

**APWU
NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL MEETING**

***JUDY BEARD
DIRECTOR OF RETIREES DEPARTMENT
MARCH 3-6, 2014***



OUTLINE

- **ADMINISTRATIVE DATA**
- **MOST RECENT WIN**
- **CURRENT ISSUES (CHAPTERS & MEMBERS)**
- **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**
- **DEPARTMENT PROJECTS**
- **WE ARE UNION & COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS**



ADMINISTRATIVE DATA



MEMBERSHIP

**Retiree Members: 41,095
(As of February 2014)**



INCOME & EXPENSES

Retiree Dues Received: \$1,252,878.24 (2013)

Retiree Expenses: \$808,565.57 (2013)

Income Over Expenses: \$ 444,312.67 (2013)

Total Income Over Expenses: \$3,793,839.00 (2007-2013)

COPA DONATIONS

Retiree's COPA Donations: \$369,832.42 (2013)

Active Members' COPA Donations: \$917,500.63

Total COPA Donations: \$1,287,333.05

Percentage of COPA Donations by Retirees: 28.7%



*MOST
RECENT WIN*



*For the moment APWU
Retirees are
CELEBRATING!*

President Obama will **NOT** be proposing cuts to Social Security through the chained CPI in 2015.




Change of Heart

The work of our retirees, their families, senior organizations, state, national, and local officers is the reason President Obama had change of heart.



*HOW DID WE
WIN THIS
VICTORY?*

MOST RECENT WIN 3



Our strategy was simple, we did it the old school way. By educating, organizing, lobbying, writing letters, placing phone calls, and....

Sending Mothers' Day cards with sad faces of mothers to Congress and President Obama.

WOULD YOU CUT YOUR MOTHER'S
SOCIAL SECURITY?


HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!!!





*WE KEPT OUR ENERGY
UP WITH A SONG!*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gblWJyoA- I>



We exchanged ideas of different approaches that would be most effective. We had lots of mailings, stickers, petitions, town hall retiree conference calls, retiree chapter presidents conference calls, as well as chapter, state, and national meetings. We asked family members active on Facebook and Twitter to post information to help us campaign.



We embraced our community resources by joining or seeking support from:

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Alliance for Retired Americans, NAACP, Social Security Works, Coalition for Labor Union Women, Coalition of Black Trade Unionist, Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, Senior Centers, Alzheimer's Association, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicine, AFL-CIO Union Veterans Council, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, The A. Philip Randolph Institute, Pride At Work, and The Voice of the Midlife and Older Women.

There are many more organizations that retirees belong to and have requested assistance from on making sure we keep our benefits.



ISSUES WE ARE
WORKING ON
TODAY

STAPLES CAMPAIGN / APWU LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES





MID-TERM ELECTIONS

The Retirees received their first introductions heading up to the mid-term elections in our January/February issue of the Postal Worker:

- Making a list and checking it **TWICE**.
- “Protect Your Right to Vote” is the title of the article for February/March.
 - a. Voters Rights Amendment Act of 2014 (Senate Bill 1945) was introduced by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
 - b. It’s time to check on their request for absentee balloting.

INCREASING SOCIAL SECURITY

Senate Bill 567:

The Strengthen Social Security Act of 2013

Sponsor: **Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)**

What Would the Bill Do?

- Strengthen benefits by reforming Social Security benefits formula.
(All Social Security beneficiaries would see **\$70.00** increase per month.)
- Ensure that cost of living adjustments adequately reflect the living expenses of retirees (CPI E).
- Improve the long term financial condition of the trust fund. The current taxable cap of **\$117,000.00** would phase out.



EDUCATING OUR MEMBERS ON NEW RULES FOR OBTAINING THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS STATEMENT

Effective February 2014

- Social Security administration no longer provides Social Security printouts.
- Contact toll-free number **1-800-772-1213** (TTY **1-800-325-0778**) or visit website **www.socialsecurity.gov**
- Instructions on new process to get a replacement card will be given.



PENSION SCAM PROTECTION

House of Representatives Bill 3310:

Annuity Safety and Security Under Reasonable
Enforcement Act of 2013

Sponsor: *House Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA)*

Cosponsors: 50 (D)



PENSION SCAM PROTECTION

WHAT WOULD THE BILL DO?

REQUIRES APPROPRIATE DISCLOSURES REGARDING “PENSION ADVANCE” SCHEMES AND CAPS THE INTEREST RATES ON THESE ADVANCES. ALSO CREATES A PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS TO ENFORCE THESE LAWS IN COURT.



*TRAIN THE TRAINERS
WORKSHOP
FIGHTING FRAUD 101*

GPO/WEP

House of Representatives Bill 1795:

Social Security Fairness Act of 2013

Sponsor: *House Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL)*

Cosponsors: 78 (D), 30 (R)

Senate Bill 896:

Social Security Fairness Act of 2013

Sponsor: *Sen. Mark Begich (D-AK)*

Cosponsors: 12 (D), 3 (R), 1 (I)



FEDERAL PENSIONS

Senate Bill 1678:

*Public- Private Employee Retirement
Parity Act*

Sponsor: Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC)

Cosponsors: 2 (R)



*FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS*



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FROM A MEMBER:

**I RECEIVED AN OVERPAYMENT DEBT
COLLECTION LETTER FROM OPM,
HOW DO I RESPOND?**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ANSWER:

1. PAY ATTENTION TO THE DATE ON THE FORM THAT YOU MUST RESPOND TO IF YOU ARE ASKING FOR RECONSIDERATION OR A WAIVER.
2. YOU CAN ACCEPT THE DECISION.
3. YOU CAN ACCEPT THE DECISION BUT LET THEM KNOW YOU WANT TO LOWER THE AMOUNT OF YOUR MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS.
4. STATE YOU DO NOT WANT TO ACCEPT THE DECISION, BUT YOU MUST RESPOND.



FRQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FROM A LOCAL:

**A RETIREE RECEIVED A DEBT
COLLECTION LETTER FROM THE USPS,
WHAT DO I DO?**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ANSWER:

1. UNDER **ARTICLE 15; SECTION 7** OF THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, YOU SHOULD FILE A GRIEVANCE ON THEIR BEHALF. THE JOINT CONTRACT INTERPRETATION MANUAL OUTLINES A PROCEUDRE ON **PAGE 146**, AND HAS A QUESTION & ANSWER SECTION.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FROM NATIONAL BUSINESS AGENT:

**I AM IN THE PROCESS OF PREPPING A
REMOVAL GRIEVANCE FOR ARBITRATION, IF
WE LOSE THE CASE CAN THE GRIEVANT STILL
RETIRE AND RECEIVE BENEFITS?**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ANSWER:

Any employee who is fired, whether for performance or conduct, usually retains any entitlements he or she has earned up to that point in time. For example, if eligible for immediate retirement, the employee may retire. If the employee isn't currently eligible but has the correct number of years of service, he or she can apply for a deferred annuity at a later date. However, if the conduct for which the employee was fired ended up with debts owed to the government, these could be recouped through liens against any retirement benefits or funds in the TSP. Only if the employee is subsequently convicted of crimes, such as treason, would all retirement benefits be forfeited.



*DEPARTMENT
PROJECTS*




WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT WHAT PROJECTS ARE A PRIORITY

- 1. Grievance Tracking**
- 2. Distribution/Retiree Applications to Early-Out Retirees Who Will Receive Their Last Check**
- 3. Increasing Chapters & Making Sure Current Chapters are Functioning**
- 4. Expanding our National & Local Community Base**



*WE ARE
UNION & COMMUNITY
ORGANIZERS*



We may be old school but we know how to communicate with young adults. Not only have we learned to appreciate how they campaign, we stand united with them to ensure there is a post office tomorrow, jobs with living wages, and more unions with good contracts.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKiTip4IzV0&feature=share&list=PLSIUF-toHGIU9N0djO8PrO8Z1S00zTGh5&index=7>