

# Top Flight

SUMMER EDITION

JULY 2011

## Have Contract... Will Work

Delegates to the Mississippi State Convention arrived a day early this year to hear all about the new contract recently ratified.

Making the presentation were NBAs from the Clerk, Maintenance and Motor Vehicle craft.

### We Want Our Work Back

That was the battle cry our negotiators went to the table with and judging from the results it appears they were heard loud and clear.

The NBA's reported that from EAS positions the Union will get nearly 1,000 jobs initially; plus, 1,100 jobs in Telephone Call Centers, 600 jobs from HCR routes, 740 Vehicle Maintenance jobs and 1500 jobs back from subcontracted custodial services.

That's a big pile of jobs and a big pile of potential new union members to be signed up. According to the NBA's report that's about 5,000 jobs either coming from the EAS positions or coming from work contracted out.

### The Dream Team

Here's a roster of the team that negotiated getting all these jobs back.

*Cliff Guffey, President*  
*Greg Bell, Executive Vice President*  
*Mike Morris, Director Industrial Relations*  
*Rob Strunk, Director Clerk Division*  
*Steve Raymer, Director maintenance Division*  
*Robert Pritchard, Dir. Motor Vehicle Division*  
*Bill Manley, Director Support Services Division*

### What Else?

- No layoff clause that protects all career employees hired before November 20, 2010.
- General wage increases totaling 3.5%
- Uncapped COLA preserved
- Excessing limitations
- Casuals eliminated
- Lead Clerk Position Established
- 204-B's Reduced and Restricted
- PMR's Eliminated in PO, level 15 and above
- POA's Eliminated
- Mandatory Overtime Protection
- New Category of Full-Time Career Employees
- Casuals and TE's Replaced by new Postal Support Employees

---

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 New Contract Summarized
- 3 Letter From the President
- 4 Legislative Issues
- 5 MS FEDs Director
- 6 Leave Our Mail Alone!
- 7 Meet the Members
- 9 Postage Due

---

*Contract, page 2*

## AMPs in Mississippi

Bears are not the only dangerous animal that is tearing through Mississippi's hot summer this year. There are also AMP's running amuck all through the state.

Postal Workers have spotted these AMPs slithering around in Tupelo, Meridian and Hattiesburg.

So what are AMPs and how do you avoid them if you can or fight them if you have to?

*See Amp, P.5*

*Contract, from p.1*

### What are PSE's?

They are Postal Support Employees.

- PSE's are bargaining unit employees and will replace casuals and TE's.
- PSE's will be hired from appropriate registers.
- PSE's serve 360 day appointments (5 day break in service)
- Career hiring will come from PSE rolls by seniority.
- PSE's will have leave benefits.
- PSE's will have health benefits after 1 year of employment.

### What are Nifty jobs?

These are the new Non Traditional Full Time jobs created under this agreement.

- More or less than 5 days per week
- Between 30 – 48 hours per week
- Between 4 – 12 hours per day
- No current FTR can be involuntarily assigned to any residual NTFT assignment unless it is between 40 – 44 hours/week.
- Current PTF's, PTR's and new hires can be involuntarily assigned to any NTFT residual duty assignment.
- NTFT employees get paid FLSA overtime for time over 40 hours in a work week.

### Where Can I Get More Info?

Every member should have received a tentative agreement with your ballot; or your steward or other local Union officer might be able to help with questions.

The APWU web page, [www.apwu.org](http://www.apwu.org), has a lot of information on the new contract and that's probably the best source.

Bottom line is whether you voted for it or against it; it's the contract now. We need to learn what's in it and then enforce it.



### Off to the Races.....

If you are running for political office it's time for kissing babies, eating lots of fried chicken and potato salad, and shaking lots of hands.

These are some of the active candidates for Governor that I could find; along with a link to their campaign websites.

I wouldn't buy a used car without raising the hood and kicking the tires, so here's a chance to check out these candidates. One of them is sure to be our next governor.

•James Broadwater (R)  
 Minister, State Employee, National Guard Veteran  
<http://www.broadwaterforgovernor.com/>

•Phil Bryant (R)  
 Lt. Governor, Ex-State Auditor & Ex-State Rep.  
<http://www.philbryant.com/index.php>

•Dave Dennis (R)  
 Commercial Building Contractor & Ex-New Orleans  
 Federal Reserve Board Chairman  
<http://davedennisforgovernor.com/>

•Hudson Holliday (R)  
 Pearl River Supervisor  
<http://www.hudsonholliday.com/>

•Johnny DuPree (D)  
 Hattiesburg Mayor, Ex-Forest County Supervisor, Ex-  
 Hattiesburg School Board Member & Realtor  
<http://www.johnnydupree.com/>

•Bill Lockett (D)  
 Attorney & Businessman  
<http://www.lockettforaogovernor.com/home>

# From the President

## To the APWU members of Mississippi

I am very honored to have been elected as your new State President. I have experienced almost every wrench management has thrown at "Our" collective bargaining agreement over the past 20+ years, so, don't hesitate to test my knowledge of the contract.

I am looking forward to working with each Local President and our hard working group of District Directors to ensure that the Postal Service abides with "Our" contract.

I emphasize "Our" contract because that is exactly what it is; it's not Managements contract nor is it the Unions contract. Both parties agreed to the language in it. It is our job as elected Union officials to police it.

I am already receiving word that Postal Management is now realizing exactly what they agreed to and are already balking at some of the language. During negotiations, all they saw were dollar savings. Now, their realizing that they

agreed to some language that really benefits the crafts.

But none of the negotiations to achieve this contract will do any good if Congress sits back and does nothing to help the Postal Service. President Guffy is calling for a grass roots effort to get everyone involved in contacting their respective representatives to support some bills and oppose others that are in Congress now.

If Congress does nothing, the Postal Service will be out of cash by the end of the Fiscal Year. That's right around the corner. I urge every member, non-member, neighbor, friend, family to take action. You can go to the National APWU web site. They already have links to important legislation that make it simple and easy to send your representative your thoughts. There is even a section on some that allow you to send your message to 6 friends. Please feel free to add my name, Mc204apwu@aol.com . I challenge you to fill my in-box with messages from this site.

If we do nothing. We will all be applying for unemployment. Mississippi has some of the lowest unemployment benefits in the country.

Mark Cunningham



## Legislative Issues

Here's a list of legislation at the Federal level that affects the Postal Service and our jobs.

### ***H.R. 1351, United States Postal Service Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011***

This was introduced by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) on April 4, and would provide desperately needed financial relief to the USPS. The bill instructs the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to recalculate the Postal Service's payments to Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) using updated methodology. Independent actuarial studies have concluded that as a result of improper funding formulas, the USPS has overpaid CSRS by \$50 to \$75 billion, and FERS by \$6.9 billion. **The APWU strongly supports H.R. 1351 as introduced.**

### ***S. 1010, Post Act***

This was introduced by Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) and addresses the Postal Service's pre-funding requirement by allowing the USPS to use overpayments to its pension accounts to meet the pre-funding obligations. I would also allow the USPS to expand its service to customers by providing additional retail services. However, the bill also includes several negative aspects: The proposed legislation would give the Postal Service authority to close post offices solely for financial reasons, and would require arbitrators to consider the financial health of the USPS when contract negotiations end in arbitration. **APWU supports the overpayment provisions, but does not support the bill entirely, as it is written.**

### ***S. 353, U.S. Postal Service Improvements Act of 2011***

This was introduced by Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) on Feb. 2, and also addresses the Postal Service's pension fund overpayments and pre-funding obligations, but **it also includes many provisions that the APWU finds troublesome.**

### ***H.R. 828, Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act***

This was introduced on Feb. 28 by Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), and would require the Postal Service and other federal agencies to terminate any employee who is "seriously delinquent" in his or her federal taxes. This bill will now go before the full House for a vote. A companion measure, S.376, has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK). We believe that people should pay their taxes, but we note that there are procedures in place to garnish wages to resolve tax liabilities. **The APWU**

**considers these bills unnecessary and punitive and opposes both.**

H.R.1440, Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act of 2011

This was introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) on April 8 and would improve the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) by providing parents and guardians with the protected leave in order to attend their children's and grandchildren's educational and extracurricular activities. The bill also clarifies qualifying care of elderly relatives, such as nursing home visits and routine medical treatments, and expands the definition of covered family members to include grandchildren. The APWU supports this legislation. Amendment to S.493

On March 28, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) introduced an amendment to S. 493 (a bill affecting small businesses) that would force active postal employees to pay a higher portion of their health and life insurance premiums. According to the union's contract with the USPS, the Postal Service pays approximately 81% of an employee's health plan premium, while other federal agencies pay 72% of their employee's health insurance premiums, and the USPS pays the full premium for basic life insurance for active employees. Over the life of the new contract between the APWU and USPS, management's share of health plan premiums would decrease by 5 percent and its share of life insurance premiums would remain unchanged. Sen. McCain's amendment would set postal contributions for health and life insurance coverage at the same rate other federal employers pay, increasing employee contributions substantially. **APWU opposes this amendment.**

## *What is Labor Day?*

The first Labor Day was September 5, 1882, when 10,000 union men and women marched in New York in celebration of the significant gains they had made in the workplace. Labor Day was officially proclaimed a holiday in 1894 and is today celebrated by all Americans.

Labor Day is a day honoring our ancestors in the labor movement, who struggled and sacrificed so that all working Americans could enjoy dignity in the workplace and a standard of living unparalleled in the world.

Labor Day is a day to reflect so we don't lose sight of the achievements organized labor has won for all of us. Through its continuous and tireless efforts, we have the 40-hour work week, health and welfare benefits, paid vacations, child labor laws, social security, minimum wage, occupational safety and health laws and other social and economic reforms.

The **TOP FLIGHT** is the official publication of the Mississippi Postal Workers Union. The opinions and views expressed in this publication are those of the writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Editor or the Executive Board of the MPWU.

All submissions are welcome, but may be edited, when necessary, for space or clarity.

Send submissions and change of address information to:

**Top Flight**  
9 Saint Charles Ave.  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402  
601-818-9204 cell, 601-620-4420 Home  
[eatontd@comcast.net](mailto:eatontd@comcast.net)

[www.ms-apwu.org](http://www.ms-apwu.org)

On Facebook  
**Mississippi Postal Workers Union**



**There is no "Me"  
in Union . . .  
Just "U" and "I"  
and only  
"U" and "I"  
can make a  
difference.**

## From the MS FEDS Director

Brothers and Sisters:

How would you like to belong to a great organization? This organization was created to show empathy for families of our fellow co-workers who have died because of illness, accidents or just old age.

When a loved one dies emergency situations arises and the insurance plans have not had the time to pay for the necessary expenses. A group of employees thought highly enough of their co-workers that they wanted to do something to help the families in emergencies. This, the death of a co-worker, counts as an emergency.

Believe me, some things the family is never prepared for and these funds come to be very useful in the event of death of a family member.

I, a member of the MS-FEDS, am asking that we as a Union come together and support the Fund that would help our fellow co-workers should the need arise. Please join this wonderful organization and show some support for the families.

**PLEASE SIGN UP AND JOIN THE MS FEDS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION!**

Sandra F. Spencer,  
Executive Director, MFBA

### *AMP from p.1*

According to the Postal Service an AMP is the consolidation of all originating and/or destinating distribution operations from one or more Post Offices™/facilities into other automated processing facilities for the purpose of improving operational efficiency and/or service.

AMPs going on in Mississippi right now are projected to result in a net loss of 24 positions, a projected savings of \$2.1 million dollars and a decrease in service effecting 6.8% of the first class mail; according to the Postal Service Summary Briefs posted on usps.com.

The net loss of 24 positions accounts for \$1.2 million of the \$2.1 million projected savings annually: a little more than half of the projected savings.

It is not clear exactly how the Postal Service can count "positions" lost as a savings, since they do not pay "positions"; they instead pay people. These people they pay may hold positions but even if the positions are removed, the people still get paid because the people have a "no layoff" clause in the new Contract.

I am speculating that the Postal Service is counting these positions as an annual savings because they do not intend to fill them once these people leave the Postal Service.

*See AMP, p.10*

# LEAVE OUR MAIL ALONE!

By Melanie Housley

The U.S. Postal Service is again considering moving Hattiesburg's mail processing operations to Gulfport. That will mean slower, less reliable mail service for our area. Checks and medications may not reach their destinations when they are needed; credit ratings will suffer because of late bill payments; and birthday cards and gifts will arrive late.

The plan will also hurt Hattiesburg's economy. We will see the loss of jobs, and small businesses that depend on prompt mail service will endure hardships.

Although this plan will have a profound effect on our community, the USPS is advancing its proposal without providing any real evidence those operations will become

more efficient, or that any money can be saved. In fact, this current plan has already failed twice.

In 1993, Hattiesburg lost its outgoing mail to Gulfport. By 1999, postal officials admitted that service had declined considerably, and the mail was returned to Hattiesburg.

This same scheme was reconsidered again in 2009. The final report, dated August 3, 2009, stated, ". . . there are no significant opportunities to improve efficiency or service through consolidation of Hattiesburg . . . mail processing operations into another facility . . ."

Despite these past failures, the Postal Service attempts to justify this latest consolidation plan by referring to its financial crisis. But the cause of the crisis is largely misunderstood.

Recent USPS deficits are the result of a provision of the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) that requires the Postal Service to pre-fund future retiree healthcare obligations at an accelerated rate. In 2008, the GAO concluded that this mandate was the primary cause of the Postal Service \$5.3 billion shortfall in Fiscal Year 2007. As a result of this mandate, before the Postal Service sells its first stamp, it begins each fiscal year more than \$5 billion in debt.

Absent this pre-funding burden, the Postal Service would have enjoyed a surplus of \$611 million in Fiscal Years 2007 through 2010, despite declining mail volume, an economy in chaos, and electronic diversion.

The USPS is funded entirely by postage sales and service. The pre-funding requirement is essentially a congressional budgeting gimmick that forces postal customers to subsidize the U.S. Treasury.

Fortunately, there is a solution. Three independent actuarial studies have confirmed the USPS has a surplus of between \$56 billion and \$82 billion in its two retirement accounts. The Postal Service should be permitted to use the surplus to cover future retiree health obligations. There is a bill in Congress, HR 1351, which would do just that. Passage of HR 1351 would put the Postal Service back in the black without affecting mail service or costing tax payers a single dime.

*Melanie Housley is a 31-year postal veteran of the Hattiesburg Post Office.*

# MPWU

Mississippi Postal Workers Union  
State Officers  
2011-2013

PRESIDENT..... Mark Cunningham  
33 Pembroke Circle, Gulfport MS 39503  
[Mc204apwu@aol.com](mailto:Mc204apwu@aol.com)  
(228)234-9890

SECRETARY-TREASURER.....Patricia Lampley  
P. O. Box 17343, Hattiesburg, MS 39404  
[Patricia\\_lampley@att.net](mailto:Patricia_lampley@att.net)  
(601)554-6354

EDITOR-HISTORIAN.....Tim Eaton  
9 Saint Charles Ave., Hattiesburg, MS 39402  
[eatontd@comcast.net](mailto:eatontd@comcast.net)  
Cell(601)818-9204, Home(601)620-4420

## DISTRICT DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1 (386,388).....Doris Smith  
840 Hwy 30 East, Oxford, MS 38655  
[Dmsmith1us@yahoo.com](mailto:Dmsmith1us@yahoo.com)  
Cell (662)832-6898

DISTRICT 2 (387,389,397).....Edward Rice  
210 Garrett St., Greenville, MS 38701  
[redrice@bellsouth.net](mailto:redrice@bellsouth.net)  
(662)820-0210

DISTRICT 3 (390-392,396).....Jerry Moore  
P. O. Box 3775, Jackson, MS 39207  
[Jmo432@aol.com](mailto:Jmo432@aol.com)  
(601)668-1551

DISTRICT 4 (393,394).....Eli Jackson  
P. O. Box 17885, Hattiesburg, MS 39404  
[elishajackson@ymail.com](mailto:elishajackson@ymail.com)  
(601)307-9902

### Notice:

*The position of Vice President was eliminated by constitutional amendment at the state convention.*



"All that harms labor  
is treason to America" A. Lincoln

## Members Meet

Meet Edward Williams. He is a part time flexible in Hattiesburg Mississippi. He has been working at the Post Office for about 5 years and was recently a delegate to the Mississippi Postal Workers Union state convention for the first time.

I caught up with Ed at our local union meeting and we talked a bit. Ed says he spent 24 years in active military service in the Army before retiring. His military service has taken him around the world a few times. He told me he was born in Norfolk, Virginia and has three children; two girls and a boy.

While talking with him, his pride in his military service comes through, but also his pride in doing a good job at what he does now. He said "I really value my job with the Postal Service".



Ed's opinion of the new contract is "I love it because I'm a PTF and now I get to go regular because my office is a level 21 or higher". That's good news for all PTF's in those level offices.

Here in Hattiesburg we are undergoing an AMP study whereby it is a possibility some jobs could be excessed, and Ed said he was "really concerned about getting excessed over 50 miles from our present work place". The presentation from the NBA's went a long way in moderating that concern!

I wanted to get his impression of the state convention, since it was his first time attending, and this is what he said. "It was my first time meeting everyone, and it's very interesting about how everything works." All I can say is the next time this man shows up at a state convention put him to work! You won't be disappointed!

*Editor's note:*

*If you have someone you would like featured in "Members Meet" just let me know!*



*"The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside the family relation, should be one uniting all working people, of all nations, and tongues and kindreds."*

Abraham Lincoln

## Updated Web Site

Go to **MS-APWU.ORG** to check out the Mississippi Postal Workers Union web site. Many new and interesting things there. Have a suggestion? Just email me at [eatontd@comcast.net](mailto:eatontd@comcast.net). Just remember, it's a work in progress...ongoing construction!

Mark Cunningham, President

## Mississippi Feds Benevolent Association

**WHAT IS IT?** The Mississippi Feds Benevolent Association is a mortuary plan formed by our State Convention in 1966, predicated to the benevolence of postal workers. It is self-funding and is not underwritten by any outside interest. Medical exams are not required. We pay while other insurance firms would still be processing your claim.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?** Any member of the Mississippi Postal Workers Union who is in good health, and under the age of 55 is eligible to join. This plan covers you after retirement if you pay the dues as levied.

**WHAT DOES IT DO YOU?** It provides immediate cash money to your beneficiary in the event of your death. There is no red tape involved. Payments have been made the same day as death. If you become a part of management you can still keep this policy by staying current in your Mississippi State Postal Workers Union dues along with the Mississippi Fed dues.

**WHAT THE PLAN PAYS:** The payout is calculated by multiplying the number of members at the time of death by \$2.00. The exact amount will vary with the number of members in the plan. (Example: 400 members will mean \$800 payout.)

## ATTENTION ALL LOCALS OFFICERS

Please contact the TOP FLIGHT with contributions for your local's section for the next edition.

I need meeting times, birthday announcements, retirement announcements, new member announcements, pictures and stories.

**The TOP FLIGHT is YOUR newsletter.**

**WHAT DOES IT COST?** To become a member will cost \$12.00 on a yearly basis. The year runs from May 1 to April 30. There is an additional \$4.00 sign-up fee for new members.

**Mail application to:**

**Sandra F. Spencer  
Director MFBA  
1507 Fernwood Dr.  
Jackson, MS 39213**

### MISSISSIPPI FEDS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION APPLICATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*Month/Day/Year*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
*Month/Day/Year*

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street/Apartment/POB City State Zip code*

**Beneficiary** \_\_\_\_\_  
*NAME (Beneficiary must be an adult member of family or estate)*

Relationship: (Check One)  Spouse  Parent(s)  Child, age of child \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Beneficiary \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street/Apartment/POB City State Zip Code*

Amount Enclosed: \$12.00 annual membership dues  (X)  
\$4.00 new member sign-up fee  (X)

I declare, on my honor, that I am in good health, under the age of 55 and a member in good standing in Local # \_\_\_\_\_, City \_\_\_\_\_, Or a member-at-large in the MISSISSIPPI POSTAL WORKERS UNION.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

*Make all checks payable to the MS Feds Benevolent Association*

## Postage Due, a response to "Return to Sender"

I was rather surprised that the Sun Herald printed a letter from someone with the Miami Herald on the Opinion page of Tuesday July 5<sup>th</sup> edition.

Had the author of the article had their facts straight it wouldn't have seemed so insulting to me as a U.S. Postal Worker.

First, the Postal Service is not asking for a "bail out" as implied. They are merely attempting to get Congress to free up the money that has already been paid to the Federal Government through the sale of stamps and products to pay for the debt created in 2006 by Congress requiring the Postal Service to prefund retiree health care. Mr. Garvin considers this a "sweetheart deal" as I'm sure he also considers any middle class job "overpaid".

Mr. Garvin implies that the Postal Service is attempting to add \$75 billion to the Federal deficit. At least two agencies have stated that the USPS has over funded their obligation to the retirees fund for both Civil Service and FERS. The question should be: What did Congress do with the 75 billion dollars? No President wants to see the deficit rise, nor does any politician who is attempting to get re-elected. This money has been paid in over decades under different administrations. Once again it was not paid by "taxpayer dollars" as every Postal Service bashing columnist implies.

Everyone likes to harp on the 80% of the USPS cost are labor. I have yet to see anyone say that this 80% includes Postal Executives, the Board of Governors and the Postal Regulatory Commission. The 80% is always implied to mean the employees who wait on you at the counter or deliver your mail to your house. Postmaster Jack Potter received a 5.5 million dollar retirement package when he retired, I wonder what percent that represents.

Mr. Garvin states that President William Burrus negotiated the new contract between the USPS and the APWU. William Burrus announced his retirement on September 30, 2009, telling the membership that he would retire in November 2010. A new President of the Union was elected on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. If Mr. Garvin had completed any research, he would have discovered that former President Burrus was quite upset over the contract that was negotiated because in his words "it turned back the hands of time", with what he felt were too many concessions.

Mr. Garvin highlights that APWU represented employees will receive a 3.5% pay raise. He forgot to mention that's over the life of the 4 ½ year contract. He also failed to mention that APWU represented employees last pay raise was in November 2009 and the first pay raise under the new agreement is not until November 2012.

He also highlights the "No lay off clause" which has been in the contract since I first became employed with the Postal Service over 20 years ago. It was one of the main factors in my decision. "Security".

Also mentioned are the 7 COLA over the life of the agreement. This implies that they are guaranteed. This is true, provided the Consumer Price Index indicates that our cost of living increases. If there is no increase in the CPI, then there is no COLA.

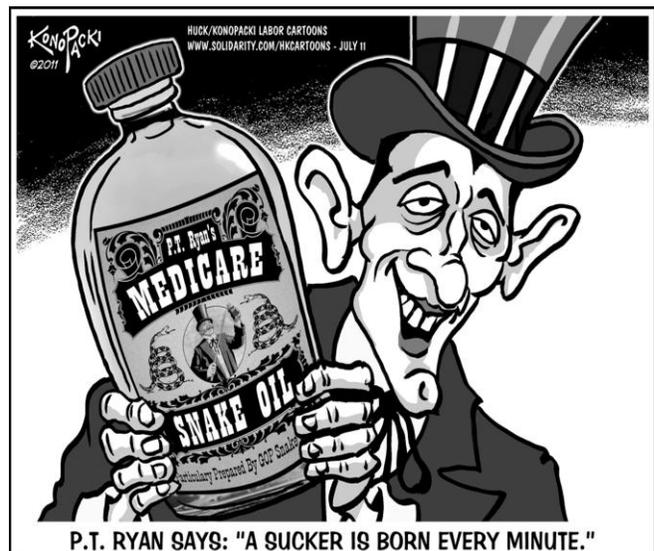
Mr. Garvin points out that the USPS lost \$20 billion between 2007 to 2010. Let's see. The Postal Accountability Act of 2006 mandated a 5.5 billion dollar payment at the beginning of each year to the Treasury Department. First payment in 2007 plus 4 years. That comes to 22 billion dollars paid to the Government during one of the worst economic times this country has seen in many decades. Had it not been for the mandated payment, the USPS would have made a profit during that period. What other industry can state that, other than Banking, Oil and Insurance companies.

The U.S. Postal Service is the cornerstone of a mailing industry that represents more than a trillion dollars to our nations' economy. The Postal System in this country works. You can't compare it to other world postal systems because of the geographical size of our country. Look at the postage rate overseas in countries smaller than many of our own states. Let's stop tearing apart one of the best institutions this country has by listening to half truths.

I think Mr. Garvin needs to seek employment with the U.S. Postal Service because he doesn't seem to be getting the "sweetheart deal" from his current employer.

Mark Cunningham – President  
Mississippi Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

*(Originally submitted as Letter to the Editor to the Sun Herald, published here by permission of the author)*



# Response to "Post office Suspend Retirement Contributions"

The Postal Service has overpaid the Civil Service Retirement System by \$75 billion, and the Federal Employees Retirement System by \$6.9 billion. That's a surplus of approximately \$82 billion dollars.

The Postal Service has incurred a debt which is caused mainly by a requirement that the Postal Service pre-fund 100% of future retirees health benefits, currently about \$5.5 billion per year. This is something no other business or federal agency is required to do.

There is a bill in Congress, H.R. 1351, which would allow the Postal Service to use the surplus it has paid into the retirement funds to pay for future health care benefits of retirees.

Passage of H.R. 1351 would go a long way towards putting the Postal Service back in the black and it wouldn't cost the taxpayers a single dime. The Postal Service does not receive any taxpayer monies, and it is not asking for any bailout.

Every resident of the United States receives mail 6 days a week absolutely free of charge. Every citizen that wants to keep this service should contact their representatives in Congress and ask that they support H.R. 1351.

Tim Eaton, Hattiesburg, MS

---

## Top Flight Summer Edition 2011

*AMP, from P5*

In the Summary Briefs, under the topic First-Class Mail Service Standard Changes, the Postal Service says a combined total of 8 First-Class 3-Digit pairs will be downgraded from Overnight to 2-day, consisting of 6.8% of the total First-Class Mail volume.

The statement makes it appear the Postal Service offers service to First Class Letters and only 6.8% of First Class letters would be affected; when in practice, the Postal Service offers service to people, to customers, and 100% of them will be affected.

The Postal Service should measure service based on how many customers would be affected when they reduce these standards. For instance, even though there is an AMP in Hattiesburg, and the Postal Service is following the letter of the law in telling Hattiesburg customers about it, how many postal customers in Jackson distribution area know that it affects them too?

So that's what an AMP is. As you can see it's mostly a lot of baseless projections about imaginary savings that will, if it follows the usual trend, ultimately result in customers, postal workers, and even the Postal Service itself incurring costly losses. Customers lose service, postal workers lose stability in their work lives, and the Postal Service loses more revenue as underserved customers migrate to other services.

Tim Eaton, Editor, Top Flight

TOP FLIGHT  
9 Saint Charles Ave  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

**Mississippi Postal Workers  
Union**

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
HATTIESBURG MS  
PERMIT NO. 104

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

