

APWU NEWSservice

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1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005
Volume 32 No. 14 Sept. 6, 2002

American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

House Votes to Rename Washington USPS Facility For APWU-Member Heroes

The Brentwood mail-processing facility in the nation's capital will be renamed for the two APWU members who were killed in anthrax terror attacks there last October.

The renaming of the "Joseph Curseen Jr. and Thomas Morris Jr. Processing and Distribution Center" is the result of H.R. 3287, a bill introduced by Rep. Albert R. Wynn (D-MD). Co-sponsors of the measure that sailed through a House vote on Sept. 4 included Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and the entire Maryland congressional delegation.

Maryland residents Curseen, 47, and Morris, 55, died of respiratory ailments after being exposed to two anthrax-laced letters bound for Capitol Hill. One letter containing anthrax spores was opened on Oct. 15 in the office of Senate Majority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-SD). Morris, who had worked for the Postal Service since 1973, died Oct. 21. Fifteen-year USPS veteran Curseen - co-workers recall that he never missed a day due to illness - succumbed a day later.

APWU President William Burrus was among those in attendance while the House bill was being debated. "I'm of course pleased to see these two men honored

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- APWU President William Burrus

in this way," he said, adding that he was mindful of the significance of the timing of the vote.

"We've been reminded often lately of the upcoming anniversary of the terrorist attacks," he said, "and we encourage APWU members to participate in Sept. 11 commemorations in their areas. We join the nation in mourning the tragic loss of life for all the victims of terrorist attacks."

About 3,000 people died in the attacks on the World



Gathering in the office of Rep. Danny Davis (D-Ill.) just before the historic vote to rename a postal facility for APWU members are, from left, former Rep. William Clay (D-MO), Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), William Burrus, Mary Morris (widow of Thomas Morris), Davis, and Celeste Curseen (widow of Joseph Curseen).

Trade Center and the Pentagon, and in the plane crash in western Pennsylvania. By the middle of November, there were 18 confirmed cases of anthrax nationwide. The APWU members for whom Brentwood is being renamed were among five inhalation-anthrax fatalities. Other APWU members at the Hamilton Township postal facility near Trenton, NJ (the source of the anthrax-laced Senate letters), became seriously ill due to exposure to anthrax.

Brentwood, the Hamilton facility, and the Hart Senate Office Building were shut down after the tainted mail was discovered. The 100,000-cubic-foot Senate building re-opened in January, while cleanup at the much larger (17-million cubic feet) Washington postal facility began just last month. Officials are still uncertain when it will open.

"We'll be proud to have our members report to work at the 'Curseen-Morris' facility only after we've been assured of safe working conditions," Burrus said, "as guaranteed by our Collective Bargaining Agreement."

The fumigation of the Hamilton Township plant will begin after the work at Brentwood is finished. APWU Safety and Health Specialist Corey Thompson has been assigned to monitor postal-facility cleanup operations for the union. Inquiries should be directed to him at (202) 842-4273.

Agreement on Craft Work by Non-APWU Casuals

The APWU and Postal Service management have reached agreement on the implementation of the national arbitration award that limits the use of Mail Handler and Letter Carrier casuals in APWU-designated assignments. Arbitrator Shyam Das ruled that non-APWU casuals must be given a second APWU designation when hired to do APWU work.

The daily application of the arbitration award is that Mail Handler and Letter Carrier casuals are not permitted to perform APWU work unless they have been so designated at the time of their hire - not later on. Local officials are entitled to a copy of the list of designated casuals.

The use of Mail Handler casuals in APWU assignments most typically occurs in mail-processing plants, within processing or dock operations, while Letter Carrier casuals are given APWU assignments in delivery units. Stewards should be especially vigilant in these times when the hours of part-time employees are being reduced: Prior arbitration cases that permitted simultaneous scheduling of non-designated casuals do not apply to this decision.

The number of casuals with dual designations will be limited and applied at the local level. Each office is entitled to designate 5.9 percent of the APWU

complement in an installation for the Mail Handler Craft and 5.9 percent for the Letter Carrier Craft. An office with 500 APWU-represented employees may designate 29 casuals from each of the two outside crafts to be eligible for APWU work. Casuals certified as eligible for APWU work will be governed by APWU contractual limitations and obligations during the performance of that work.

The union and Postal Service also have reached agreement on the number of assignments that casuals working in APWU crafts are permitted.

The APWU contract limits the appointment of any casual to two 90-day periods during the course of a calendar year. The new agreement with management provides that any casual hired to work two 90-day appointments in one calendar year under the NALC/Mail Handlers Union contracts would be ineligible for an additional appointment under the APWU contract during the same calendar year.

During the second week of September, the APWU Web site will list the names of rural carriers eligible to perform APWU-designated work. Upon receipt of this list of "dual casuals," local and state unions are requested to distribute the list to offices with rural carriers: This should ensure that rural carriers who are not listed do not perform APWU duties.

Three Conferences Set for Fall

The American Postal Workers Union will be conducting three important conferences in the coming weeks.

A Bulk Mail Center conference will be held Oct. 13 and 14 in Memphis, TN; a three-day Retirement Counselors Seminar in Oakland, CA, will begin Oct. 23; and the Secretary-Treasurer's office will conduct seminars for local secretary-treasurers Oct. 31 through Nov. 2, in Studio City, CA.

Bulk Mail Center Conference

The Bulk Mail Center Conference will be at Memphis' Peabody Hotel. The BMC conference's general session is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on the following day from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To preregister for the conference, complete the form at right and mail it to Maintenance Division National Representative-at-Large Gary Kloepper.

On-site registration will be Saturday, Oct. 12, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. the following Sunday.

For reservations, call the Peabody Hotel (800-423-8257 or 901-529-4000) and identify yourself as a participant of the American Postal Workers Union Bulk Mail Center Conference.

The room rate is \$159 per night for single or double occupancy, plus tax. To guarantee the negotiated rate, reservations should be made prior to Sept. 12. Rooms are limited.

APWU Retirees Seminar

The APWU Retirees Department will host a Retirement Counselors Seminar beginning at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23, and ending at 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 25. The seminar will be at the Oakland Marriott City Center.

The registration fee is \$70. Registration is limited to the first 70 applicants and participants must register by Friday, Oct. 4. If available, on-site registration will take place the first day of the seminar, starting at 8 a.m.

For reservations, call the Marriott (800-991-7249 or 510-451-4000), and identify yourself as a member of the American Postal Workers Union. The room rate is \$134 per night for single or double occupancy, plus tax. To guarantee the negotiated rate, reservations should be made prior to Oct. 2.

To register for the seminar, please complete the form at right.

Secretary-Treasurer Seminars

The APWU Secretary-Treasurer's office will conduct seminars for secretary-treasurers Oct. 31 through Nov. 2 in Studio City, CA.

The seminar sessions will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31, and end at 11 a.m. on Saturday. They will be held at the Sportmen's Lodge Hotel.

For reservations, call 800-821-8511 and identify yourself as a participant in the APWU group. The room rate is \$109 per night for single or double occupancy, or \$124 per night for a "pool-view." To guarantee the negotiated rate, reservations should be made before Sept. 30. Rooms are limited.

To register, complete the form at right and mail it to the national office. The registration fee is \$25 for the basic and advanced courses, and \$75 for the computer course. The registration fee must be received by Oct. 16.

If you have any questions, please contact Secretary-Treasurer Robert L. Tunstall's office at 202-842-4215.

BMC CONFERENCE

Memphis, TN, Oct. 12-13, 2002

Name _____
Social Security No. _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Title (if officer) _____
Phone (Home) _____
(Work or Cell) _____
Local e-mail _____
Home e-mail _____
Local _____

Send completed form to: Gary Kloepper, National Representative At Large, Maintenance Division, American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, 1300 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.

APWU Retirement Counseling Seminar

Oakland, CA, Oct. 23-25, 2002

Name _____
Social Security No. _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Title (if officer) _____
Phone (Home) _____
(Work or Cell) _____
Local e-mail _____
Home e-mail _____
Local _____

Mail this form with a check or money order for \$70 payable to: APWU Retirement Counselor Seminar, John R. Smith, Director, Retiree Department, 1300 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Seminars for Secretary Treasurers

Studio City, CA, Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, 2002

Name _____
Social Security No. _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Title _____
Phone (Home) _____
(Work or Cell) _____
Local e-mail _____
Home e-mail _____
Local _____

Mail this form with a check or money order for the appropriate amount to: "APWU Secretary-Treasurer's Office," 1300 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.

COLA Rise Means Gain in Pay

The rise in the Consumer Price Index from January through July has resulted in a 15-cent-per-hour raise as of Sept. 7.

This means a \$12 increase in APWU members' biweekly paychecks, which will be reflected during pay period 20-2002 (Sept. 27).

The increase works out to \$312 annually. It was to be the second cost-of-living adjustment to go into effect under the 2000 Collective Bargaining Agreement, but the National Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) actually fell from August 2001 through January 2002, the first period covered.

Pay scales showing the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) can be seen on the APWU Web site (www.apwu.org) and will appear in the September/October edition of the *American Postal Worker*.

Banner Day for Labor



The Syracuse (NY) Area Local was a strong presence in this year's Labor Day parade. About 40 members were involved along the parade route, passing out flags, APWU tattoos and balloons.