



# The Hi-Lites



The official publication of Milwaukee, WI Area Local APWU, AFL-CIO

(Proud Postal Press Association National Awards Winner)



OCTOBER 2020

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**VOTE**  
**LIKE YOUR JOB**  
**DEPENDS ON IT**  
**IT PROBABLY DOES**

## Milwaukee Wisconsin Area Local

Big Bend Brookfield Burlington Butler Cedarburg Cudahy Darien  
Delafield Delavan East Troy Elkhorn Elm Grove Franklin Fredonia  
Germantown Grafton Greendale Hales Corners Hartford Hartland  
Jackson Kewaskum Lomira Milwaukee Menomonee Falls Mequon-Thiensville  
Muskego Mukwonago New Berlin Oak Creek Oconomowoc Oakfield  
Okauchee Pewaukee Plymouth Port Washington Salem Slinger S. Milwaukee  
Sussex Wales Walworth Waterford Watertown Waukesha Whitewater



**Chris Czubakowski**  
Vice President

*The Milwaukee Area Local recently voted to endorse Joe Biden for President of the United States. In our decision, we recognized his record of advancing the cause of unions and his undying support for postal workers and a public Postal Service. Furthermore, unlike the current occupant of the White House, he opposes and will fight against efforts to privatize the Postal Service.*

As our country has floundered around during the last six months of a deadly pandemic, postal workers have stepped up to the plate and heroically shown America the importance of having an affordable, universal and public Postal Service. Yet, even as we have ensured that essential medicines, supplies, and mail reached every address the Postal Service faces the prospect of closure and an endless assault by the GOP. Without an immediate infusion of cash from Congress and the White House, the Postal Service will likely run out of money by fall due to COVID-related revenue losses.

Joe Biden recognized the stakes of this moment in a recent letter to our National Executive Board when he stated "This crisis makes clear: the USPS doesn't just perform the integral task of offering mailing and shipping services in

## Vote Like Your Job Depends On It... It Does !!!

*"...Trump's policies have made it abundantly clear that he is a serious threat to our decent postal jobs..."*



accordance with its Universal Service Obligation, it is also often the social and economic life-line to rural and lower-income communities across the nation. Our support for the Postal Service must match the commitment that its workers bring to serving our communities.... I will continue to protect the Postal Service from all attempts at privatization."

In 2018, the White House issued two reports which laid out plans to raise mail and package prices four to five times while cutting service, to do away with APWU collective bargaining rights and to outright sell the people's Postal Service to private corporations. These plans are in writing. Period. End of story.

In Spring of 2020, the White House went so far as to threaten to veto a major COVID stimulus package if it included support for the Postal Service even though both the House and Senate had reached a bipartisan compromise to ensure funding.

The White House and the Treasury Department are advancing their plans to sacrifice the Postal Service on the altar of private profit, using the crisis of the pandemic to carry out their destructive policies. President Trump has labeled the public Postal Service "a joke". This should be an insult to every postal worker and customer.

policies are hostile to unions and workers' rights. He opposes living wages and a healthy environment, undermines Veteran benefits, threatens the vital programs of Social Security and Medicare, and openly incites dangerous racial, ethnic and religious bigotry and division. The working class needs unity and solidarity more than ever to advance our common interests.

The Milwaukee Area Local recognizes and respects that our fellow members hold a wide array of political views and that their choices in this election will be a matter of personal conscience. However, the contrast in this presidential race for postal workers has never been clearer.

APWU National President Mark Dimondstein recently stated, "Donald Trump's policies have made it abundantly clear that he is a serious threat to our decent postal jobs, our unions and to the right of the people to a public Postal Service. Joe Biden has committed to support the Postal Service and its dedicated postal workers. Our union will continue to help build the movement to defend the public Postal Service and win a more just society."

In addition, President Trump's

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The Milwaukee Area Local Executive Board believes that Joe Biden is the best choice in the upcoming presidential election. Former Vice-President Biden remains committed to helping end the assault on the Postal Service and our job security and will work with the APWU to secure the robust, vibrant, public Postal Service the people of our country deserve and help defend our rights to good, family-sustaining union jobs. As such, the Milwaukee Area Local Executive Board is committed to make every effort to educate and engage our members to elect Joe Biden as the next President of the United States.

***We encourage our members and their families to vote early  
and to be fully engaged in the 2020 presidential election.***

## **Your Vote Matters.org**

What's Your Excuse? Voting doesn't make a difference – my one vote won't matter

Not planning to vote this year? Every election millions of people pass up the chance to influence the direction of their local, state and federal government. Why don't you vote? What's your excuse?

I'm too busy!

We get it. Between work and family, sometimes there's not much time for anything else. But most states now offer either early voting or vote-by-mail options! Early voting lets you pick a time, in a date range prior to election day that's convenient to you. You may even be able to choose your polling place – for example, vote early at a polling place closer to work or en route from dropping off your kids.

Whether you like the leading candidates or not, the fact of the matter is that one of them is going to win. Even if you don't like them, they represent a party with a platform on various issues, such as taxes, schools, health, environment, jobs, infrastructure, etc, and will generally act along those lines if elected. Which party's goals and values are a better match for you? In the long run, it's better to choose the candidate more in tune with the things you value!

While a gubernatorial or presidential race usually "headlines" an election, there are always a lot of smaller contests on the ballot, such as state representative, county clerk, local councilmen, sheriff, and town clerk. These people make decisions that directly affect your quality of life by affecting the laws of your town, county or state and determining where your tax dollars are spent. Even if you don't like any of the "major" candidates, find out where the local candidates stand on issues that are important to you and vote accordingly.

Often a ballot includes yes/no vote questions on local municipal issues – things like zoning or how your town spends its money. This is one case where the voters, not the politicians, are the ones who determine the outcome. It's your opportunity to vote for the things you want and against anything you think is a bad idea.

Much as we like to think not voting makes a statement to the politicians, it doesn't. It just gives away your opportunity to have a voice in the process.

***Learn more about the issues and candidates on your state/local election board and candidates' own web sites.***



**Paul McKenna  
President**

*I want to start by Thanking Senator Baldwin for fighting for Workers and for OUR Postal Service.*

Almost 30 years ago, I began my postal career working at the main processing facility in Milwaukee sorting letters on 2<sup>nd</sup> shift.

For many Postal Workers, working nights, weekends and holidays is part of our job, as processing mail is a 24/7 operation for postal workers.

Postal workers are firm in our commitment to serving the public. We treat the mail as if it is our own. The frontline essential work of postal workers is connecting the American people in these challenging and dangerous pandemic times, underscores this dedication.

We are dedicated to our mission of providing prompt, reliable and efficient postal services, processing, sorting and delivering mail to 160 million addresses every day including medicine, financial transactions, retirement checks, census forms, magazines, catalogs, voter information, mail ballots, ecommerce packages and vital supplies.

The USPS has proven to be indispensable during the pandemic. For generations, people have appreciated their Postal Service, and in a recent Pew Research Poll from March of

## Save OUR Postal Service

*"The actions of the Postmaster General have included a reduction in hours at retail units, delaying mail, slowing down service and reducing work hours of a workforce that is already understaffed"*

this year, the public overwhelmingly supports the Postal Service and Postal Workers with a 91% favorability rating. 91%!!! Trying to get 91% of the general public to agree on anything is an accomplishment, but they do agree on the question that the Postal Service is a extremely essential service.

Postal Workers have also been successfully handling vote by mail for generations. It is tried and tested, safe and secure and is becoming more popular with voters. During the current pandemic voting by mail is also a very appealing option for voters.... and the Postal Service has the capability to handle it.

Postal workers are extremely dedicated to our mission of connecting and serving individuals and businesses alike.

Postal employees work very hard to make sure people get their packages, birthday and Holiday cards (yes people still send them), retirement checks, medicine and mail ballots.

When I first started at the Postal Service it was immediately made known to us that what mail comes in today, gets processed today. There is no delayed mail. That's part of all Postal Workers' DNA!

Our commitment to the American public is also exemplified by the dedication of postal workers during this dangerous pandemic, where we have had many postal workers become ill with COVID 19 and yes, some who even lost their lives worked in this very postal facility...

all in the pursuit of getting your packages sorted and doing their jobs as postal workers.

It is very unfortunate that the Postmaster General has shown that he does not believe in that same commitment. Without any consultation or input from postal workers, postal customers or the mailing community he launched a series of actions that are harming service.

As I'm sure you already know, the PMG has removed sorting machines that process your mail throughout the country.

In our own Main Processing Plant in Milwaukee, four (4) of those machines have been removed over the past several months and more are scheduled to be removed. Each of these machines can sort 30,000-35,000 letters an hour. Many of these machines are in operation 16-20 hrs a day.

By removing these machines like PMG LaJoy is doing, could create problems in the near future as mail volume starts to pick up for the holidays and elections. Just like we have been telling our customers for years during the Holidays, Mail EARLY! The message is the same for Mail-in Ballots. Mail early! We believe removing the mail processing machines is a deliberate action to slow the mail down for the elections, and will only undermine the Postal Service's ability to fulfill its mission and drive away revenue – and the public trust – that the Postal Service needs. Re-

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member, the word SERVICE is in the title of the organization in which PMJ DeJoy was chosen to lead. We would hope he knows this, but it appears he does not.

Postal workers have been successfully handling vote by mail for generations. It is tried and tested, safe and secure and virtually free of fraud. In 2016, 1 in 4 votes were done by mail in ballot, with an even higher number projected for the November election. The USPS has immense capacity to handle an influx of absentee ballots, already handling almost 500 million pieces of mail/packages a day, and routinely handles national mailings and peaks in volume.

The actions of the Postmaster General have included a reduction in hours at retail units, delaying mail, slowing down service and reducing work hours of a workforce that is already understaffed. Not surprisingly, the results have been a complete disaster and have undermined public confidence and trust.

Recently, thanks to massive public resistance to these changes from the American People, the Postmaster General was compelled to announce the temporary halting of some of these policies until after the November election. Don't be fooled! While this is a step in the right direction it's not even close to being sufficient. The need for quality mail services does not end in November. All regressive policies should be reversed and permanently eliminated.

We need a postal service that is allowed to serve our customers with the high levels of service they have enjoyed and deserve for generations to come. Whether it is our seniors.....our businesses.....our veterans....voters.....urban and rural ...everyone deserves the highest level of mail service that is free from cutbacks, limitations and political motives!

Lastly, I ask that you continue to have faith in your Postal Service. Don't be afraid to vote by mail, but mail early! Let us stand united in keeping the word SERVICE in OUR Postal Service!

***Contact your Congressional Leaders and Demand that they Save OUR Postal Service Now!***

## **Health Benefits Open Season**

The 2020 Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) open season will run from November 9 through December 14, 2020. Each year Open Season runs from the Monday of the second full workweek in November through the Monday of the second full workweek in December.

During the annual Open Season, eligible employees can enroll, change plans or plan options, change enrollment type, or cancel their enrollment for FEDVIP and the FEHB Program. Employees can also re-enroll or newly enroll in FSAFEDS.



## **Postal Service Crisis**

### **California Is Ready To Pilot A Postal Banking Solution**

Thomas Hanna / Jeff Olson, The Hill

- The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is under attack and at grave risk. But with that many Americans are awakening to both the value of the USPS and the manifest dangers of privatization.
- The crisis has also sparked renewed interest in postal banking, a win-win approach that could both make the USPS more financially resilient and provide badly needed financial services to tens of millions of Americans.

Over the past several months, this constitutionally enshrined and highly-regarded public institution has been sabotaged from both within and without. On the one hand, it has largely been left to fend for itself amidst a global pandemic and economic crisis. Specifically, while corporations and private sector businesses have received hundreds of billions in public support, USPS's request for support has thus far largely fallen on deaf ears in Congress. On the other, new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy (who is a major donor to President Trump) has overseen a raft of policy and operational changes (such as removing, dismantling and selling off mail sorting machines) that has contributed to deteriorating service quality and widespread accusations of politically-motivated meddling in the upcoming presidential election.

Moreover, these threats are not only linked to each other, they are also connected to a much longer effort to undermine the USPS, and public support for it, as a precursor to privatization and the wholesale transfer of valuable assets (especially real estate) to private hands. Most egregiously, in 2006 (during the Bush administration) Congress passed a law that required the USPS to pre-fund 75 years of its future retiree health care costs. As Sarah Anderson, Scott Klinger and Brian Wakam write, "this burden applies to no other federal agency or private corporation" and "if the costs of this retiree health care mandate were removed from the USPS financial statements, the Post Office would have reported operating profits in each of the last six years."

Fortunately, across the country, people have been putting up signs in support of the USPS in their yards, buying stamps en masse, holding rallies and calling their representatives. Inside the USPS, postal workers have heroically resisted management's efforts to dismantle their equipment and gut hallowed principles (such as not leaving mail behind), while legislators are holding hearings and ratcheting up their oversight of the agency. It is in this context that more people are seriously examining postal banking as an option that strengthens the economic sustainability of the USPS and would be especially beneficial to lower-income people and those who live in banking deserts or are forced to rely on predatory payday lenders.

Earlier this year Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) and Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) introduced the Postal Banking Act, which would restore financial and banking services to post offices throughout the country for the first time since the 1960s. "Postal banking will help us bring the same equality of service the USPS has for mail delivery to the financial system," Gillibrand and Sanders contend. "Putting a public, nonprofit bank in each of the Postal Service's 30,000 locations will bring low-cost banking services to people of every income level everywhere from rural communities to inner cities."

While Congress should pass the Postal Banking Act with haste, it seems unlikely to do so, especially in an election year. In the meantime, the USPS should press ahead with postal banking, which is likely within its current authority, starting with a pilot program (or programs). The House of Representatives recently passed an amendment to an appropriations bill that would provide \$2 million in funding for such a pilot project, and the USPS's 2016 contract with the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) required at least one postal banking pilot project to be launched within a year. The APWU has suggested three potential locations (Baltimore, Cleveland and New York City), but as of yet no such program has been initiated.

Instead, the USPS's Trump-aligned leadership has opened preliminary discussions with JPMorgan Chase to allow the corporate financial giant to open its own ATMs in certain post office locations. That is not postal banking. This should be seen for what it is: an ideologically driven boondoggle intended to primarily benefit one of the most powerful financial corporations on the planet. It will likely exacerbate, rather than address, the deleterious effects of economic inequali-

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ty, financialization and corporate concentration.

“From a financial inclusion standpoint, JPMorgan Chase’s proposal accomplishes nothing — except for giving an already large and powerful bank an unfair advantage,” Raúl Carrillo, a fellow at the Americans for Financial Reform Education Fund, writes. Similarly, postal banking expert Mehrsa Baradaran explains that “having a private middleman defeats the entire purpose of postal banking, which is a public bank competing against banks like JPMorgan Chase.”

In its place, the USPS should honor its commitments to its workers and begin a real postal banking pilot project that could pave the way towards a wider rollout. In addition to the cities suggested by the APWU, California stands out as a logical place to potentially test and refine the postal banking concept. In recent years, the state has become an epicenter of the burgeoning public banking movement in the United States and is home to a large and powerful grassroots public banking coalition, the California Public Banking Alliance (CPBA), for which one of us, Jeff Olson, is an organizer.

In 2019, the alliance was instrumental in securing state legislative passage of AB 857, which enables the creation of up to 10 local or regional public banks in the state. The APWU was among hundreds of labor, environmental, political and community groups (representing millions of state residents) that endorsed AB 857, and for their part, the alliance has expressed interest in advancing postal banking in the state as part of their larger campaign for public banking. “We are ready, willing, and able to collaborate with the unions and the USPS in establishing the first postal banks in fifty years,” CPBA’s Susan Harman states.

Regardless of the results of the upcoming presidential election, threats to the USPS are likely to remain unless we translate renewed public concern for this vital public service into structural and legislative changes that will guarantee its long-term viability. Chief among these changes is postal banking, and activists in California and around the country are standing ready to move this exciting and important concept into practice.

## **Lean On EAP: Service Can Help During Trying Times**

The Employee Assistance Program offers online counseling and other services to help USPS employees cope during trying times. The Postal Service wants employees who feel overwhelmed by issues like the coronavirus pandemic, social unrest and teleworking challenges to know that support is available. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a free, voluntary and confidential service to help USPS employees overcome challenges affecting their physical and mental health, family life and job performance. EAP also offers state-of-the-art telehealth options that allow employees to receive counseling services online. This benefit has been particularly useful during the pandemic, when many people are staying home.

EAP assistance is available 24/7 and includes:

- *Video counseling, a service that allows employees to meet with an EAP counselor through a video call*
- *Online counseling, a service that offers professional counseling anytime, anywhere: computer, tablet, smartphone*
- *MyStrength, a highly interactive, individually tailored application that help users address topics like opioid recovery, depression, insomnia, mindfulness, anxiety and chronic pain*
- *Live webinars that explore topics such as emotional intelligence and navigating personal challenges*

For more information, go to the EAP website or call 800-327-4968 (TTY: 877-492-7341).



**John Miceli**  
**Treasurer**

(CNBC.com)

*Chances are your financial situation won't kill you. However, your financial stress can kill you. As such, it is important to manage it effectively. Here are 5 tips to help you cope with your financial stress.*

#### **1. Know you are not alone**

When we feel alone our stress increases. If you're stressed about money it's important to know that you're not alone. According to the American Psychological Association, money issues are a top source of stress in the lives of 7 in 10 adults.

#### **2. Take a time-out**

When we are anxious our minds can spin out of control. It is important to take a break and clear your head. Building in some activities to initiate a relaxation response are important for your mental health.

This might include talking a walk, listening to music, reading a book, or taking some time to do some deep breathing.

Doing breathing exercises can help lower your heart rate, decrease your blood pressure, lower your stress hormones and help you think clearly.

#### **3. Avoid catastrophic thinking**

- "I have credit card debt. I'm a failure. At everything."

## Tips For Dealing With Financial Anxiety

*"Take some time to think it through"*

- "I lost my job. I'm going to be poor. Forever."

When our finances feel out of control it's easy to slip into catastrophic thinking, where we ruminate irrationally about what is likely to happen and who we are. These exaggerated thoughts create stressful emotions. To minimize the negative impact of irrational worries you need to keep things in perspective. This is where the next tip can come in helpful.

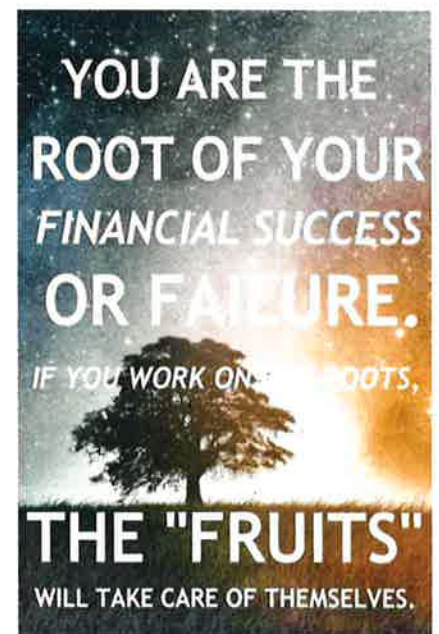
#### **4. Worst-case scenario**

If I just suggested you avoiding catastrophic thinking, why would I now encourage you to think about the worst-case scenario? While your financial situation is most likely not life-threatening your financial stress can be. This exercise helps you face your fears straight on. Taking a hard look at the worst-case scenario has the paradoxical impact of lowering your anxiety. It's a form of exposure therapy and can help you keep things in perspective.

Take some time to think it through. For example, if you lost your job, what would happen next? If you had to move in with your family or friends, then what would happen? Keep following the chain of worst possible outcomes. For most people, fleshing out the details leads them to realize that the situation, while uncomfortable and possibly inconvenient, is not life-threatening and that they could eventually get back on track.

#### **5. Ask for help**

Our anxiety soars when we lack confidence in our ability to face a challenge. This is common in the realm of personal finance, where many of us lack basic financial literacy. If your financial anxiety is causing you significant distress or making it difficult for you to manage your life you may benefit from help. Consider working with a mental health and/or financial planning professional to help you cope with your anxiety and make progress on tackling your financial challenges.







**Greg Becker**  
**South Sectional Director**

*Occasionally, I get inquiries from PSE's and PTF's at my offices asking how they can "work" at another office. When I say "work," I mean transfer or be domiciled at another office and be scheduled to work by the new office.*

Typically, this is a form of transfer as demonstrated in the contract, but as a general rule, PSE's are not career employees and are not able to transfer in accordance with the Transfer Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the contract. However, PSE's can choose PTF vacancies in other offices and be converted to a career PTF vacancy by relative standing to PTF positions that are left untaken in eReassign.

This Canvass is sent to all offices within 50 miles of an offered position via email. Approximately 2 years ago, the APWU and management negotiated to include the PTF's in the canvassing for PTF positions. This is a relatively unknown opportunity for PSE's to become a career employee, and for PTF's to move to a more favorable opportunity.

While PTF's are already Career employees and thus able to transfer, the Transfer MOU allows management to evaluate your work, attendance, and safety record. Furthermore, the PTF must be 1 in every 4 or 6 Clerks

allowed to transfer to an installation (office) per the Transfer MOU. In addition, there are 12 (or 18 month) "lock-ins" in your installation prior to a transfer depending on the geographical area that the transfer is located (the aforementioned factors are not applied when an installation is under excessing under priority consideration).

While these rules protect the balance of interests between clerks and management, generally speaking, most career clerks who seek a transfer will eventually be successful.

A speedier way around the contractual language in the Transfer MOU is through the canvass, whereas PTF's and PSE's have no "lock-ins" and do not have to wait to meet any "ratios." More important, your work, attendance, and safety record have no say in the canvass selections.

Obviously, you are limited to the vacant offices listed on the canvass letter and you must be the most senior PTF and then PSE by relative standing to be offered the position. Furthermore, you must qualify for any training... mostly window qualification. But these are the only requirements. Since nearly all PTF's are window qualified, as are many small office PSE's, the qualification process is finished for most applicants. And if you are the senior applicant and not window qualified,

## The PSE / PTF Canvass For PTF Vacancies

*"...generally speaking, most career clerks who seek a transfer will eventually be successful."*

you will be given an opportunity to qualify for the vacant PTF position.

If you are a PSE and you fail the window training, you simply stay in your current position and will be allowed to try again for another position requiring window qualification provided you are the senior applicant once six (6) months have passed. If you are a PSE and successfully pass your training, your new craft seniority will be backdated to the date that you would have gotten the PTF position had you been previously qualified.

The canvass for PTF positions is a good option for current PSE's and PTF's who want to move to a different installation/office for any reason, and for PSE's who want to become a career employee in the U.S.P.S.

For many PSE's, you want to weigh the option of making career in your current installation vs. selecting a PTF position at another installation through the canvass. Just remember to weigh your options prior to making this decision.

Contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.



**Jeff Worden**  
**North Sectional Director**

*Nov 3rd will soon be upon us and we should all do our civic duty and VOTE! This election, things will be different due to Covid-19. There will be many who will vote by mail and this is good!*

I am trying to find out just how many "Polling Stations" will be available for people to vote in person. At present I was told (by the Milwaukee Elections Committee) that ALL poll places in the city of Milwaukee are scheduled to be open!

On April 7, 2020 Wisconsin Voters went out to vote for a Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice. Governor Tony Evers, tried to postpone the election for a later date, due to the fact there would be a very limited number of Polling Stations open due to many poll workers not being able to "work the polls" caused by the threat of the Covid-19. The (Republican Controlled) Wisconsin State Senate said "No, voting will be on April 7" and in fact voting was on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

In Milwaukee, there are 31 polling sites that are normally open for in person voting. During the April 7<sup>th</sup> elections only 5 voting sites were open! You can only imagine just how LONG those people waited in line to vote.

The Saturday prior to April 7<sup>th</sup> the City of Milwaukee had "Voting by Car". Yes. It worked. There were

## Vote, Vote, Vote...

*"You and I are a value to the union."*

many Milwaukee Voters who showed-up to vote! I should know as I was one of them! I waited about an hour! BUT, I cast my vote!

The lines at those polling places on election were VERY LONG but, the voters braved the wait and VOTED!!

While there are many who believe in voting on election day at the polls it may be best to think about voting by mail!

### **EARLY VOTING STARTS** **Oct 20<sup>th</sup>!**

If you live in the city of Milwaukee, you may want to call the Milwaukee Election Committee as to find out if the polling place in your area will be open. Please call (414) 286-3491. You can also contact them by e-mail at **voterinfo@milwaukee.gov**.

If you live in Waukesha County you can call (262) 548-7010. This will get you the phone number(s) to the municipalities throughout Waukesha that you need.

Whether you vote in person or by mail, you WILL need a photo ID, be it a Driver's license or Wisconsin ID card. You can obtain a free State of Wisconsin ID Card or document that can be used for voting, even without a birth certificate or other documentation. This document is valid for 180 days. Information is available at the WI DMV or call (844) 588-1069.

If you are interested in finding out

who the Labor friendly/AFL-CIO endorsed candidates are go to [www.wisafclcio.org](http://www.wisafclcio.org)

What every union member should be concerned about is Staying Healthy while keeping their family health too! We are living in unprecedented times and must take the necessary steps to decrease the chances of acquiring the Coronavirus.

If any member or retiree is interested in phone banking please call the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO at (414) 771-0700.

At a past APWU National Convention Judy Beard (former retirees Director) now the National Legislative & Political Director told the retiree members that, *"You and I are a value to the union."* President Mark Dimondstein said, *"The activism of retirees helps sustain the union for years to come."*

In Closing, let us all remember to vote! Better yet, if you are going to vote at a polling place bring a family member or friend to vote with you. If you do not vote...do not complain!

If have any questions, you can call me directly at (414) 530-7186.

Stay safe and as always, Take Care.

## **Do Your Job Like Your Life Depends On It, Because It Does!**

Greg Preuss, Retiree

I've been retired for 8 years now from the Postal Service. This year is the most important for all Postal Workers regardless of craft level and status. This includes supervisors and management regardless of pay level. When this country was formed it was ideas that were from the created and discussed because of the heavy hand from Great Britain. Separating from this heavy hand led to the revolutionary war. Part of the constitution has written the formation of the Postal Service in Article 1, section 8 clause 7. The administration has done nothing to safeguard this service but try to dissolve it with these companies chomping at the bit for the monies including the Postmaster General and the board of governors.

2016-2020 we have definitely seen a turn of values since this administration came to power. I think what is so troubling to me is the total lack of humanity to our fellow Americans. Picking on nationalities has a history from Trump. When the hurricane hit Puerto Rico and knocked the power out on the island many were upset with his handing out paper towel rolls and calling the territory corrupt. These are US citizens and just like in our constitution they have rights for representation. They don't deserve to be minimized because they don't have an industry. Trump's total lack of empathy to his fellow man has also brought out his minions that support whatever is on his agenda.

When the interview with Bob Woodward and his downplaying the pandemic came out on tape he blamed a citizen for not bringing it forward. Lives matter not just black lives, white lives, blue lives but every life regardless of bank accounts or where you live. His statement "it is what it is" is getting a lot of political clout for Biden. Republicans that formed the Lincoln Group have come at this election hard denouncing him as a fraud, idiot, unfit to lead this government out of this problem. The work that you do is so valuable to this group after the appointment of this PMG who knows nothing about the Postal Service. In this modern day of the internet and speed of business we need a service that reaches all Americans. Those ballots that go through the mail are what this administration fears the most. Most Americans have already seen enough of the division that this man creates, but he has done particular damage to our military. Those of us that have served our nation know that the military is a group effort. This is from the service person who cleans up after the dishes after the morning meal to the chairman of the joint chiefs. When you abandon your allies to let them get assassinated by Turkish bombs and armor in an area that ISIS has killed those allied friends, leaves the impression that the Americans cannot be trusted. This is the start of the unravel of our allies, including NATO. It is critical that the bond between allies be kept strong to keep those who would cause us harm in check. Add in comments from our leader and we become the laughing stock of those powers. He makes comments like, "Why should I go to that cemetery it's filled with losers" or why should I go to Vietnam War, that's for suckers. Far worse was the use of police and Nation Guard troops to clear Lafayette square just so he could hold a bible upside down in front of a church.

Demonstrations were abundant this year but it didn't start with George Floyd. It started when we got upset over a heavy hand by Britain. It continued through a Civil War through racial injustice until a man kept his knee on the neck of George Floyd for 8 minutes 46 seconds. This sparked a world movement for equality. The administration did nothing but condemned that turned into riots, burning and looters. When the riots started in Minnesota, there was footage of a white biker knocking out windows at an auto parts store. When confronted by a kid, he turned to the kid and threatened him. Some protests have had looting and burning of business which the administration used to send in federal troops to take people into custody just like in Germany in the 1930's. Yes I am referring to Hitler. Both the administrations of the 30's and 2016-2020 never denounced white supremacy. He in fact encourages it, dividing us even further. Is this really what we have become or who we are? Over reaching power has put our country in jeopardy. Even when he made a perfect call to foreign government to get dirt on his opponent. Then he gets his minion senators to follow his thoughts. Putting a person in charge of the Justice Department that follows every move of what the administration says. Now using a pandemic to squash the voters throughout the country. This is why your job is so critical for the direction we are heading. All of you getting those ballots to the proper destination is our only defense.

***Do your job like your life depends on it, because it does!***