

Volume 48 Number 4

Happy Holidays to Al

By Carlton Williams, President

The Holiday Season is here again. I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, a Happy



New Year. Enjoy, have fun, and have a safe Holiday Season with family and friends.

LINE H HOURS AND MAINTENANCE CUSTODIAL **STAFFING**

It's that time of year again. At the

conclusion of each Postal Fiscal Year. the total custodial work hours for Labor Distribution Code (LDC) 38 (custodian work) will be compared to 90% of the custodial work hours shown

on Line H of PS Form 4852. The results will be provided to and discussed with the Local APWU President or designee. As TPWU State President, I have not been nor provided the Line H Hours by management and no meetings have been scheduled to discuss the Line H hours. I have submitted a Request for Information to all four (4)

Maintenance Managers in Dallas, Ft.

Worth, Rio Grande, and Houston Districts, requesting for the Form 4852's. Line H deals with the staffing of custodians and to verify if management has fallen short of 90% of the work hours shown on Form 4852. If the 90% criteria are not meet, this means improper and inadequate staffing which results in a financial liabili-

ty for management to compensate for all hours short of the 90%. Upon receipt of the Line H Hours and Form 4852's, the Union will determine which Post Offices were not staffed and did not meet the 90% criteria. If there are Line H violations, the affected Post Offices will be notified, and the Union will initiate a grievance for compensation.

TEXAS VOTER REGISTRATION QUALIFICATIONS

Registration Deadline: To vote in Texas, you must be registered. Simply



pick up a voter registration application, fill it out, and mail it at least 30 days before the election date.

Age: You must be at least 17 years and 10 months old to register, and you are 18 years of age by Election Day.

Citizenship: Must be a United States citizen

Residency: Must be a resident of the county where you submit the application.

Felony Convictions: You are not a convicted felon (you may be eligible to vote if you have completed your sentence, probation, and parole)

Mental Competency: You have not been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.



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EDITORIAL POLICY

Any and all opinions in the Lone Star Postal News are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the Union. All contents must be received no later than the deadline published in each issue of the Lone Star Postal News (LSPN). Submissions should not exceed 500 words and must be accompanied by the writer's signature, address and phone number. Unassigned articles or letters to the Editor will not be printed, but a writer's name will be withheld upon request. All submissions must be typed. Artwork must be done in ink only, no ballpoint or pencil please. No Articles typed in all capital letters. All submissions are subject to editing. Articles may also be emailed: tpwueditor@yahoo.com

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By Ruben Campos, Vice President

Elections of National officers is completed. Many locals within the state of Texas have recently completed or will soon be completing their elections. Congratulations to all newly elected officers on your successful campaigns. Many thanks to those who stepped forward to run for office to better our Union. It is rare for everyone to be completely happy with the outcome of elections. Not everyone has the same vision for the Union as you or I do. Whether we agree or disagree the only way to strengthen the Union is to remain active and united. Postal Management nationally and locally is watching the outcome of these elections with great interest. They are looking for weaknesses in our armor. Some will feed on the discontent they see on the floor. Others will plant seeds of dissension in the ranks hoping they can turn us against each other. Divide and conquer has been a successful strategy since the time of Julius Caesar. If we are busy fighting amongst ourselves no one will be paying attention to managements blatant contract violations. We need to look out for each other.

Now more than ever it is important to learn what your contractual rights are. I am surprised at the number of Union members who are unaware of the rights they have until they are issued discipline or a letter of demand or are called in for attendance issues. There are so many resources available to

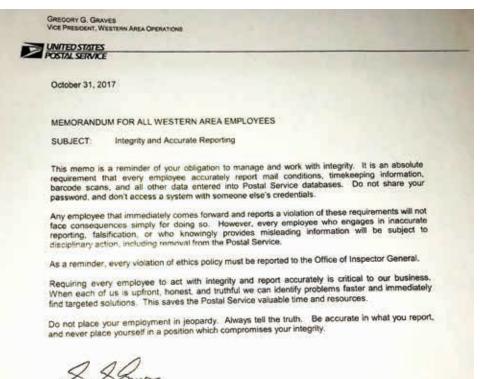
Moving Forward

members that one really must try not to learn the contract. One of my favorite resources is the Southern Region Joint Contract Administration Manual or SRICAM for short. The ICAM is like the National Joint Contract Interpretation Manual (JCIM) but much easier to read and understand. It is a list of questions and answers to the most common contractual issues postal workers would encounter daily. Every employee new or old would benefit from reading this very short manual. It is the first manual I present to new stewards during training. The JCAM can be found on the apwu.org website. It is listed in the southern regional coordinators section in the tab listing officers. It can be downloaded or printed for easy access. Knowing your rights makes it easier for you and your stewards to identify and address contractual violations that may have been previously overlooked.

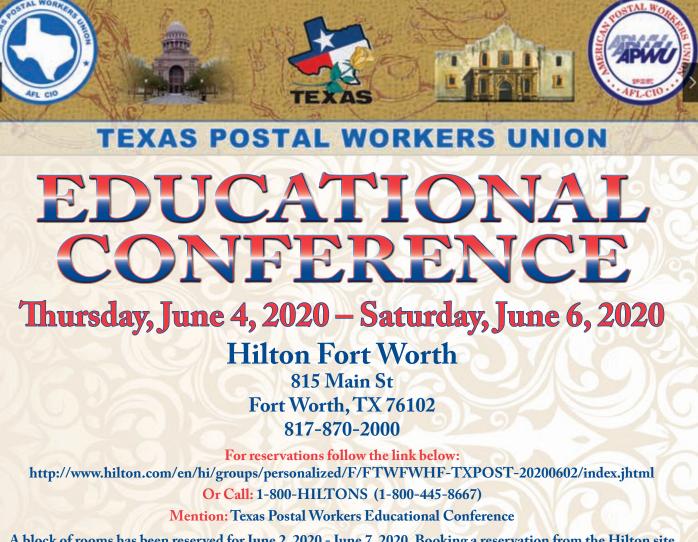
For those of you who may be thinking about becoming a steward please approach your local president or craft director. If you are serious about becoming a steward you will read the JCAM before approaching your local officers. Should you be selected as a potential steward training will be available at the upcoming TPWU educational conference in Fort Worth, Texas. The tentative dates for the Educational Conference are June 3rd through June 6th, 2020. Look for more information regarding this upcoming event on the TPWU.org website. If I can be of any assistance to you or your local, please feel free to contact me at 361-249-3115.

Still an Important Reminder

Submitted by Norma Impallari, District VP #4



Gregory G. Graves



A block of rooms has been reserved for June 2, 2020 - June 7, 2020. Booking a reservation from the Hilton site is simple. To begin the process, click on "Book a Room" to receive your group's preferred rate. See you at the Hilton Fort Worth in June! We hope you enjoy your stay and your group's event! Special room rates have been arranged for this event. Book early to reserve your room.

> 1 KING WITH SLEEPER SOFA rates from 149.00 USD/Night 2 DOUBLE BEDS rates from 149.00 USD/Night

Room Rates are \$176.01 (includes all applicable taxes and fees) CUT OFF DATE: MAY 11, 2020 *Each guest ROOM will receive TWO Breakfast Buffets Daily*

> For more information contact: Kaye Strawther, Chairperson P.O. BOX 162121 Fort Worth TX 76161 Kdlady51@hotmail.com 817.726.8061 817.551.1642

The Challenges and Struggles Moving to 2020!



By Carlos Barrios, Director of News/Information – Editor

I would like to wish everyone a safe and splendid Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. And to those brothers and sisters that have gone to their eternal rest I would like for everyone to take a moment of silence as you read this article in remembrance of their solidarity that they shared with us.

Now that the elections have been finalized its time to express a thanks for all the individuals who chose to run for their office of choice. To those that didn't win, now is **NOT** the time to start ambers of negative fires within your union circles. There is no room for those who hold offices within their perspective locals to use their pawns (**members who lost their election**) to stir negative batches of strive.

It's time for all those that won their elections to place their agendas to the side and work together for all the members of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU).

Re-elected National President Mark Dimondstein announced to all the delegation at the All Craft Conference what we needed to do to advance the agendas for the APWU. Mark shared a well-known phrase, "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas". However, he said that we needed to flip that and say, *"What happens in Vegas we have to take home and with more passion more determination, more unity, learn from each other, learn from your officers..."* Now is not the time to continue harboring over dead issues. There are many among us who have lost their elected positions and all they do is brew contentions of disharmony rather than provide to those in leadership roles their experience in a private setting rather than grand standing and presenting themselves as juveniles seeking attention.

The challenge that I place before every career APWU member is to mentor a new employee and especially those that are not full-time employees. Take them to a local meeting, a picket, a demonstration to show the Post Service that the heartbeat of APWU is still strong.

Go online to apwu.org and read the contract and learn to see what your rights and benefits are and not expect those in leadership to do everything for you. Go to the Martin Luther King March or the Caesar Chavez March or any other union function to show your union pride. The time is coming in this race to hand over the baton. This is not just a saying, rather it is being an activist.

We stand today on the shoulders of the giants that payed the way for us many years ago and provided to us all the benefits that many today just take for granted. The time is now to bestow a responsibility to the next generation to run the race. The race is about the baton, and not the runners. Every member should be prepared to take the baton and win the challenges before us. The trials that we are facing are significant and we must amplify our Committee on Political Action (COPA) funds to help elect candidates who encourage an energetic public Postal Service and the ambitions of the working people. Without members like you the efforts of COPA would not be able to put Washington on notice and let politicians know that the APWU is a political force to be reckoned with.

Sign the Petition, Spread the Word

The APWU and other organizations that belong to "A Grand Alliance To Save Our Public Postal Service" are encouraging their members to sign and distribute a petition demanding that the Postal Board of Governors appoint a new Postmaster General who is committed to continuing public ownership of the Postal Service and to provide quality postal services to everyone – no matter who they are or where they live – at reasonable and uniform rates. Join us today to protect the public good and an important part of our democracy. Sign the petition to help secure the future of our public Postal Service.

In July 2018, the White House announced proposals to sell the Postal Service to private corporations. Now Postmaster General Megan Brennan has announced her departure from her post in January 2020. The Postmaster General has wide powers to shape the mission of USPS. There is a real risk that the Postal Service Board of Governors will appoint a successor who will hand over parts of the service to private, profit-making corporations and prepare it for a wholesale sell-off.

We need to make our voices heard. Sign the petition to the Postal Board of Governors now. Below are links where you can sign the petition. Spread the word!

Twitter: http://bit.ly/2NOw3mT #USMailNotForSale Facebook: http://bit.ly/2NLejZs

The National APWU 20







19 All Crafts Conference







The National APWU 20











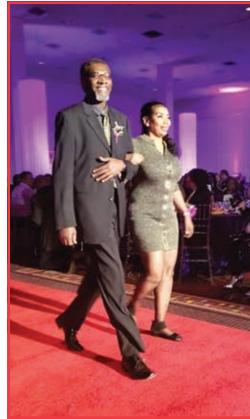
19 All Crafts Conference













The National APWU 20











19 All Crafts Conference











Please Help Support HB 2255

By Aulby Larry Gillett, Texas Association of the Deaf Region2/Legislative Key Co-Chairman

My name is Aulby Larry Gillett from San Angelo, Texas, and I am the Texas Association of the Deaf (TAD) legislative key co-chairman. I am a supporter of TAD because as an infant child my disability went unidentified until I was 5 years old. Due to this late diagnosis, it hurt my development and my family deeply.

But first! I just want to share with all of you about my background. I graduated at Texas School for the Deaf in 1976. I am a former Gov-

erning Board member with 9 years of service. I intend to earn my masters thru the University of Commissioner Science Alamo Area Council for the Boy Scout of America program in San Antonio this year. In the future my passion is to help assist deaf and hard of hearing children with their parents.

I have with me a picture from the Capitol Building of former Texas House of Representatives Robert Junell, Former Governor of Texas George W Bush, Governor of Texas Ann W Richard, Governor of Texas Rick Perry, Former State Senate Bill Sims, State Senate Jeff Wentworth and Texas House of Representatives Drew Darby District 72 from San Angelo



Texas whom I have known since 1991. I am proud to have known and worked with them to support the children for decades.

As I said, now, I struggled and was SO frustrated for the first 5 years of my life. I didn't know there was sign language and I didn't use English. My mother was always worrying about me and would take me to the doctor's office. When the doctors finally realized I was deaf, they told her, and she was very shocked and upset. Actually, my parents were so lost and without good information and resources that it became a stressor that lead to their divorce – some of you may know that having a child with special needs – without good resources – can hurt families in this capacity.

lies in this capacity.

I have since had a good job at U.S. Postal Office for 33 years. I was able to work hard and catch up and for that I am both proud and grateful. TAD has chosen this bill as its priority - to bring Educational Resource Center on Deafness (ERCOD) in earlier in reaching out and getting services to these families - because we want

this kind of story to be in history only. Times have changed but sadly we are one of the states at the very bottom of the national list when it comes to letting babies like myself slip through the cracks, and that must never be the case.

I am so happy to know that this committee wants to help.

I really do appreciate it and thank you for your help and kindly support for this Baby Bill HB 2255.

Your sincerely.

Texas Association of the Deaf honors Drew Darby

Darby honored for helping deaf, hard-hearing Texans

Matthew McDaniel

USA TOGAT ASTWORK - TEXAS

State Representative Drew Darby was honcered by the Texas Association of the Deaf in his San Angelo office on Wednesday, Oct. 23, in appreciation of his legislative assistance with "deep gravitude for strong support and leadership in furthering the human rights of all deaf and hand-of-beauing Texans."

A plaque was presented to Darby by Aulty "Larry" Gillett of tian Angelo, who, with the assistance of sign-largoing interpreter Breastia Norman, told Durby his organization voted to recognize him during their 50th bisunial celebration and conference heid in Orapevice this September.

Among the legislation Darby added in pareing was 108 IOS, which was apthered by Darby, and held the distinction of being the first bill signed by Gos. Greg Abbott during the most recent legislative session. The bill changed the name of the Southwest Institute for the Deaf to Southwest College for the Deaf. Durity was also instrumental in passing three other bills.

8 58 282, which related to the use of certain language regarding a person who is deaf or hand-of-hearing in statutes and resolutions.

I HS 2285, which belates to bearing screening results for newbern children and infants, and provisions for information following the screening.

8 H3 548, which relates to data collection and language acquisition for deaf and hand-of-bearing children age 8 and younges.

Matthew McDaniel is a pournalist covering community news and faith related Rems in Weet Texas. Send him a news tip at minodasheld/digannett.com. Consider supporting West Texas Insenalism with a subscription to GodanAnpeln.com.



From left: Breasts Norman Joins Aulity "Larry" Gillett as he presents State Representative Drew Darby with a plaque - Gillett's wife, Patricia stands at far right, sering warchast, reseasts mass

Legislative News Flash



By Robert Proo, Legislative Aide Facebook @TPWU.Legislative Hello Brothers and Sisters. AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION INTEREST ARBITRATION ARBITRATION HEARINGS AND TESTIMONY CONCLUDE NOV 13-15

APWU Makes Powerful Final Case for a Good Contract

The American Postal Workers Union and United States Postal Service Management conducted a final threeday session of interest arbitration November 13-15. The week's proceedings saw the conclusion of evidence submission and witness testimony in the interest arbitration hearings for a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

With the hearings complete, The Arbitration Panel will now begin its deliberations.

APWU RESPONDS TO MANAGEMENT

The APWU presented testimony from Motor Vehicle Craft Director Michael Foster, Clerk Craft Director Lamont Brooks and Maintenance Craft Director Idowu Balogun. The National Craft Directors refuted management's efforts to reinstate PSE's into the Maintenance and MVS, subcontract out more work and add more management "Flexibility" that would undermine seniority bidding rights, hours of work and set schedules.

MVS Craft Director responded to management's regressive proposals for PVS operators. Among those proposals was a management attempt to do away with bidding on specific schedules when bidding on duty assignments, and allows supervisors to substantially modify duty assignments on a weekly basis.

Clerk Craft Director addressed USPS attacks on Clerk's work and our demand for better staffing in the Clerk Craft. Maintenance Craft Director rebutted USPS attempts to carve out exceptions to MS-47 TL5 Line H. "APWU members are rightly outraged at postal managements attacks on them," said Industrial Relations Director Vance Zimmerman.

In this Interest Arbitration session, we showed exactly how highly skilled and dedicated our members are.

APWU MEMBERS DESERVE RAISES

Our main witness was a renowned economist who not only strongly rebutted management's argument that APWU members are overpaid but also provided powerful justification that we are deserving of good solid wage increases based on our skills, jobs and general wage trends.

While Management focused on comparing postal wages with the private sector, our economists went back to the 1970 Postal Reorganization Act, which mandated collective bargaining for postal workers. He also highlighted the serious flaws in the data that management relied on to calculate its comparisons with private sector wages. He presented statistics which showed that, across the board, APWU members deserved a solid and substantial wage increase and that APWU members

are not overpaid and under-skilled, as management had argued.

The Arbitration Panel is expected to issue a final and binding award early in the New Year.

H.R. 2478: THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT FAIRNESS ACT

Up until January 1, 1989, postal and federal workers who began their postal job as temporary employees were able to make additional contributions to their retirement benefits, to obtain credit for their years of service when they were not eligible for these benefits. These contributions included a deposit of 1.3 percent of the base pay for each year as temporary employees corresponding interest, and the government's contribution as calculated by the Office of Personnel Management. This allowed eligible employees to retire on time and with full benefits. This created parity between temporary and career employee's ensuring they had equal access to retirement benefits.

Representatives Derek Kilmer (D-WA-06) and Tom Cole (R-OK-04) introduced H.R. 2478, The Federal Retirement Fairness Act, to right this wrong. The legislation would:

• Allow eligible employees to once again make additional contributions to be credited towards their years of service, similar to what was done before January 1, 1989.

• Provide all postal employees access to benefits for their dedicated work, regardless of an employee's initial hiring status.

• Affect more than 60,000 APWU members who converted from temporary to career positions.

H.R. 2474: THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE ACT

The PRO Act will give working people a voice on the job so they can negotiate for higher wages, better benefits, a *continued on page 14*



continued from page 13

more secure retirement and protection from discrimination.

The PRO Act would modernize the NLRA by bringing its remedies in line with other workplace laws. In addition to imposing financial penalties on companies and individual corporate officers who violate the law, the bill would give workers the option of who form unions but never get to enjoy the benefits of a collective bargaining agreement. The PRO Act recognizes that employees need the freedom to picket or withhold our labor in order to push for the workplace changes we seek. The bill protects employees' right to strike by preventing employers from hiring permanent replacement workers. It also allows unrepresented employees



bringing their case to federal court. The bill would make elections fairer by prohibiting employers from requiring their employees to attend "captive audience" meetings whose sole purpose is to convince workers to vote against the union. Under the bill, once workers vote to form a union, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) would be authorized to order that the employer commence bargaining a first contract. These orders would be enforced in district courts to ensure swift justice. In addition, the bill would ensure that employees are not deprived of their right to a union because an employer deliberately misclassifies them as supervisors or independent contractors. The PRO Act would establish a process for mediation and arbitration to help the parties achieve a first contract. This important change would make the freedom to negotiate a reality for countless workers

to engage in collective action or class action lawsuits to enforce basic workplace rights, rather than being forced to arbitrate such claims alone. Finally, the bill would eliminate right to work laws. These laws have been promoted by a network of billionaires and special interest groups to give more power to corporations. H.R. 2474 has 214 Cosponsor 10 of the Cosponsors are from Texas Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20], Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33], Rep. Green, A1 [D-TX-9], Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34], Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18], Rep. Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15], Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16], Rep. Garcia, Sylvia R. [D-TX-29], Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30] and Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35]. If you do not see your congressman listed above give him or her a call and ask them to support H.R. 2474.

H.R. 2382: THE USPS FAIRNESS ACT

Since 2006, during a lame duck session of Congress the United States Postal Service has been plagued with the onerous burden of prefunding its retiree health care benefits as mandated by the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) of 2006. The Mandate requires the Postal Service to prefund its retiree health care benefits 75 years in advance, paying for retirement health care for individuals who haven't been born yet, let alone enter the workforce. Since 2013, the prefunding mandate is responsible for 100% of the Postal Service's net losses, and it has defaulted on its prefunding payments since 2012. No other federal agency or private sector business prefunds its retirement benefits. The uncertainty inherent in satisfying the PAEA prefunding mandate is creating real instability in the Postal Service's operations. Recognizing the problem prefunding creates, Representatives Peter DeFazio (D-OR-04), Tom Reed (R-NY-23), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01) and Xochitl Torres Small (D-NM-03) introduced the USPS Fairness Act, H.R. 2382. The bill fully repeals the prefunding mandate, reverting back to a pay-as-you-go system that Postal Service used prior to the PAEA. If passed, H.R. 2382 would repeal in total the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act's (PAEA) mandate to prefund retiree healthcare benefits. This mandate accounts for the vast majority of the financial crisis facing the postal service and is constantly used by privatization advocates who want to sell off the USPS to private corporations. As of October 17, 2019, 261 Representatives have cosponsored H.R. 2382 17 of the cosponsors or from Texas. Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34], Rep. Fletcher, Lizzie [D-TX-7], Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18], continued on page 15

Legislative News Flash

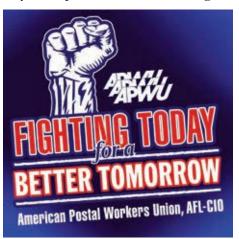
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Rep. Allred, Colin Z. [D-TX-32], Rep. Cuellar, Henry [D-TX-28], Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33], Rep. Gohmert, Louie [R-TX-1], Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35], Rep. Hurd, Will [R-TX-23], Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16], Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20], Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30], Rep. Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15], Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9], Rep. Garcia, Sylvia R. [D-TX-29], Rep. Olson, Pete [R-TX-22] and Rep. Gooden, Lance [R-TX-5]. If your representative has not signed on to Cosponsor H.R. 2382, contact your Representative and urge them to cosponsor the USPS Fairness Act, H.R. 2382.

H.R. 92 & S. 26: VOTE BY MAIL

Across the country, an increasing number of states, cities, and counties are saving money while making it easier for their citizens to vote - without waiting in long lines or needlessly mandating voters do so in person. More and more governments are allowing their constituents to vote by mail. The American Postal Workers Union and the Texas Postal Workers Union AFL-CIO enthusiastically support this trend, which will encourage working people to exercise the most fundamental right of every citizen - the right to vote. We believe that voting in every election should be as convenient, fair, and secure as possible. Senator Ron Wyden (OR) and Representative Earl Blumenauer (OR-03) introduced the Vote by Mail Act of 2019 (S. 26 & H.R. 92), which would require states to allow voting through the mail in federal elections. In states that have already adopted vote by mail options, there is a marked increase in voter participation due to ease: there are no long wait times for voting; voters will not have to take time off of work; and, there is no confusion about where to vote. Additionally, vote by mail initiatives

have proven to reduce the cost of conducting elections for states, and reduces the likelihood of voter fraud and voter intimidation. As of October 17, 2019 35 Representatives have Cosponsored H.R. 92 One of the Cosponsors from Texas **Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]**. If your representative has not signed



on to Cosponsor H.R. 92, contact your Representative and urge them to cosponsor H.R. 92 Vote by Mail

H.R. 2517: THE USPS SHIPPING EQUITY ACT

Private carriers, such as UPS and FedEx, are already able to ship beer, alcohol and wine direct to consumers. In 2018, private carriers reported revenue of over \$3 billion from delivering for wineries, breweries, and other producers. Due to outdated Prohibition Era regulations, it is currently illegal for the Postal Service to ship these products. Realizing the opportunity to increase revenue and expand on demanded services, Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA-14), along with 12 original co-sponsors, introduced the USPS Shipping Equity Act, H.R. 2517. Under this bipartisan legislation, the prohibition of the Postal Service shipping alcohol would be fully removed, while setting up regulation which would include:

• Shippers must register with the Department of Treasury, the federal regulator of alcohol;

• Recipients must be 21 or older, with valid government issued ID shown at time of delivery; and,

• Shipments can only go to consumers-deliveries cannot be for resale or commercial.

• Additionally, the Postal Service must comply with state and local laws in force at the point of delivery.

As the Postal Service looks for innovation and how to diversify provided services, the delivery of wine, beer, and spirits is an obvious solution that would bring in millions of dollars. Additionally, the Postal Service can reach more customers than its private carrier counterparts. The Postal Service delivers to every address, regardless of geographic location. With this bill, even those in rural areas will have access to direct-to-consumer shipping of beer and wine, who would otherwise see exorbitant shipping fees or no shipping at all. Not only does this legislation level the playing field between the Postal Service and private carriers, but it also provides equal access to all customers. As of October 17, 2019 39 Representatives have Cosponsored H.R. 2517 one of the Cosponsors from Texas Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18] If your representative has not signed on to Cosponsor H.R. 2517, contact your Representative and urge them to cosponsor H.R. 2517 The USPS Shipping Equity Act.

I want to wish you and your Family a safe and Happy Holiday Season and I look forward in 2020 with great anticipation to the future of our Labor movement and Legislative activities. So from my Family to yours have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you... ask what you can do for your country."

Brothers and Sisters, "Ask not what your Union can do for you... ask what you can do for your Union."

In Solidarity.

TPWU Lone Star Postal News Carlos Barrios, Director of News Information/Website/Editor P.O. Box 34003 San Antonio, TX 78265-4003

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Deadline for articles for the next issue of the Lone Star Postal News is January 10, 2020



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