



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

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Members
National Professional Postal Nurses

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The members of the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO consider the National Professional Postal Nurses as valued friends promoting our safety, health, and wellbeing. For decades, postal nurses in your Union have been a blessing to both healthy as well as injured and sick APWU members. This relationship should continue. That is our prayer and I believe our mutual goal.

APWU is the largest postal union in the United States. You know about most APWU craft employees: Clerk, Maintenance, and Motor Vehicle Services. Each has a Division in the APWU structure. You may not know that APWU has a fourth Division – my Division - Support Services.

While the Support Services Division is the smallest in APWU, we are growing. Key components of Support Services include Data Center employees in St. Louis, MO; Minneapolis, MN; San Mateo, CA and Wilkes-Barre, PA. They work in white collar and professional jobs, such as bookkeepers, accountants, computer programmers, system analysts and other highly-skilled jobs. These professionals negotiate and ratify their own Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Postal Service. They have their own locals and conferences. They handle their own grievances and schedule their own arbitrations.

Support Services includes an array of other workers: locksmiths who manufacturer locks and keys at the Mail Equipment Shops (MES); inventory and warehouse employees that work in the USPS Materiel Distribution Centers (MDC's); private sector employees that work in Mail Transportation Equipment Service Centers; and drivers working for private sector mail haul companies. Each group negotiates and ratifies its own contract and holds its own company and job specific meetings.

Support Services members know how to keep their unique identities and use the resources of APWU to support their unique struggles – and they support APWU making APWU a better and stronger union.

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Support Services struggles are not unlike some of your struggles. Postal economists consistently come up with cost analyses that strongly recommend the “contracting out” of our jobs. Over the years, the Postal Service has proposed to contract out every postal bargaining unit in the Support Services Division. They proposed to eliminate the 38 jobs in the MES bargaining unit and the 91 jobs in the MDC’s. Instead, we prevailed. Every bargaining unit survived the proposals. Although the Postal Service proposed to eliminate your bargaining unit and contract for all nurse and medical services, a little more than a decade later, you are still here in fifty-one plants.

So we have a lot in common. The size of our bargaining units doesn’t matter, we are not about to go quietly into the night. In fact, Support Services is growing because we are organizing private sector employees working on jobs the Postal Service contracted out.

In Support Services, we fight for our jobs and our work - and we are not alone. As members of the APWU, we are strong – we sit down with the Postal Service as equal partners.

I have spoken to several of you and met with your President, Idell Mitchell. I think you will find APWU to be the perfect home. As an APWU local, you will have autonomy and as APWU, you will have the support of the largest postal union. APWU is a democratic union. APWU members stand for election and vote for their local and national officers including national business agents; vote for their constitution; vote for their collective bargaining agreements.

As the Support Services Division National Business Agent, I am excited about the possibility of joining in your struggles and working with you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 952-854-0093 (office), 570-814-2796 (cell), or bmanley@APWU.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

In solidarity,



Bill Manley
National Business Agent

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