

Central Florida Area Local #1462

American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

10501 South Orange Avenue, Suite 117, Orlando, Florida 32824

President's Report February 10, 2022

The short staffing in Customer Service Stations/Branches/Associate Offices does not appear to be slowing down as you can see if you work in the Stations/Branches/ and Associate Offices. This is an issue that is plaguing offices in our Local, the State of Florida, and throughout the country. Locally we are working on ways to contest this. As I mentioned previously in a past article, one of the best ways to assist the union is when you see management or other crafts performing your work is to speak to management, and then request a Steward. We have been successful in securing PSE and PTF conversions all over our local, and we are continually trying to piece together 'all available work hours' to demonstrate the need for additional full-time regular positions. While we have been successful locally in creating additional jobs and PSE and PTF conversions (over 475 within the past three or so years), it is apparent that additional employees are needed in **both** Mail Processing and Customer Service.

As you know by now, the APWU and USPS have come to 'tentative' agreement on a 3-year contract. This means that each member will receive a copy, normally what they call the 'flimsy' agreement (due to its size), and a ballot to vote for ratification. The National APWU will be sending each member a copy of the 'flimsy' agreement, along with a letter from President Mark Dimondstein, and an envelope and ballot to send back. The National APWU will also be sending each non-member a letter from President Dimondstein, a copy of the 'flimsy' agreement, and a 1187 (union sign-up form). If the member joins, then they will receive a ballot to vote as well. It is anticipated that the counting of the ballots will be conducted February 23-24. Read over the highlights and cast your vote so your voice can and will be heard! From what I have already read, it looks to be a good contract.

I sent out a 4-page summary of the tentative agreement a couple of weeks ago and you can also see the highlights in your National APWU magazine, 'The American Postal Worker', January/February edition, which you should all have by now, as it is dedicated to highlighting the summary terms of the tentative agreement, which each craft has their own page of highlights. You can log in to www.apwu.org and can read the highlights, and of course you will be receiving a copy of the highlights and 'flimsy' contract in the mail.

The APWU has negotiated a new MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for the COVID-19 Test Kit Fulfillment Pilot Program. There will be forty-three facilities throughout the country tasked for this project and Florida will have 4-5. In Orlando we have one such Annex which is part of the Seminole P&DC (the old GOYA building on South Orange Ave approximately one hundred yards from our CFAL office). To briefly summarize this program, the USPS will be preparing the COVID-19 test kits that will be delivered to American homes in response to the coronavirus pandemic. This is a terrific opportunity for the APWU as we have secured most of this work for our crafts, and this project is anticipated to last approximately 75 days or so. There will be many PSEs hired for this project (the USPS can hire up to 82 for our Annex although they seem to have fallen short so far), and they are supposed to be dedicated to just the test kit fulfillment. We were advised that within the first six hours that the website for requesting these COVID-19 test kits was operational, there were 45 million orders placed, and close to 70 million as of this writing. This opportunity to secure additional work, not just for this project but for future projects, will demonstrate that the USPS and its employees can take on these types of national endeavors going forward, is monumental. Additional work typically turns into more jobs and demonstrates to the American people that the USPS and its employees are up to the task. I have made 2-3 visits to the Annex to make sure all is working as planned and according to the Memorandum of Understanding. In my next article I will give additional updates as to how this project is progressing.

I have received several inquiries asking for the USPS OHNA (Occupational Health Nurse) contact information for Florida 2 (formally the Suncoast District). The phone numbers we have are: **(727) 323-6546** or **(727) 323-6511**, and the e-mails and names are below:

*Keith Beattie (Nurse): **keith.j.beattie@usps.gov**

*Chris Colucci (Nurse): **christopher.w.colucci@usps.gov**

*Florida 2-Occ Health Medical Unit: **Florida2-OccHealthMedicalUnit@usps.gov**

Local news:

- Discipline has been increasing this last month with all types of Letters of Warning, Suspensions, as well as a couple of Removals. Most are attendance related with a couple of Failure to Follow Instructions. Normally, we are quite successful in the grievance procedure with these, but as you can imagine, a large local such as ours will rarely go without such elements of discipline being issued.
- **The Vehicle Maintenance (VMF)** department in the Plant has had a couple of issues this last week or two and those are being addressed in the grievance procedure.
- **Motor Vehicle Service (MVS/PVS)** has also been a bit slow this past month. We are still pursuing the 'new' room that the MVS/PVS and Expeditors use. The space/room that is there presently is too small for the number of employees assigned to that area. The USPS is in the process of expanding this area, but I have not seen any noteworthy progress on the part of management, apart from providing a covered area off the dock, which is why I am staying on the Plant Manager and Maintenance Manager. They are 'supposedly' attaining estimates for this work as I am writing this.
- The **Maintenance Departments** in both Plants have been quieter than usual, there are grievances, this is not to say there are no grievances, just a little less than the norm.
- We still have questions/concerns with the new Annex (the old GOYA building on Orange Avenue in Orlando) which is now be a part of the Seminole Bid Cluster. Some of the questions surround issues such as: (i) exactly what machines are coming (I already saw a sheet from the national APWU with 3-4 pieces of new equipment coming) and there is equipment there now also, (ii) questions about details/bids in this facility for Clerks and Expeditors, (iii) what Maintenance Occupational Groups will be needed other than Custodians, (iv) and who is going to do the TME/Expeditor duties simply to name a few. We are also fighting for the jurisdiction for much of the work there.
- Whenever you change your mailing address let us know so we can get it fixed for you at the local, state, and national levels. Not notifying the National APWU or us here locally, means that you will be missing State and Local newsletters, as well as the literature and magazine sent out from the National, State, and from our Central Florida Area Local.
- Our fight for PSE conversions to career, as well as PTFs to full time, will be never ending also and we are up to approximately 475 in the last 3 years and climbing.

Remember, it is crucial that **everyone** is a member of the APWU, so please make a point this week to let a non-member know just how vital they are to help keep our organization robust. Organizing our workplace is one of the most crucial goals of the APWU as we are under relentless attacks at every juncture, and we need **everyone** to help in the battle for our futures! Thank you all for being members of our Central Florida Area Local and proud APWU members.

In Solidarity,



President

Cc: APWU Bulletin Boards