

LONE STAR Postal News

Proud Member of the Postal Press Association
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37th Biennial 2021 TPWU State Convention Will Be on Zoom



By **Carlton Williams,**
President

Due to COVID 19 pandemic, the 37th Biennial TPWU State Convention scheduled in Houston, TX has been canceled. The State Convention will be held on Zoom, and each local will be required to complete the Registration/Credentials forms for each Delegate.

The Registration/Credentials forms must be submitted to the Houston Area Local. Please make sure you download Zoom on your laptop, desktop or on your cell phones. This is a must to participate in the State Convention. For more information, please see the Convention Call section in this newsletter. **Please log onto TPWU.org.** We will keep the website updated as more information is available and any changes pertaining to the status of convention.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please contact the Houston Area Local Secretary-Treasurer **Bernadette Baker** at (713) 691-4818 or (281) 748-1789 cell.

Hostile Working Environment Created by Management

A hostile work environment is one where words and actions of a supervisor, manager or coworker negatively or severely impacts another employee's ability to complete their work. To establish a hostile work environment, an employee must be able to show that the words and actions of a supervisor or manager make it impossible to do their job effectively. This may include severe, pervasive and unwelcome behavior, or words or actions that, if not amended, would make the employee unable to function in their role.

The employer becomes responsible for creating and fostering a hostile work environment if no change occurs after reporting it.

- *Was the behavior in question unwelcome?*
- *Did the incidents occur multiple times over a period?*
- *Did the incidents occur against someone whose class is protected?*

A true hostile work environment must meet certain legal criteria, according to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

- Unwelcome conduct, or harassment, is based on race, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, age, disability, or genetics.
- Harassment is continued and long lasting.
- Conduct is severe enough that the environment becomes intimidating, offensive or abusive.
- The employee makes a hostile work environment claim.
- I encourage any employee to file with the EEOC if you are the victim of a hostile working environment. If you do not do anything about it, it will continue to happen.

**Texas Postal Workers Union
Official Convention Call**

See pages 8-12



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Carlos Barrios, Editor
Carlton Williams, Associate Editor

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American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
 APWU Postal Press Association

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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www.tpwu.org

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What the New Year Brings



By *Ruben Campos*,
Vice President

This year will be filled with many new changes. Unlike last year at this time businesses are opening, and face masks are no longer being mandated. Although the masks are no longer required it is still a good idea to wear one, especially if you have not yet been vaccinated. I have been vaccinated but it will be my personal choice to continue wearing a mask. I know too many people that have passed away to risk any one's life by being a spreader. This past year we have lost too many postal workers and Union members.

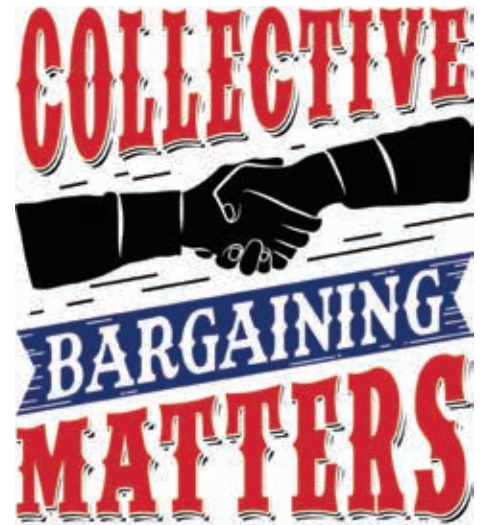
Another change we will have due to Coronavirus is not having an in-person TPWU state convention. We will be trying something totally new by holding the convention virtually. The Executive Committee recently met to discuss the difficulties in providing connectivity to the membership. There are going to be many details that need to be worked out before June 24th. Unfortunately, the convention will be somewhat abbreviated, but the essential business will be conducted including the election of officers and delegates, constitutional amendments, and financials. At present there are no plans to provide training prior to the convention. If there are any members who are well versed in virtual meetings your input would be appreciated.

Something new this year that I have never seen is a National Convention and the Multi-craft Conference being held in the same year. The two events will be held consecutively beginning September 30th to October 7, 2021. Both will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Bally's Hotel. Unless there is further disruption by an unforeseen virus, we can finally get back to business.

There is now the opportunity to get the Postal Service on sound financial footing and back to delivering mail at our previous efficient levels. Several things must be achieved first. First the vacant positions on the Postal Board of Governors need to be filled by the President. Initial selections look good. Hopefully, they will get confirmed. Next would be to get the current Postmaster General removed in order to stop his slash and burn policies. When National requests our support in contacting members of the House and Senate it is important that we all participate. The understaffing of offices and plants is now a nationwide problem. There is so much overtime being issued that postal employees don't have enough down time to completely rest or recuperate.

This year our contract will be rene-

gotiated. The Rank-and-File committee has been selected and began meeting on March 8, 2021. Hopefully, this will not be a year of givebacks. We can expect the Postal Service to again go after insurance contributions, non-career percentages, wages and benefits



and possible plant consolidations. The Postal Service will not offer us a good contract without expecting concessions. Hopefully, the Rank and File will hold their ground on any proposals as they did in the last contract negotiations. I look forward to seeing my TPWU brothers and sisters again soon.

National Executive Board Votes Unanimously to Cancel the 2021 National Convention

While we all cannot wait to gather together again, the leadership of APWU takes the health and safety of our members seriously. As a result, in an effort to keep our members safe, the National Executive Board voted unanimously to cancel the 2021 National Convention. However, the All Craft Conference will be held virtually.

Additional information will be

published in the near future.

In the meantime, if you should have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Hannah Decker, Executive Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer at hdecker@apwu.org. We look forward to seeing you virtually for the All Craft Conference and in person in 2022.

— *apwu.org*

No Intelligent Lifeform in Charge!!!



By **Carlos Barrios**,
Director of News/Information – Editor

The evidence of No Lifeform in charge at the Postal Service can be witnessed when you look into the glazed eyes of postal management when you observe them trying to maneuver the processing of mail. Making monthly changes with the interruptions of the lively hoods of employees is what they are good at. Recently after the ice storm that hit the entire state of Texas it caused many delays in mail but not enough to invoke Article 3 by management. When the Union spoke with postal management to ask who called the emergency all they could say was that someone higher than our Plant Manager made that call. The Union calls Bull to their reply and once again a firsthand account of not being truthful.

Management will try everything they can to violate the contract since it is much easier to break the contract rather than to read and comprehend the contract and work within the boundaries of the collective bargaining agreement. Then again who can fault them since they have no leadership with any essence of managing a Plant within the margins of the contract to impart wisdom. Today the common verbiage from management is to tell the union and its members to file a grievance. This is because they could not manage themselves out of a wet paper bag than

operate the processing of mail.

Having a high volume for weeks and weeks is not an emergency rather it is a sign of a healthy work volume, and any good supervisor which do not exist would know how to manage using the best asset they have which is the bargaining unit employee. One ignorant task is to threaten the employees who they work seven days in a row and twelve hours a day if they ask to leave early due to being exhausted. And if employees inform management that they are exhausted and have worked beyond the 60 hours limit they threaten them with discipline, especially the PSEs who have not completed their first 90 working days or 120 calendar days.

Postal Management is constantly making changes with begin tours of all sections of processing plants hoping that the flavor of the month changes is finally the one that they will be able to digest.

At the San Antonio P&DC postal management placed employees in out of schedule moves without issuing a proper letter in advance causing the service a huge liability in paying out overtime and penalty payouts that recently was settled by the union. Although the calculation phase of this grievance will be in the thousand's management doesn't care since the irresponsibility of their moves is not something that they can be held accountable for.

Next, if that lesson were not enough to learn from, they now issued an Out of Schedule letter to employees only to fail in their responsibility to pay the employees properly for being in an Out of Schedule. These actions are just a sample example of the failure to manage properly at the Post Office.

On behalf of the American Postal Workers Union, congratulations on your career appointment! The Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), which is the contract between the

APWU and the USPS, covers all aspects of your career appointment related to wages, hours, working conditions, and benefits. Collectively we fight to continue protections against lay-offs, reduce outsourcing of our work, improve working conditions and win good salaries for the services we provide to the American public.

SUNDAY PREMIUM PAY:

When your regular work schedule includes a period of service, of which any part is within the period commencing at midnight Saturday and ending at midnight Sunday, you are paid extra compensation at the rate of 25% of your base hourly rate for each hour of work performed during that period.

OUT-OF-SCHEDULE PREMIUM PAY: This rate is paid to eligible regular employees, at an additional 50% of the employee's basic hourly rate, for time worked outside of, and instead of, their regular schedule, when working on a temporary schedule at the request of management.

WORK HOUR GUARANTEES

FTR: Is guaranteed 8 hours a day and 40 hours per week; 8 hours work (or pay in lieu of work) when called in on their nonscheduled day; and they are guaranteed a minimum of 4 consecutive hours of work (or pay in lieu of work) when called in outside of their regular work schedule unless they continue to work into their regular scheduled shift.

HOLIDAY PAY FTR: Receives 10 paid holidays per year.

ANNUAL LEAVE ACCRUAL:

Military service may be used in computing the years of service that determines the annual leave category, see the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) Section 510 for more details. FTR: Earns leave based upon their number of creditable years of service. For each full biweekly pay period employees who have: Less than 3 years earn 104 hours; 3 Years but less than 15

continued on page 5

No Intelligent Lifeform in Charge!!!

continued from page 4

years earn 160 hours; 15 Years or more earn 208 hours.

SICK LEAVE ACCRUAL FTR:

Accrues 4 hours for each full biweekly pay period, up to 104 hours per leave year.

MILITARY LEAVE: In some circumstances, career postal employees, who are members of the armed forces, are eligible for paid military leave. See the Employee & Labor Relations Manual (ELM), Section 517 for more details.

COURT LEAVE:

This leave is granted to eligible career employees per the ELM.

UNIFORM AND WORK CLOTHES ALLOWANCE:

Each employee required to wear a uniform receives an annual uniform allowance, credited on their anniversary date.

ABILITY TO REQUEST LIGHT DUTY:

Career employees may request temporary light duty if they are injured off the job, or have a condition in which they can work, but may be in need of accommodations.

BIDDING RIGHTS: Career employees can bid on vacant duty assignments posted per the CBA.

IMPORTANT BENEFIT TIME FRAMES TO KEEP IN MIND AS A CAREER EMPLOYEE:

• **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (FERS)** Career employees are enrolled in FERS. You may be eligible to buy back your military time, which may be beneficial to you in your retirement calculations. Shared Services can provide you detailed information.

• **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM (FEHBP)** Outside of Open Season,

newly eligible employees may enroll within 60 days of becoming eligible for FEHBP. opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare

ance of your TSP account, unless you have made an election to change or stop your contributions. tsp.gov/index.html

• **FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS (FSA)** Once converted employees who wish to enroll in this program must do so within 60 days after becoming eligible. There are two types of FSA – Health Care FSA and Dependent Care FSA

And now with Fifty-Five (55) Postal Support Employees being converted to Full Time Regulars at the San Antonio P&DC we now have some supervisors who open their mouths only to regurgitate nonsense instructions which have no validity. The Supervisors have been informing the PSEs converted to career in the Clerk Craft that they have to serve a probationary period.

However, according to the Q&A Re: PostPlan, Filling Residual Vacancies and Travel, that have already served one (1) year as a PSE will **NOT** be required to serve a probationary period after conversion to career.

One item that is correct is that newly converted employees will not be able to take any leave for the first 90 days except for those who have Wounded Warrior Leave. This leave entitles veterans with a 30% or more service-connected disability to take 104 hours of sick leave while undergoing medical treatment for the disability.

On your new journey you will encounter many questions that you may not know or understand so please reach out to the Union for guidance that will be explained and shown to you in writing.



• **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (FEGLI)**

Career postal employees will automatically receive Basic Life Insurance coverage. You must have Basic insurance to elect any additional Optional insurance and must enroll within 60 days of becoming eligible. opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/life-insurance

• **THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN (TSP)** TSP is a retirement savings and investment plan for federal employees. All career employees are permitted to enroll or change their TSP at any time. Once you are converted to career, you are automatically enrolled in the TSP, and 3% of your basic pay is deducted from your paycheck each pay period and deposited in the traditional bal-

Social Media... the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly



By *Sandra Munoz*

Many of us use social media to stay connected with friends, family and to meet new people from across the world. It is a great tool to learn to cook a new favorite plate or see the latest clothing and accessory fashion item. We share photos of our adorable children and pets, newest culinary experiments, or exciting travel itinerary. While social media has kept us connected especially during this pandemic, many employees will post on issues without considering the possible down that may jeopardize their employment with the USPS.

I can recall numerous times when postal employees post on social media

only to have their decisions return with adverse issues. I have represented multiple employees in investigative interviews where management has brought up photos or video of an employee out of town on vacation or at the beach or a ballgame when they had called out sick. Most of the times these were from an employee's own social media post.

I have also seen OIG investigations with photos, videos from social media posts showing the employee violating their medical restrictions building a strong case of Fraud against the employee.

Caution, for those who believe that setting their social media profiles to private keeps them protected from any backlash from the OIG, please think again!! The situations discussed above also had their profiles set to private only to have a coworker who the employee considered a "friend" on their social page provide those screenshots to postal management.

At other times employees forget that their social media posts are available for all to see and post negative comments about the Post Office. We as postal employees have many frustrating circum-

stances at times, but social media is not a place to vent our frustrations.

The Employee Labor Relations Manual (ELM) 665.16 states that employees are expected to conduct themselves during and outside of working hours in a manner that reflects favorably upon the Postal Service. As unionists we are not stating that we encourage or condone calling out sick when you are not or engaging in behavior that is improper, but we do realize that there are many circumstances situations that



may appear different than they are. As always APWU represented employees are entitled to their due process rights after having passed their probationary period. I hope this serves as a reminder to think before you do your next social media post.

Clerk Craft Prepares for National Negotiations

The APWU will begin negotiations for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) in June. The current CBA is set to expire on September 20, 2021. As such, the Clerk Craft officers have begun preparing for negotiations on issues related to our craft. We are currently reviewing all resolutions that were adopted by the delegates at past National Conventions applying to Article 37. These resolutions involve issues such as bidding, assignment of unencumbered regulars, 204-B restrictions, higher-level pay, PTF workhour guaran-

tees and conversions to full-time regular status, and additional rights for PSE clerks.

Clerk Craft Director Lamont Brooks also invited suggestions from the National Business Agents (NBAs) across the country and received their input regarding possible changes to our craft article. The NBAs are the direct link to our local members because they see the grievances appealed to their level and know what issues are problematic at the local level. In the meantime, the craft officers are continuing to meet and discuss possible

improvements and modifications to present during contract negotiations.

The COVID pandemic has made it impossible to conduct state conventions and the national convention, during which your officers at the headquarters level normally receive recommendations from local and state-affiliated delegates and members regarding improvements in the contract that they would like to see. Nevertheless, we look forward to a successful round of negotiations in support of the Clerk Craft members of the APWU.

— *apwu.org*



WEBINAR

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/5498188571607695119>

Next Webinar:

**April 14, 2021
2:00PM to 4:00PM**

Attend a virtual health fair for newly converted employees.

As the coronavirus continues to affect families nationwide, the Health Plan is sensitive to the COVID-19 risks related to work, travel, and social distancing.

We want to give new postal career employees an opportunity to meet virtually with APWU Health Plan staff.

APWU Virtual Health Fairs for Newly Converted Employees

We will conduct virtual health fairs, and the Member Education department will brief you on the benefit highlights and the new Medicare Advantage. You will also review the APWU Health Plan's Learning Videos for both the High Option and Consumer Driven Option plans.

Most importantly, there will be a Q & A period so that you can ask the Health Plan staff questions concerning Plan benefits.

**APWU Health Plan 2021
Virtual Health Fairs Agenda**

- Welcome, Introductions & Instructions 2:00pm - 2:05pm

- Health Fair Benefits Presentation 2:05pm - 2:30pm
- Our Website 2:30pm - 2:45pm
- Questions & Answers 2:45pm - 4:00pm

Webinars are offered several times. Select the date, time and subject that works best for you.

Login to our website at apwuhp.com to register, for more information and future webinar dates and subjects.



MEMBER PORTAL & MOBILE APPLICATION

Connect to your personal health plan information.

Your member portal — myapwuhp.com — features resources to help you stay healthy and tools to help you get the most out of your health plan. Access deductibles, copays, coverage, maximums, and more.

When you register for a free member account, you'll have secure access to your personal health plan information.

All members must re-register for the new member portal, even if you've registered in the past.

Visit myapwuhp.com to register in just minutes for instant access to your health plan.

Need help?
Call 1-877-814-9909
connect@healthtrio.com

Manage your High Option Health Plan with your member portal.

Your member portal automatically transfers medical information from your claims and organizes it in a single, secure location.

As a member, you can log in to myapwuhp.com to:

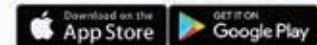
- Check the provider network to find a doctor
- Print a temporary ID card or request a replacement ID card
- View or print claims and authorizations
- Review your personal health summary
- See benefit and eligibility information
- View and download the plan brochure
- Read industry-leading health and wellness information
- Update your email address
- Update your coordination of benefits



Download the myapwuhp app.

The myapwuhp app is another tool that can help you manage your health plan. See your claims, year-to-date information, prescriptions, and more.

You must register for the member portal in order to use the secure app.



App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Google Play is a registered trademark of Google LLC.



This is a summary of benefits and features offered by the APWU Health Plan. All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the Plan's Brochure (R1 79-004).

The APWU Health Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices describes how medical information about you may be used by the Health Plan, your rights concerning your health information, and how to exercise them and APWU Health Plan's responsibilities in protecting your health information. The Notice is posted on the Health Plan's website. If you need to obtain a copy of the Health Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices, you may either contact the Health Plan via email or through the website at apwuhp.com or by calling 800-222-2798.



TPWU Official

Texas Postal Workers Union & T

37th Biennial S

June 24 -



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 Houston Area Local, 102 W. Tidwell Road, Houston, TX 77022.

Resolutions

Resolutions must be submitted to:

Debbie Barrett-Wiltz
 TPWU Secretary-Treasurer
 102 W. Tidwell Road
 Houston, TX 77022.
 debsroe@sbcglobal.net

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 subject matter as those already on the floor will be considered Consolidated Resolutions and will be referred to the appropriate committee. Resolutions submitted after June 4, 2021 will be referred to the appropriate committee and brought to the floor for a vote.

After June 4, 2021, Resolutions will be referred to the appropriate committee and brought to the floor for a vote. Resolutions submitted after June 4, 2021 will be referred to the appropriate committee and brought to the floor for a vote. Resolutions submitted after June 4, 2021 will be referred to the appropriate committee and brought to the floor for a vote.

TPWU Election

The Texas Postal Workers Union will hold elections at the 37th Biennial Convention on Zoom. Nominations for the positions will be conducted on Friday, June 25, 2021.

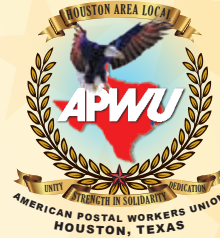
- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary-Treasurer
- Director of News Information
- Editor

Convention Call

TPWU Auxiliary State Convention

State Convention

June 26, 2021



...d to the appropriate committee.
...matter will be consolidated.
...bear the name of each local
...All Resolutions will be brought

- Clerk Craft Director
- Maintenance Craft Director
- Motor Vehicle Craft Director
- Legislative Aide
- District Vice Presidents Districts #1 through #10

...tions will be accepted by the
...they are submitted by-mail.
...ot otherwise submitted will be
...committee. Time permitting, all
...e 4, 2021, will be reported out of
...loor for a vote.

The nominations of Officers, Delegates to the TPWU State Convention, and National Convention, and the Convention City for the next TPWU Educational Conference and State Convention shall take precedence over any other business at the afternoon session on Friday, June 25, 2021, and the election of same shall be the first order of business on Saturday, June 26, 2021.

Open Nominations

...ion will hold nominations and
...TPWU Convention to be held
...he following positions will be
...2021.

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.

All offices will be for a term of two years. All Offices must take the Oath of Office and be sworn in immediately after the convention adjourns.

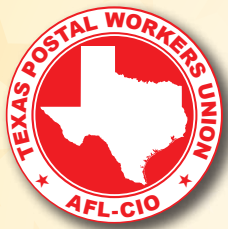
...ion Website

The order of business may be transposed at any time by a majority vote of the delegates in convention present and voting.

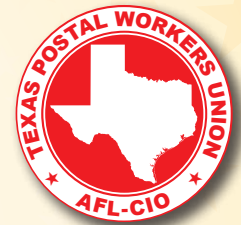
**Texas Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
STATE COUNCIL of the
AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION**

37th Biennial

**Texas Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
and Auxiliary State Convention**



**Wednesday, June 23, 2021
5:00 pm cst**



TPWU Executive Board and Local President's Meeting

The meeting will be held on Zoom.

Agenda Items

Nominations for the following Awards:

Bennett-Stubberfield/JoneIIMacKay

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

Jim McDonald Award

Peter O. Vogel Award

Joe B. Williams Award ★★

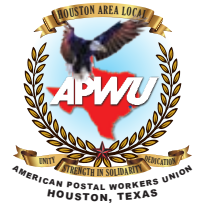
Sam Lisenbe Award ★★★

**★★ Nominations and Recipient for the Joe B. Williams award
must be from the Motor Vehicle Craft only.**

**★★★ Nominations and Recipient for the Sam Lisenbe award
must be from Locals with one hundred (100) members or less.**



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Houston, Texas 77022
or Email: Bbaker@apwuhouston.com

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Legislative News Flash



By Robert Proo,
Legislative Aide
Facebook @TPWU.Legislative

Hearing on Legislative Proposals to Put the Postal Service on a Sustainable Financial Footing was held on February 24, 2021, by the House Committee on Oversight Committee and Reform. Our National President Mark Diamondstein who also participated and address the Committee in the hearings. Thank Committee Chair Rep. Carolyn Maloney for holding this hearing on legislation and stated that this hearing will allow the United States Postal Service to uphold its mission under the law to provide prompt, reliable and efficient service to the country. Congress has an important role to play and an opportunity to right the wrongs of past legislation by repealing the onerous pre-funding mandate responsible for the bulk of the USPS' recent financial losses.

These hearing demonstrates bipartisan support for the USPS and is an important first step in ensuring the long-term sustainability of a public postal service. Any effort to reform the USPS must uphold the principle of universal service. Postal workers are pleased that many members of the committee share our view that now is the time to fix the problems plaguing the USPS. We cannot allow this service, vital to millions of customers, to further atrophy.

APWU President Mark Diamondstein was also encouraged by the announcement that President Biden nominating three new members to the USPS' Board of Governors. The American Postal Workers Union, along with other allied organizations, had petitioned the administration this week urging them to act quickly to fill the vacancies on the board with individuals who are committed to universal service and who will defend the vibrancy and sustainability of the public United States Postal Service. We urge the Senate to quickly confirm these nominees.

Fire Louis DeJoy: Who is on the USPS Board of Governors? Here's how Joe Biden's 3 (Three) nominees could help replace him

The current board consists of six Trump appointees, who have the power to replace DeJoy and Biden has already submitted names for new nominees.

With the United States Postal Service (USPS) in a state of mess, there are calls for Postmaster General Louis DeJoy to be fired. However, President Joe Biden does not have that authority, according to acclaimed economist Robert Reich. In a tweet, Reich noted that only the USPS Board of Governors can fire and replace the Postmaster General. The challenge? There are 3 vacancies on the board. "To save the postal service, Biden must fill those vacancies and send DeJoy packing," tweeted Reich. As Reich pointed out, the existing board consists of two Democrats and four Republicans, all named by Trump. Biden will have to name three more members, who will have to be confirmed by the Senate who can then vote to fire DeJoy. It is important to note that the Postmaster-General has no fixed term, so it is up to the Board to replace him. Let's take a look at the new names for USPS board of governor's nominees that Biden has just announced and who is currently on the board right now.

Who is on the Board Now?

The current Board of Governors consists of 6 (six) Trump appointees:

Ron Bloom: The Chairman of the board served in the Treasury during the Obama administration. Bloom also served as Assistant to the President on Manufacturing Policy under Obama. He also has more than 40 years of experience working with labor unions like United Steelworkers and Service Employees International Union. Bloom's term expired in 2020 and is currently on the board on a holdover year.

John Barger: The LSE graduate has an extensive background in business, law, finance, and corporate governance. He currently chairs the board's Compensation and Governance Committee. Starting out in Wall Street, he also worked in London for Deutsche Bank and Citibank. He also had a three-year stint on the Board of Investments of the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA). Barger's term will expire on December 8, 2021.

Robert Duncan: The Former Chairman of the board began his long career in the federal government in 1989. Duncan was assistant director of the White House Office of Public Liaison under President George H.W. Bush. He has also served as the chairman of the RNC between 2007 and 2009. His term will expire on December 8, 2025, after being confirmed for a second term in 2019.

Donald Moak: Moak is a former Navy Fighter Pilot and served in the Marine Corps who retired in 2001. After military service, he worked at Delta Airlines and also served as president and chief operating officer of the Air Line Pilots Association. He also has a seat at the Federal Aviation Administration. Today, he is known for his work in advocacy for aviation policy. Moak's term expires on December 8, 2022.

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William Zollars: Zollars is a former National Guardsman who is known for working with Fortune 500 companies. His various roles in private companies saw him work in London, Toronto and Tokyo. He also has extensive experience in the logistics sector, having worked as CEO of YRC Worldwide, president of Yellow Transportation and senior vice president of Ryder Integrated Logistics. His term expires on December 8, 2022.

Roman Martinez IV: was appointed President Donald Trump, Martinez is serving the remainder of a seven-year term that expires Dec. 8, 2024. He was unanimously elected by his fellow Governors on Feb. 9, 2021, to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors. Martinez began his career as an investment banker in 1971 at Kuhn Loeb & Company, which merged with Lehman Brothers in 1977. He became a partner there in 1978 and worked as Managing Director in investment banking until his retirement in 2003. Throughout his career, he was involved in most aspects of investment banking, including public and private financings, mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructurings and overall corporate financial advice. He will also continue to serve as chair of the Board's Audit and Finance Committee, an office he has held since Oct. 3, 2019.

President Biden will have to fill in 3 more roles including that of the Deputy Postmaster General and the Government Relations Officer. In all, the Board should have nine members. With Bloom's term also expired, that means that Biden will also have a fourth role to fill, should he decide to. Under existing laws, the board cannot have more than 5 members of a single party. With just two Democrats currently serving, Biden has the opportunity to appoint three more to give the party a majority on the board. Biden has already announced his three nominees. Ron Stroman, the

former deputy postmaster general who resigned under the previous administration; Anton Hajjar, the former general counsel of American Postal Workers Union; and Amber McReynolds, CEO of the National Vote at Home Institute. If confirmed, the appointees will also help diversify the current board, which has been criticized for being made up of only White men.

No sooner were the names announced, social media was buzzing with the hope that it might help replace DeJoy. "Adding these 3 Democrats to the Postal Board of Governors means Dems will have a majority that can vote to fire Louis DeJoy. No time should be wasted in kicking DeJoy out of his position as Postmaster General," one tweet read. Another said, "He has to be fired by the board; so, it's tricky. I agree w/ you, and I think DeJoy's time will come soon. But, unlike his inept predecessor, Biden is methodical and precise, and he wants his team together. I should add that he's fired a great many Trump appointees already." Many pointed out controversies from his past. "How Louis DeJoy also uses his revocable trust to make campaign contributions," one tweet read and another said, "DeJoy; you'll be out of your job within two weeks. Get used to it."

Special Election in Texas 6th Congressional District

The race for Texas's 6th Congressional District is becoming clearer and the field is becoming more crowded. It includes the southeast corner of Tarrant County as well as Ellis and Navarro counties.

Governor Greg Abbott set Election Day for May 1 to fill the seat Rep. Ron Wright held until he died in early February after being hospitalized with COVID-19.

Lydia Bean launched her run for Congress tweeting, "North Texas is in crisis. From our crumbling infrastructure to the raging pandemic, we need

new leaders in Congress who will tackle these challenges." On her website, Bean describes herself as a new mother and small business owner. She graduated from Austin College and has a Ph.D. in sociology from Harvard University. In 2020, Bean ran for District 93 in the Texas House of Representatives but lost to Republican Matt Krause 54-46.

She previously worked as a professor at Baylor University and founded Faith in Texas, which her website describes as "a nonprofit organization that brings faith communities together to work toward change in their schools, cities, and state."

"Lydia believes our leaders are failing us. Texans, despite living in the energy capital of the world, have watched crumbling infrastructure cripple our cities when we needed it the most," her website reads. "The desire to win at all costs has led politicians to undermine our elections – the foundation of our democracy."

Jana Lynne Sanchez is a familiar name in the race and ran for TX-06 in 2018 but lost to Rep. Ron Wright 53-45. She said in a release she has raised more than **\$100,000** for the race so far.

Sanchez lives in Fort Worth and is originally from Ellis County. She has a bachelor's degree in political science from Rice University and later founded a public relations company.

"Wages and incomes have failed to keep up with the cost of basic needs — from health care, to housing, to education, to childcare — and that's before a mismanaged pandemic devastated local small businesses," she said in a statement. "More than ever, our community deserves accountable leadership with the courage and conviction to make our voices heard. Together, we can build a stronger, fairer economy that invests in our people, promotes shared prosperity, and empowers everyone to achieve their God-given potential."

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Democrat **Shawn Lassiter**, a self-described nonprofit leader, single mother, first-generation college graduate and former public-school teacher announced her candidacy for the District 6 seat.

Lassiter's initial statement to the media said she promises "to fight for the people, not the wealthy and well-connected" and said growing up in a family of five with a single mother taught her the power education can have to liberate people and open the doors of opportunity.

Lassiter said she taught science in the Fort Worth ISD; her LinkedIn page says she's currently the Chief of Equity and Innovation at Leadership ISD, a nonprofit fighting for equitable

access to high-quality public education. According to her bio on LinkedIn, Lassiter earned her undergrad degree at Alabama State, MPA at Ashford University Forbes School of Business and her PhD in Education Leadership at TCU.

Special Election

The candidates are vying to replace the late Rep. Ron Wright, a staunch defender of President Trump and his America-First agenda who voted in line with the President over 96% of the time.

According to the Texas Secretary of State, the end of the candidate filing period for the special election is March 3, so a complete list of candidates has not been announced at this time.

There will not be a primary ahead of the May 1 special election, meaning that all candidates, regardless of party, will be placed on the same ballot.

Due to the nature of the special election, the more candidates who run for the seat increases the likelihood of a runoff election. If no candidate gets more than 50% of the vote on May 1, a runoff election will be held between the top two vote-getters regardless of party affiliation.

According to the Texas Secretary of State, any possible runoff would not happen before May 2

If you live in the Texas 6th Congressional District get out there and vote for the Candidate that support your work and Union members.

*Fight
for the
Living!
Mourn
for the
Dead.*

Remembering
Those Injured
and Lost
on the Job

**Workers
Memorial
Day
April 28**

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**Deadline for articles for the next issue of the
Lone Star Postal News is April 10, 2021**



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