



## American Postal Workers Union of Florida

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*Office of Joe Paul*

*President APWU of Florida*

### State President's Report January 2022

Welcome to the New Year and it is fantastic to see 2021 in our rearview as we are all optimistic for a much better 2022! As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic, along with the many variants, are continuing to run widespread throughout the country, and inside many if not most Post Offices throughout our state of Florida. The safety of our employees should be the top priority! Continue doing your best to stay safe.

Short staffing in Customer Service Stations/Branches/and Associate Offices does not appear to be easing up anytime soon as you can see, especially if you work in a Station/Branch/ or an Associate Office. This is an issue that is afflicting offices throughout the State of Florida as well as throughout the nation. While many locals have been successful in creating additional jobs and PSE (Postal Support Employees) and PTF (Part Time Flexibles) conversions, it is apparent that additional employees are needed in **both** Mail Processing (Plants-Function 1) and Customer Service (Function 4).

As you know by now, the APWU and USPS have come to 'tentative' agreement on a 3-year contract. What this means is 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. As of this writing (late January) 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 in my opinion.

I sent out a 4 page summary of the tentative agreement to my own local last month and was going to include it in this edition of 'The Florida Postal Worker', but now seeing that the National APWU magazine, 'The American Postal Worker', January/February edition, which you should all have by now, is dedicated to highlighting the summary terms of the tentative agreement, which each craft has their own page of highlights, I decided to not include that in this edition. You can log in to [www.apwu.org](http://www.apwu.org) and you can read the highlights as well as scroll through the tentative agreement online, and of course you will be receiving a copy of the highlights and 'flimsy' contract soon.

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 approximately 4. I was on a ZOOM call today (1-28-2022) with the APWU Presidents and National Officers that represent these facilities. 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, 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. More work usually turns into more jobs and demonstrates to the American people that the USPS and its employees are up to the task. In my next article I will give additional updates as to how this project is progressing.

Remember, it is crucial that **every employee** is a member of the APWU, so please make a point this week to speak to a non-member and let them know just how much we need them to assist in keeping our organization robust. As we are still not out of the woods with the COVID-19 pandemic this is even more evident. Organizing our workplace is one of the most important goals of the APWU, as we are under constant attacks at every juncture, and we need **everyone** to assist in the battle for **our** futures! Stay safe!

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Paul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and "P".