

Top Flight

Fall Edition

October 2012

An Important Message From Your Union

Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan will kill the U. S. Postal Service

Mitt Romney and the GOP Want to Privatize the Post Office.

Mitt Romney says, "The federal government isn't the answer for running the post office." The 2012 Republican platform says the postal service is "mail delivery from the era of the Pony Express," that downsizing is "inevitable" and that "Congress should explore a greater role for private enterprise." (*Politico*, 3/5/11; 2012 Republican Platform, www.gop.com, accessed 9/14/12)

He wants to strip us of our ability to organize together and fight for our jobs, our wages and our retirement benefits, saying he will "stand up to the tyrannosaurus appetite of government unions". (*Politico*, 3/5/11; *AP*, 9/8/12)

Ryan Budget Would Cut Our Fringe Benefits.

Under the Romney-Ryan plan, federal and postal employees would have to pay 5% more in contributions for our pensions, effectively cutting our pay by 5%. (*The Boston Globe*, 5/12/11; *Congressional Budget Office*, 3/29/12; *APWU News*, 5/11/12)

Barack Obama will fight for the U. S. Postal Service

"We want to build an economy that lasts and that's why we're pushing back against the assault on unions, because the values you stand for, hard work, responsibility, looking out for one another, aren't just union values. They're American values. That's why we're fighting to make sure that the United States Postal Service keeps delivering for the American People". (*Barack Obama to APWU 21st Biennial Convention*, 8/23/12)

Pictures from State Convention



President MarkCunningham and Secretary-Treasurer Pat Lampley giving reports to the delegates.

If a man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar.

Abraham Lincoln

MPWU

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State Officers
2011-2013

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The crew at the Parade of States at the National Convention in Los Angeles



District Directors Doris Smith, Edward Rice, and Jerry Moore giving reports to the delegates.

VER and Incentives Offered

The Postal Service is offering a Voluntary Early Retirement program and everybody who qualifies for this program should have received a packet by now. There is some confusion within the ranks of people who are already eligible for Optional Retirement as to why they are not receiving the packet too.

The packets for those who are eligible for normal optional retirement are being sent out a little later than for those that qualify for early retirement.

The other program the Postal Service is offering, besides the Voluntary Early Retirement, is the \$15,000 incentive.

You can read all the details on Lite Blue or APWU.org, but basically the incentive applies to anyone taking the Voluntary Early Retirement, anyone taking the Optional Voluntary Retirement, and anyone that simply quits.

The categories that will be paid the incentive are people who retire normally, people who retire early, and people who quit.

Check the cited web pages for details.



Our NBA's Jerry McIlvain and Billy Woods during Q & A



Your delegates working hard at the Convention in Los Angeles.

The United States Postal Service delivers more mail to more addresses in a larger geographical area than any other post in the world. The Postal Service delivers to more than 151 million homes, businesses and Post Office boxes in every state, city, town and borough in this country. Everyone living in the U.S. and its territories has access to postal products and services and pays the same postage regardless of their location.

66 billion — revenue in 2011, in dollars
 167.9 billion — number of mail pieces processed in 2011
 31,509 — number of Postal Service-managed retail offices
 1.2 million — number of people who visited usps.com each day
 236 million — dollar amount of online stamp and retail sales at usps.com in 2011
 467 million — total revenue, in dollars, from Click-N-Ship label purchases in 2011
 543 million — amount in revenue from 2,500 Automated Postal Centers

0 — TAX DOLLARS RECEIVED FOR OPERATING THE POSTAL SERVICE

If it were a private sector company, the U.S. Postal Service would rank 35th in the 2011 Fortune 500

Again: •The Postal Service receives NO tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. We are required by law to cover our costs.

•The Postal Service has the world's largest retail network — larger than McDonald's, Walmart and Starbucks combined (in U.S.).

•The Postal Service can and does compete with the private sector — and it collaborates, too. UPS and FedEx pay the Postal Service to deliver more than 400 million of their ground packages to residences and the Postal Service pays them for air transportation — taking advantage of their comprehensive air network.

•The Postal Service is the only organization in the country that has the manpower, network infrastructure and logistical capability to deliver to every residence and business in the U.S. and its territories.

•An independent assessment by Oxford Strategic Consulting named the U.S. Postal Service the best postal service among the 20 largest economies in the world. Criteria included the average number of citizens served, the number of letters and parcels delivered, service reliability and public trust.

•The Postal Service has the world's largest civilian fleet and the world's largest alternative fuel-enabled fleet of vehicles.

•The Postal Service delivered 168 billion pieces of mail in 2011 — facilitating \$10 trillion in commerce.

If you miss the way it used to be - then tax a millionaire, support a union, and buy American.

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.

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On Facebook
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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!**

Life in a Right to Work State....

If you are a Union member that wants to vote for candidates that support unions, forget it in Mississippi. None of the representatives, which are all Republican with the exception of Bennie Thompson, are being challenged by candidates that stand for Union principles and have even a remote chance of being elected.

MS has a record of sending incumbents back to Congress until they either die or are caught in some unethical behavior, at which point they simply resign and become high paid lobbyists.

Consider this when thinking about labor issues: Mississippi does not have a state law designating a minimum wage, and we don't have a department of Labor. When asked about the lack of a labor department, Barbour said we didn't need one. Yea, of course MS is on the bottom when it comes to per capita income and MS is a right-to-be-fired-for-any-reason state, but we don't need a labor department.

The delegates at the national convention voted unanimously to endorse Obama. This doesn't mean you have to vote for Obama; you can vote anyway you want to. Statistics have come out which say 40% of union members will vote republican. The simple truth is that if we had a democratic majority in Congress, the Postal Service would not be consolidating offices and closing Post Offices and hundreds of thousands of jobs, maybe even yours, would not be in jeopardy.

Obama is not a genie offering unions three wishes, but he is at least saying unions have a place at the table. On the other hand, Romney is saying the opposite; that unions have no place in today's society.

Think about that when you cast your vote.

To get a sample ballot go to:
<http://www.sos.ms.gov/links/elections/home/tab1/GE12%20Sample%20Ballot%209%2012%2012.pdf>

COPA, stands for Committee On Political Action

The purpose of COPA funds is to help support political candidates at all levels of government get elected or re-elected.

The American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO collects contributions from APWU members throughout the year. Our National President has also in the past established goals for each Local based on the number of members in the Local.

The goal established for the Mississippi is close to \$10,000.00

Reasons to contribute

Your job

Contrary to popular belief, Congress controls our destiny.

Before Congress established the U.S. Postal Service we were a department of the Federal Government, with disputes resolved by the President in whatever manner he chooses. Postal Managers were political appointees from the Postmaster General on down. Congress, not the USPS established wages for employees.

Congress still regulates the Postal Service even though we are supposed to be a self-sustaining entity. The laws created over the years still dictate how the Postal Service is to provide "Universal service at an affordable price."

Think of it this way, would you still work for the Postal Service if you had no

Annual Leave

Sick Leave

No Lay-off

Lower Wages

No Seniority rights

There are some in Congress who want to help the USPS eliminate your benefits and job.

These are the things that your COPA contributions help protect. COPA dollars are provided to candidates and elected officials based on their voting record for Working Class People, regardless of occupation supported and ***regardless of party affiliation.***

We need voices in Congress as well as at local levels who support working families.

Voting record of our Senators

<http://aboutpolitics.com/politicians/Mississippi-MS>

Voting record of our Congressmen

District 1 – Alan Nunnelee

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/person.xpd?id=412442>

District 2 – Bennie Thompson

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/person.xpd?id=400402>

District 3 – Gregg Harper

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/person.xpd?id=412280>

District 4 – Steven Palazzo

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/votes.xpd?year=2012&person=412443>

Why not write a letter....

Delegates at the convention in Los Angeles endorsed a resolution calling on all locals, state organizations, retiree chapters, Auxiliary chapters and other affiliated organizations to write to the chairman of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors requesting the Board to instruct the Postmaster General to adhere to the APWU's 2010 Collective Bargaining Agreement and to work with the postal unions to save America's postal service.

Here is a sample letter that you can copy or use as a guide for a letter in your own words.

Dear Gov. Thurgood Marshall Jr:

As the Postal Service's financial crisis deepens, top executives of the USPS seem to be pursuing a strategy that is destined to fail. They are slashing service and dismantling one of the Postal Service's greatest assets, the network of mail processing centers and post offices. This will only harm the Postal Service. It will drive away customers, hurt the economy, weaken communities, and kill jobs.

At the same time, management is refusing to implement key provisions of the APWU's Collective Bargaining Agreement; provisions that would strengthen the USPS and that would benefit employees.

I urge you to instruct the Postmaster General to adhere to the APWU 2010 Collective Bargaining Agreement and work with postal unions, which represent hundreds of thousands of dedicated postal employees, to save America's postal service.

Thank you.

You can mail something like that to:

Mr. Thurgood Marshall Jr.
Chairman, USPS Board of Governors
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 10300
Washington, DC 20260

Thinking about retiring soon?

Let us know so we can list your name and thank you for your service in a future edition of Top Flight.

APWU Health Plan....
Open Season 11/12 – 12/10

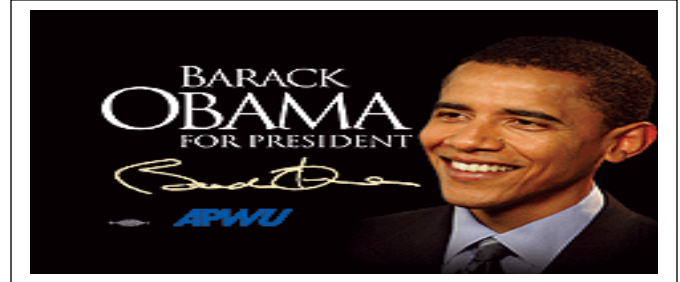
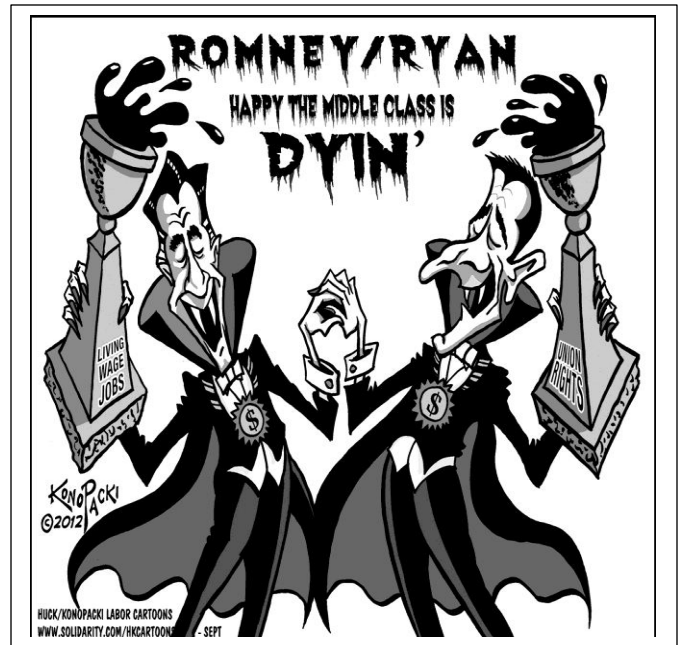
High Option Highlights

NEW Well Woman benefit
NEW Routine preventative exam every year
NEW Acupuncture benefit
FREE diabetes care
FREE Hypertension care
100% coverage for in-network preventative care.

Consumer Driven Option

NEW Well Woman Benefit
NEW Annual screening for colonoscopy and sigmoidoscopy
NEW Acupuncture benefit
FREE Diabetes care
FREE Tobacco Cessation Program
100% coverage for in-network preventative care
Healthy Back Program
Healthy Pregnancy Program

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