get you a steward. You should call us at 303-459-4313.

CUTS IN WORK HOURS

If your work hours have been cut and the work that you did is being done by the Postmaster, PMR or OIC, let us know. Management can not cut PTF hours and perform the work themselves. A grievance must be filed if this happens.

As always if you should have any questions about anything stated in my article please feel free to contract me.



Abraham Lincoln

(16th President of the United States 1861-1865)

“All that serves labor serves the nation. All that harms labor is treason to America. No line can be drawn between these two. If a man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If a man tells you he trusts America, yet fears labor he is a fool. There is no America without labor, and to fleece the one is to rob the other.”

– Abraham Lincoln

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FEDEx SUIT:

Three states are suing Federal Express for violating labor law by classifying drivers as “independent contractors” rather than employees. This allows FedEx to avoid workers compensation laws and prevents workers from unionizing. Yet they clearly are treated like employees, with strict rules down to the color of their socks. The company tells them what hours they will work and how they should dress. The three states (New York, New Jersey and Montana) are deprived of tax revenue due to the improper classification of these employees, and these states also lose out on money for the state unemployment funds. CPWU

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

by Gwen Ivey

When will they stop? Management is continually plotting new ways to interfere with mail processing and disrupt our service to the public. Why? The end result is a concerted effort to cut our jobs, close stations and branch offices, consolidate mail processing plants and outsource our work. The Postal Service is taking advantage of the poor state of our nation’s economy to justify their war on its employees. They are attacking our jobs, our benefits, our service and dedication to our customers; in essence they are attacking our families and our way of life. CPWU

— Reprinted from Philadelphia APWU

Health Care Cost vs. CEO Wages

— by Bill Usher

I know by now you are all sick and tired of hearing about health care reform. Postal workers have good medical plans so why should we care? Keep reading and you might change your mind.

Many of us have family members or relatives who have lost jobs, homes, businesses and a large part of the reason for that is health care costs have gotten so high.

I have read too many stories in the news that last five years about people who have lost everything because an uninsured family member suffered a catastrophic illness and they could not afford to pay for the treatment. Would you like to read a few startling statistics? Sure you would. Okay, here we go.

Since the year 2000 over 5 million families have filed for bankruptcy as a direct result of a serious medical condition. Medical costs contribute to 25 percent of home foreclosures. Health insurance premiums are rising three times faster than wages or inflation. Over 47 million Americans have no health care insurance. Nearly 9 million American children have no health care insurance. And most disturbing of all, the United States has fallen behind 34 other countries in percentage of infant mortality. For every 1000 babies born here, over 6.5 do not survive. That means in America over 28,000 babies do not make it to their first birthday.

Now think about those facts and then think about the politicians determined to

stop health care reform because they want our President to look bad or because they don’t want their rich friends in the insurance industry to make less money. What’s that? You want to know how much some insurance company CEO’s make? Well if you insist, below are their take home pay for the year 2007. One year’s wages!

- Aetna:** Ronald A. Williams, \$23,045,834;
- Cigna:** H. Edward Hanway, \$25,839,777;
- Coventry:** Dale B. Wolf, \$14,869,823;
- Health Net:** Jay M. Gellert, \$3,686,230;
- Humana:** Michael McCallister, \$10,313,557;
- U. Health Grp.:** Stephen J. Hemsley, \$13,164,529.

Oh, let’s see, good old Ron Williams of Aetna only made \$443,189 dollars a week!

Every dollar of these CEO’s salary was earned by telling a sick person, “No, we won’t pay for that procedure.”

Many people think a public option health plan would force these private firms to compete with the government and would help keep costs down. It would also help make sure every American was covered. And remember, when someone who has no health insurance gets into a car crash or gets really, really sick, they get treated in the emergency room – and we all pay for that very expensive care.

So please call your Senators and tell them to support meaningful health care reform. CPWU

— Reprinted from the North Light

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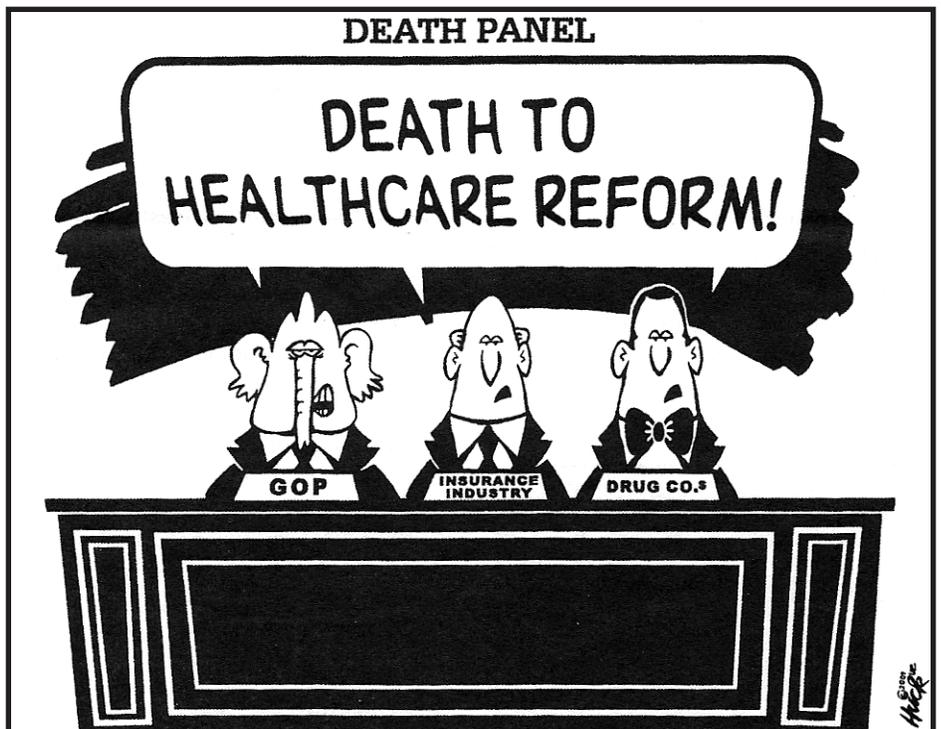
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Editorial Policy
 The Voice encourages letters to the editor. We ask, however, that they be legible. The writer’s name, address & local must be included and must be signed. Name will be omitted upon request. The managing editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted. No material will be printed that contains libelous statements or personal attacks on APWU officers or members. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the editor or officers of the CPWU.

Deadline: April, May, June Issue
May 14, 2010



SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

— by Jill Taulbee

Just a reminder, all resolutions for our Constitution and Bylaws, the National Constitution and Bylaws, and the Collective Bargaining Agreement must be submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer by noon of the second day of the convention. All resolutions must be signed and dated by the individual submitting them. All resolutions and

submissions can be mailed to me at the following address:

CPWU
 P.O. Box 470998
 Aurora, CO 80047

In addition, submissions for the John Kelly award must be submitted by April 28, 2010. CPWU



THE BIGGER THEY ARE THE HARDER WE FALL

A Clear Picture

- by William Burrus, President

A recent study by the Postal Service proudly reports the low cost of processing automated letters: just \$6.17 per 1,000 pieces. What the analysis neglects to mention, however, is the wide disparity between USPS processing costs and the discounts the Postal Service grants major mailers for “worksharing.”

It costs six tenths of one cent to sort and process each automated letter, but the USPS deducts 10.5 cents per letter from the price of a stamp for mail consolidators and major mailers who print a bar-code on their letters and pre-sort them to the 5-digit zip code.

For 1,000 automated letters, which cost the USPS \$6.17 to process in delivery sequence, the Postal Service “forgives”

\$105 in discounts for a portion of the work required to sort the mail into delivery sequence, resulting in a loss of \$98.83 per 1,000 automated letters.

That amounts to a loss of \$98,830 for every 1 million letters.

I have repeatedly expressed the union’s opposition to excessive workshare discounts that shift the costs of postal services from large mailers to individual users. And I have frequently pointed out that the law governing the USPS stipulates that discounts must not exceed the postal cost avoided.

Despite the outrageous USPS giveaways to major mailers, our critics suggest that the Postal Service’s financial crisis can be addressed by reducing employee wages.

CPWU

Union, Management Health Care Tidbits

- by Jim Hightower

The brouhaha over health care reform has produced a generous serving of tidbits – little oddities, facts and perverse twists that give a glimpse into some of the realities that don’t get much coverage.

For example, insurance companies are infamous for denying coverage to anyone with a pre-existing condition – thins like cancer, or that ingrown toenail you had twenty years ago. The National women’s Law Center recently revealed another “condition” that can preclude coverage: domestic violence. Yes, eight states allow insurance giants to categorize “getting beat up by your spouse” as a pre-existing condition!

Then there are those mythological “death panels” that Republicans have screamed about. While they never did exist in President Obama’s reform plan, guess where they do exist? In that Republican-led state of Texas! The Texas Futile Care Law allows a corporate hospital committee to overrule families and pull the plug on

granny if that hospital deems further treatment to be “futile.” It was signed into law by the Governor at the time, George W. Bush.

And now three quickies from the Washington Money Game. First, how much clout do health industry lobbyists have in this reform fight? So much that they got a copy of Democratic Senator Max Baucus’ draft legislation even before President Obama did. Second, just hours after the democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced she would no longer demand the Public Option that insurance companies vehemently opposed, an insurance lobbyist announced a \$5,000 per-firm fundraiser for her in his Washington home. And finally, Joe “You Lie!” Wilson, a Republican who loudly opposes Obama’s reform, has pocketed \$240,000 in campaign funds from the industry.

Sometimes the real story is in the tidbits. CPWU

Postal Shorts

ST LOUIS REVERSES CLOSINGS:

The St. Louis APWU Local mobilized the community and reversed plans to close nine Post Offices. The front page of that Local’s newsletter, *Press On*, shows a photo of a mass picket at the Main Post Office in St. Louis. The APWU also reached out to business owners and neighborhood residents and organized a postcard campaign, sending 3000 postcards to postal management and to congressional representatives

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- Reprinted from 101 Facts

MVS SUBCONTRACTING:

Columbus, Ohio, management outsourced the work of all of the MVS drivers! More than 50 drivers were excessed, many of them veterans. The result: 90 percent late trips, and a tremendous increase in accidents. The bill for towing in a short time after the outsourcing took place is \$45,000. . .

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- Reprinted from The Dispatcher

SCAM TIME:

The VA has received reports that veterans are being contacted by a “Patient Care Group” that claims it is helping to administer the VA’s prescription medicine program. “Patient Care Group” is saying the VA recently changed its pharmacy billing procedures, therefore a personal credit card number is now required for prescription payments in advance of filling those prescriptions. **This is a scam! Do not provide credit card information over the phone to anyone who claims to represent the VA!** The VA has not changed their pharmacy procedures, and they do not ask veterans to disclose personal financial information over the phone. If you should receive such a call, do not give them any information. Tell them you are busy right now, try to get a name and callback number. Then report that information to your local police.

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- Reprinted from The Michigan Messenger

Bereavement Leave

by Joe Gordon

Our current collective bargaining agreement was negotiated in 2006 and will expire this year. There is no way to predict what changes we can expect in the new agreement.

I was somewhat surprised to discover that some members are still unaware of one new benefit that we achieved for the first time in our current contract.

The Postal Service finally relented to the union's long sought benefit of bereavement leave. As is always the case, there are contract provisions as well as limitations that govern the use of such leave. It is always an unfortunate circumstance when it occurs but it is comforting to know that appropriate leave is available when we suffer the loss of a close family member.

Employees may be granted up to three days of either annual leave, sick leave or leave without pay, at the employee's option, for the purpose of attending to matters resulting from the death of a family member. Additional leave beyond the three days is subject to normal leave regulations found in Article 10 of the contract and Chapter 510 of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM). Employees selecting the use of sick leave will have the leave deducted from their annual 80 hour dependent care allotment.

The following relations are considered "Family Members" for consideration of bereavement eligibility: (1) Child – son or daughter, biological or adopted child, stepchild, daughter-in-law or son-in-law; (2) Spouse; (3) Parent, also someone that acted in the capacity of parent (however this may require some proof of the relationship); (4) Siblings – brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law; (5) Grandparent.

Management may require documentation to verify that a family member has passed if the supervisor deems it desirable for the protection of the interest of the Postal Service. Absences due to bereavement cannot be cited against employees in disciplinary actions. CPWU

– Reprinted from The Communicator

How to read Bar Codes. . .

A great way to "BUY USA" and not from China!!

This may be useful to know when grocery shopping, if it's a concern to you. The whole world is afraid of China-made "black hearted goods".

Can you differentiate which one is made in Taiwan or China? If the first 3 digits of the barcode are 690, 691, or 692, the product is MADE IN CHINA. 471 is Made in Taiwan.



This is our right to know, but the government and related departments never educate the public, therefore we have to rescue ourselves. Nowadays, Chinese businessmen know that consumers do not prefer products "Made in China", so they don't show from which country it is made.

- However, you may now refer to the barcode, remember if the first 3 digits are:
- 690-692 . . . then it is Made in China
- 00-09 . . . USA & Canada
- 30-37 . . . France
- 40-44 . . . Germany
- 47 . . . Taiwan
- 49 . . . Japan
- 50 . . . UK

Buy USA made by watching for "0" at the beginning of the number. We need every boost we can get! CPWU

What's Cooking?

Roasted New Potatoes

- 1½ lb. of new potatoes (red or yellow skinned) cleaned, cut in half or quarters,
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1-2 teaspoons fresh rosemary
- ¼ teaspoon salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Place potatoes in a mixing bowl. Sprinkle on salt and pepper. Add olive oil, rosemary, and garlic. Toss until potatoes are well coated.

Spread potatoes out on a single layer of a baking pan. Roast for 40 minutes, or until potatoes are cooked through and browned. Serve immediately!

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– Reprinted from the Hi-Lites



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