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October/November/December 2020





By Carlton Williams, President

I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe holiday season. This holiday season will be different and nothing like the ones in the past. We are charting new territory due to the COVID 19 pandemic. COVID 19 is spreading rapidly in many parts of the country. As cases continue to increase rapidly across the United States and in TEXAS, the safest way to celebrate this holiday season is to celebrate at home with the people you live with. Gatherings with family and friends who do not live with you can increase the chances of getting or spreading COVID-19 or the flu. Please continue to follow the CDC guidelines; they recommend not to travel, wear your mask, social distance by staying 6 feet apart, **wash your hands often, sanitize and clean surfaces,** and stay home if possible.

ELECTION RESULTS

No matter who you voted for, the Election is over, and the results are finale. It is time to heal and unify the American people and move forward as a Nation. Take the Pledge. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. And to the Republic for which it stands. One Nation, under God, Indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

FATIGUE AND BURNOUT

I encourage everyone to pace yourself while working a lot of overtime hours during this holiday season. Even though you may be allowed to work unlimited amount of overtime, this could cause physical and mental exhaustion. Make sure you get as much rest and sleep as possible. So please be aware and do not jeopardize or compromise your safety and health.

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2021 Texas Postal Workers Union State Convention Call & Information

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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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Moving Forward



By Ruben Campos, Vice President

What a difference two months make. The U.S. Postal Service went from being a joke (President Trump's term) to delivering a victory to a presidential candidate. Millions of American voters used the mail in vote option to avoid potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus. This option which was touted by the president as being unreliable and corrupt was the very option that turned the tide of the election. YOU did it! We did it!

In the middle of a pandemic, with diminished resources, short staffing, long hours, dismantled machinery, and a Postmaster General intent on privatization we delivered. It is no wonder why we are America's most trusted government agency.

Even with this greatest achievement under our belt, it is no time to relax. The Postmaster General has announced that he will now proceed with his plans to further his cost-cutting measures. What does this mean? Entering a new contract year in 2021 my bet would be on salary and benefit cuts. Reducing salaries, increasing healthcare contributions, lowering the number of career positions with non-career, increasing employee retirement contributions, are all on the table again in 2021. That does not even include the possibility of another round of network re-alignment (plant closures). We should never believe that it cannot happen to us. It can and it has. We must also be wary of attempts to contract out our work. With a fox in the hen house, it is more likely that Postal money will be diverted to private hands. When the National APWU leadership asks us to contact our legislators, it is important that we all do so. Encourage friends and family to participate. We are not just trying to protect our jobs but the people who depend on us. That includes friends, family, and community.

The Postal Service has still not received the financial support from congress that we need to survive. The last stimulus package included 25 billion dollars of proposed relief for the Postal Service. Unfortunately, Postal funding has been one of the sticking points preventing the bill from being passed. We must continue to push for new sources of revenue such as Postal banking. We should push for the elimination of discounts for pre-sorting houses whose mail is still being run through our machines in order delivery point sequence. If we turn a blind eye to the milking of the postal cash cow, we will the ones who will be going thirsty.

The TPWU state convention is still scheduled for June 24 through June 26, 2021 in Houston, Texas. Hopefully, we will be able to congregate again by then. distribution of vaccines and vaccinations should be in place prior to then but if not, it could result in either a cancellation or virtual convention. We will keep the membership informed as to what will need to be done to proceed. Every day I am hearing of more members getting infected to the point that I dread answering the phone. Please do everything you can to protect yourselves and your families. Use your masks, wash your hands, and use hand sanitizer, social distance when you can, and avoid large crowds. We will overcome.



The Lifeline of America



By Carlos Barrios, Director of News/Information – Editor

I want to first thank all members of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and hope that everyone is

doing well during these difficult times. For those who have lost loved ones, friends or co-workers during this pandemic, I would like for you to pause from reading this article and take a moment of silence to honor all who have lost their life.

The past few months has been challenging for this country to include the movement of the APWU. Although the Covid-19 pandemic has put a stoppage on many events in our country and throughout the world it could NOT squash the March of the APWU.

We stood together as Brothers and Sisters and faced the challenges everyday as the Nations Essential Workers. We are the glue that has held this country's communication link together for over 200 years. Maintaining a strong correspondence between love ones, having our medicine delivered to senior citizens and our veterans, and keeping up with our creditors. What we do every day for the USPS is not an anomaly rather it is a way of doing business.

As front-line workers we go door to door, city to city, residential to business to keep our country moving and preserving the lifeline of America. Although this pandemic has increased delivery of our package business so that residents of our great country can continue to receive essential supplies by mail we have not stopped our efforts to work day and night to maintain your way of life.

We need for Washington to recognize the USPS as a reliable institution as we have continued to get the mail

Will Wear

there

the USPS going strong. Without the USPS many rural areas and small business would not survive. Winifred Gallagher, wrote a book titled, *"How the Post Office Created America"* and if everyone who considered privatizing the USPS would read this book they would understand why an Institution like the USPS is vital for our survival as a country.

We Postal Employees reach every household every day and we help assist almost every form of government to include federal, state, and local. We recently assisted the Census Bureau getting out surveys to our citizens so that a proper count can be done so that proper funding can be divided to assisting the

citizens of our country.

Now with the election process over and counted it is time for All Citizens to put aside their political agenda and help our country move forward and continue marching forward as the Greatest Free Country in the World.

Remember, we cannot control shutdowns or virus that may surface, but we can control the attitude that we have on a daily basics. Just remember that negative people are not content but positive and happy people do not need to hate those who are negative. Rath-

out regardless of hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and now pandemics. These acts of emergencies may bend the morale and spirit of the postal worker, but it will NEVER break us because we are here to provide the crucial role in helping our country's citizens. Therefore, I ask that you contact your Congress and Senate representatives to act quickly to provide a stimulus funding to keep er live your life as a living testimony of peace so others can see that there is hope.

Let us all hope that this pandemic can end soon so that we can go back to a normal life and spend time with family, friends, and co-workers again. Until we meet again let us stay strong, safe, and diligent and enjoy the holiday season.

Be Safe & Diligent



By Nick DiPasquale

Hello members of the Texas Postal Workers Union (TPWU). As the year ends and cold weather rolls in, we will

be looking forward to gathering with family. Please be careful as COVID can attack anyone at any time. The experts have claimed that during colder weather, the virus can gain in strength. If this is true, these next few months may be a dangerous time and you must be vigilant. If gathering with family continue your hygiene habits. Follow the CDC guidelines and always wash your hands after contact with unknown surfaces.

While the pandemic continues to evolve the Union will be here to make certain that the rank and file are kept in communication with the latest news, leave policies and any other information. You can reference the apwu.org website or your local union's website for information. As postal employees continue to be vigilant on the front lines with this war with the COVID-19 pandemic we are placing our lives on the line everyday to ensure that the citizens of our country continue to receive their checks, medicines, food and supplies.

"Postal Employees are testing positive every day and being quarantined on a regular basis," said Industrial Relations Director Vance Zimmerman. "Your safety and health are paramount. Please continue to practice good hygiene, social distancing and wearing face coverings."

APWU members should continue following all local and state ordinances mandating face coverings. The APWU encourages members to continue wearing face coverings even in areas without mandates, as face coverings are proven to reduce and slow the spread of coronavirus. If you are experiencing issues getting supplies such as hand sanitizer, wipes, etc., please follow the protocol of reaching out to your local or state representatives. Flu season is also starting up. If you choose to, now is the time to get your flu shot. The APWU Health Plan and all other FEHB plans fully cover the flu shot at no additional cost. (previously released on apwu.org Oct 16, 2020).

I wish every member a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's hope 2021 will bring about great changes. I look forward in getting involved at the state level in any capacity I can be helpful. Again, if you need any help with any media relations items, please reach out to our local with your name, local, and question.

https://saaal0195-apwu.org In solidarity.

Take your best shot at avoiding the flu this season

The flu affects millions of people each year and can result in severe illness,hospitalization and even death. A flu shot is your best defense to help to protect yourself and the people around you from seasonal flu.

The Flu and Covid-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believes it's likely that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both be spreading this fall and winter. In this context, getting a flu vaccine will be more important than ever. It will not only reduce your risk from flu but also help conserve potentially scarce health care resources.

Protect yourself and your family with a flu shot.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends annual flu vaccinations for veryone 6 months and older (with few exceptions) Getting an annual flu

Getting an annual flu shot is an effective way to:

- Help prevent the seasonal flu

 Reduce the severity of illness if you do get the flu

- Decrease the risk of hospitalization and possible death

Choose a convenient provider.

When it comes to getting your flu shot, you have options.

Call your doctor's office to schedule an appointment.



Visit a network convenience care clinic. Appointments are not usually needed.



Use the flu shot finder to locate flu shots near you.

If you visit a convenience care clinic, be sure to bring your health plan ID card and confirm the clinic is in the network. There is no additional cost to you when you or your covered family members gets a flu shot at a network provider.

UnitedHealthcare





TOGETHER. BETTER HEALTH. A benefit plan focused on you and your family.

Legislative News Flash



By Robert Proo, Legislative Aide Facebook @TPWU.Legislative

Brothers and Sisters.

I hope you and your family members are doing well and safe during these times of this Pandemic. I ask that you continue to where your masks, wash your hands and social distance when ever possible. The State of Texas is leading the nation in Covid-19 Cases. The rate of new covid-19 cases has spike in Harris 170,835, Dallas 114,308, Tarrant 76,838, Bexar 68,388, El Paso 67,484, Hidalgo 37,155, Travis 33,559, Cameron 24,825, Lubbock 23,473, Collin 20,888. We must stay vigilant and not become complacent in are day to day routines. So please wear your mask wash your hands and social distance whenever possible.

NATIONAL ELECTIONS

The Elections are over, and the people of America have spoken and the people have chosen President Elect Joe Biden as the forty six President of the United States of America. Even though our current President Donald Trump refuses to concede the election and it is his right to ask for recounts in certain states where the law allows for ballot recount due to count being so close. I would want that done for any Election so there will be no doubt about the outcome, but to make erroneous charges and claim fraud with no evidence whatsoever is wrong. It is also wrong to hold up the transition process or refuse to grant national security briefing access to the president elect which is guaranteed by law in the constitution is very dangerous to the United States.

TEXAS ELECTIONS

I want to thank everyone who came out and voted, supported candidates

supported our who views of a strong Union. The State of Texas had over 11 million Texans vote for the candidates of their choice and unfortunately, we came up short in a lot of congressional races. We did not lose any seats in congress, but we did not make any gains either. We also did not win the senate seat either, but it was not from a lack of trying, we did win a state senate seat and state legislative representative seat race.

with a supportive public and helped compel management to commit to robust procedures for handling election mail. With extra hours, attention, effort and priority, postal workers moved "heaven and earth" to make sure ballots were processed, arrived on time and were counted. Every APWU local stepped up to ensure the timely delivery and processing of ballots with hundreds of our locals involved in local labor/management task forces to ensure



APWU PRESIDENT MARK DIMONDSTEIN

Every APWU member from all crafts should be extremely proud of our role in securing the public's most precious democratic right – the right to vote. The people were counting on us and postal workers shined. An unprecedented more than 65 million people cast their ballots by mail, a tried and tested system. Ever more popular with voters, tens of millions more chose in a COVID world to vote by mail as the safest way to access the ballot box and exercise our cherished right to vote.

Earlier this year, when management policies delayed the mail, we rallied

the job was done well and any problems were addressed. Since Election Day we have stood with the vast majority of people in this country who expect and insist that every vote, including all mail ballots, will be counted and the results respected. The APWU stands fully united with the entire labor movement and fair-minded people throughout the land against any attempts to subvert the will of the people, any march toward dictatorship and tyranny, with fabricated claims of a rigged election based on vote-by-mail.

As we look ahead, we recognize that great challenges will continue to face us, no matter who sits in the *continued on page 7*



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White House. The Biden presidency creates a better and more supportive political environment. The rest is up to us, for movements move presidents and Congress, not the other way around. Louis DeJoy is still the Postmaster General and he promises to follow through on policies that slow down mail and drive away revenue now that the election is through. The Postal Board of Governors who are enabling these destructive policies re-

mains in place for the foreseeable future. The struggle continues for needed COVID emergency financial relief from Congress. We must remain vigilant in the constant effort for maximum health and safety in this COVID world. Wall Street postal privatizers come in all political stripes. Efforts to expand and enhance Postal Services must accelerate. Postal reform legislation is needed. Bargaining for a new Union Contract begins this coming year.

LOOKING FORWARD

The 87th Texas Legislature won't gavel in until January, but state lawmakers on Monday November 9, 2020 got their first chance to file legislation for what's expected to be a particularly tough 140-day stretch at the Capitol next year. With fights over voter access and ballot integrity dominating the election offices and courthouse across the state in recent months, lawmakers are also seeking to resolve some of the central issues around how Texans vote with a battery of bills filed in the early hours Monday. Before noon, nearly 30 pieces of elections-related legislation had already been proposed in both chambers. Mail-in voting and voter registration emerged

as two key focal points in bills filed by members of both parties. There was also legislation focused on countywide voting centers, voter identification and access for voters with disabilities, straight-ticket voting and designating any day an election is held statewide, including primaries, as a state holiday. The Legislative Director of the National Letter Carriers Association and I plan on being in Austin to talk to as many State Senators and Legislative Representatives as we can

usmailnotforsale.org

to push vote-by-mail Legislation. I also will be writing, email and try to meet with our senate and congressional representatives to continue to push for Postal Reform Legislation

I want to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season. The Christmas mail rush will be beginning soon, and this will be a busiest time of year for us. Remember safety First your goal is to go home to your family at the end of your tour.

In Solidarity

CALL CONGRESS: Save the Postal Service, Reverse Mail Delays, and Pass \$25 Billion in Emergency Pandemic Relief

The COVID-19 pandemic is threatening the United States Postal Service. A sharp decline in revenue means the Post Office could run out of money, threatening the essential service postal workers proudly provide the country.

The new Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy, has instituted harmful policies causing serious delays of mail. These cuts undermine the public's confidence – currently 91% of the public approve of USPS – in the Postal Service and drive away business.

In order to **#SavethePostOffice**, we need everyone to demand their member of Congress:

- ✓ Pass \$25 billion in emergency COVID funding for the USPS.
- Permanently reverse delays.

DeJoy has announced he would temporarily "suspend" the policy changes that are delaying the mail. We will hold his – and our elected leaders' – feet to the fire to protect the People's Post Office.

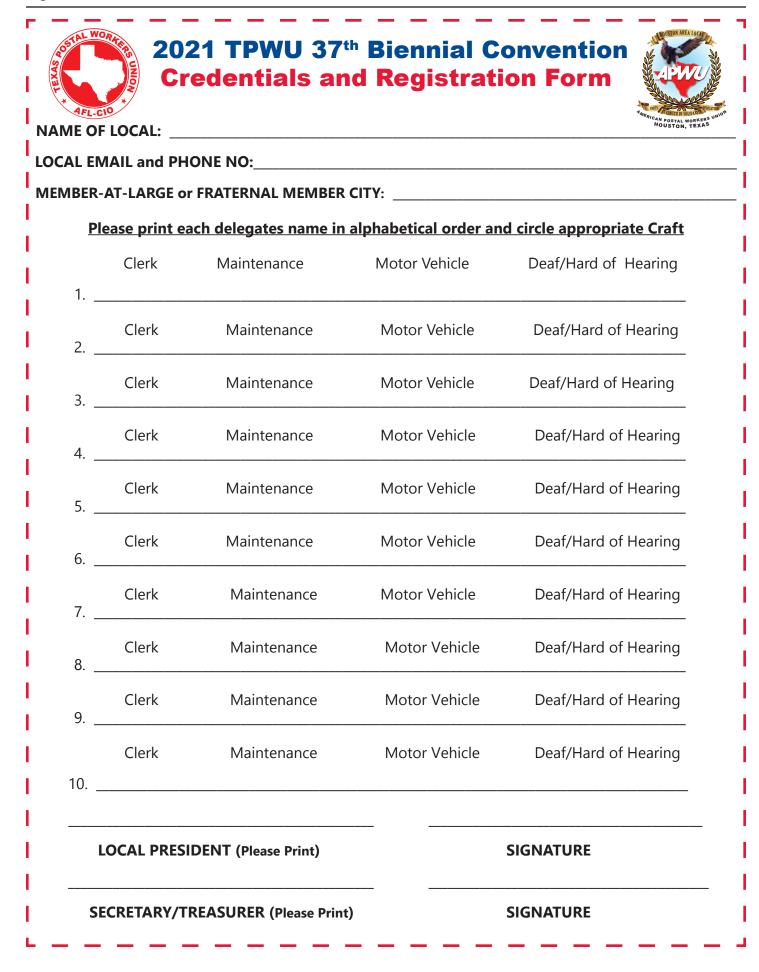
Let's keep up the massive wave of support for our public Postal Service. Postal workers are absolutely dedicated to providing prompt reliable and efficient postal services to the country through the pandemic, through the election and beyond. They must have the support to continue their vital mission.

CALL Congress at 833-924-0085

Demand \$25 billion for the Postal Service and a permanent reversal of DeJoy's cuts to service!



al State Convention at the **WESTIN HOUSTON MEMORIAL CITY HOTEL** 945 GESSNER ROAD HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024 281-501-4300 **GROUP CODE: TPWU** Hotel Rates start at \$132.00 per night w/out taxes. Credit Card Required at time of check in - NO DEBIT CARDS. **COVID** Restrictions may apply. Individual masks required.





Texas Postal Workers Union & TPWU Auxiliary 37th Biennial State Convention June 24 – 26, 2021

TPWU Official Convention Call

Members of the Texas Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, will convene in Houston, Texas at 10:00 am, Thursday, June 24, 2021 thru Saturday, June 26, 2021 for the 37th TPWU Biennial Convention. The Official Convention Headquarters will be at the Westin Houston, Memorial City Hotel, 945 Gessner, Houston, Texas 77024. **Resolutions** Resolutions must be submitted to:

Tanya Brooks, TPWU Secretary-Treasurer P.O. Box 183784 Arlington, Texas 76096-3784.

Resolutions should be typewritten and submitted in duplicate. The Local Secretary should attest to Resolutions submitted by the local. Resolutions must contain the following.

1. The title of subject matter.

2. The names of delegate(s) or local

sponsoring the Resolution.

3. The body or text of the resolution. NOTE: Please put only one (1) Resolution on each page.

All resolutions will be referred to the appropriate committee. Resolutions with the same matter will be consolidated. Consolidated Resolutions will bear the name of each local submitting a similar Resolution. All Resolutions will be brought to the floor for a vote.

After June 4, 2021, Resolutions will be accepted by the Secretary providing *continued on page 13*

Guidelines for the 37th Biennial TPWU State Convention

Credentials and Registration Form

To ensure proper handling of credentials and expedite the registration at the Westin Memorial Hotel, 945 Gessner Road, Houston, TX 77024, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. List Delegates' names alphabetically for your Local or Member-at-Large (MAL). Be sure the President and Local Secretary/Treasurer each sign the form. (Whichever applies to your Local Constitution).

2. Send Form with Registration

Fee <u>AND</u> Credentials (not Per Capita) to:

> Bernadette Baker, Secretary/Treasurer APWU Houston Local 185 102 West Tidwell Road Houston, TX 77022

3. Registration Fee will be \$85.00 per Delegate, if registration is received by close of business on May 21, 2021. Any Delegate registering after May 21, 2021 will be charged \$100.00 per Delegate. Make all checks payable to the "Houston Areal Local".

4. Keep a copy of the Registration

Forms and checks submitted. Be sure and bring the copies with you should there be any questions concerning registration.

5. Make additional copies of your blank Credential Form, should your local send more than 10 Delegates.

6. Indicate if the Delegate is Deaf/ Hard of Hearing.

7. Be sure to list any Alternate Delegates.

8. The Houston Local will send a copy of your completed Registration Forms and Credentials to the TPWU Secretary/Treasurer.

AFL-	Alternate Deleg Registrat	No.
	OF LOCAL:	
	EMAIL and PHONE NO: R-AT-LARGE or FRATERNAL MEMBER CITY	
ease	print each Alternate Delegate or Guest	name, circle type and note Craft if appli
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	Alternate-Delegate or Guest	Craft
	LOCAL PRESIDENT (Please Print)	SIGNATURE
c	ECRETARY/TREASURER (Please Print)	SIGNATURE



Resolutions

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they are submitted in 300 copies. Those dealing with subjects not otherwise submitted will be referred to the appropriate committee. Time permitting, all Resolutions submitted after June 4, 2021, will be reported out of committee and brought to the floor for a vote.

TPWU Election Nominations

The Texas Postal Workers Union will hold nominations and elections at the 37th Biennial TPWU Convention to be held at The Westin Houston, Memorial City Hotel. Nominations for the following position will be conducted on Friday, June 25, 2021.

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary-Treasurer
- Director of News Information/ Website Editor
- Clerk Craft Director
- Maintenance Craft Director
- Motor Vehicle Craft Director
- Legislative Aide
- District Vice Presidents

Districts #1 through #10

Elections will be the first order of business on Saturday, June 26, 2021. All offices will be for a term of two years.

Nominations for Delegate to the National Convention will also be taken at this time. The number of elected Delegates shall be two (2) and one (1) Deaf and Hard of Hearing Delegate.

Craft Break Outs (Pre-Convention Workshops)

June 23, 2021, Wednesday (one day only).

There will be a \$20.00 Craft Break Outs (Pre-Convention Workshop) Fee. Workshops to be determined. Fee and Registration forms will be sent to: Bernadette Baker, Secretary/Treasurer APWU Houston Areal Local 185 102 West Tidwell Road Houston, TX 77022

TPWU Award Nominations

Nominations for next year's TPWU Awards presentations are now being accepted.

Bennett-Stubberfield/Jonell MacKay Award

For the TPWU Outstanding Member of the Year.

Tom Davenport/C.D. Williams Memorial Political Activity Award

For the TPWU member who during the last year, most promoted and contributed, to furthering the political activity and involvement programs of the labor movement.

Peter O. Vogel Award

To the TPWU member selected by the Executive Board, who during the last year, demonstrated Leadership and Knowledge in the field of representation, contractual language interpretation and implementation.

All Award Nominations are to be sent to:

TPWU Secretary-Treasurer Tonya Brooks P. O. Box 183784 Arlington, TX 76096-3784

Convention Hotel Information

The Westin Houston Memorial City Hotel 945 Gessner Road Houston, TX 77024 1-855-516-1090 or 281-501-4300

Room Rate \$155.53 per night (includes all applicable taxes and fees). When making reservations be sure to give them our Group Code TPWU. Make your room reservations as soon as possible so that the Houston Area Local can know if it has blocked sufficient rooms. Larger Locals can call Jeanette Pizano, Director of Catering Sales directly at 281-501-4395 to facilitate the booking process.

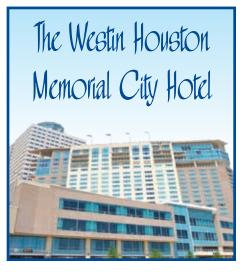
Self-Parking at the Hotel will be free. Valet Parking is available at a reduced rate of \$12.00.

There are no Hotel Shuttles to/from either of the Houston Airports (George Bush Intercontinental Airport or William P. Hobby Airport). Further transfer information will be provided at a later date.

Memorial Services

Please email the name of any member of your local who has passed since our last convention to Bernadette Baker at bbaker@apwuhouston.com. Immediately prior to adjournment of the Thursday proceedings those names will be read. So, we need to have the name of the member who has passed, their Local, and the name of the member honoring them.

> For Up to Date Information, Visit the website: TPWULONESTAR.ORG



4FL-C10	NE FOR ADS is MAY 10, 2021
Phone:	
Size of Ad: Business Card Ad \$30 _	1/4 Page Ad \$50
1/2 Page Ad \$100	Full Page Ad \$200
Mail completed form with check/money	y order to: APWU HOUSTON LOCAL 185 TPWU SOUVENIR BOOKLET 102 WEST TIDWELL RD HOUSTON, TEXAS 77022
Ad Sheet Attached:	_ NEED COPY ATTACHED !!!!!!
APWU to Type Ad:	_ NEED INFO BELOW:
Name To Be On Ad:	
Address in Ad:	
- Phone No:	Fax No:
E-Mail:	
Any Other Info To be included:	
	are subject to Houston Local Officers Approval.
	For Office Use Only
APPROVAL INITIALS:	DISAPPROVAL INITIALS:

American Postal Workers Pay Period Calendar 2021 Pay Pay S S S Μ Μ W F Т W S Т T T Month Month Period Period 1 2 3 2 26 1 13

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2021 FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

JAN 18th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day FEB 15th Presidents' Day MAY 31st Memorial Day JUL 4th Independence Day JUL 5thIndependence Day (observed)SEP 6thLabor DayOCT 11thColumbus Day

NOV 11th Veterans Day NOV 25th Thanksgiving Day DEC 24th Christmas Day (observed) DEC 31st New Years Day (observed)

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Inauguration Day Jan 20th

Easter April 4th Mother's Day May 9th

Father's Day Jun 20

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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