

SPRINGFIELD RIFLE

SPRINGFIELD, MA AREA LOCAL #497

MAY 2025

Ronda Wynn, Editor - Ronda497editor@gmail.com

Issue #2



**Alone, we
can do so
little;
together
we can do
so much.**

HELEN KELLER

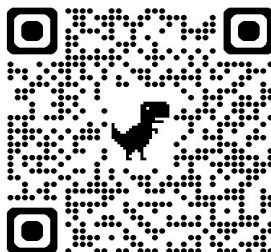
**WE ARE STRONGER WHEN WE ALL PULL TOGETHER. THERE'S STRENGTH IN
NUMBERS, SO GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE ←←**

OLD & NEW MEMEBERS COME JOIN US!!

APWU Local #497 membership meetings on each 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at

1124 Berkshire Avenue, Springfield, MA 01151 (413)543 -1199

OUR LOCAL #497 WEBSITE QR CODE



LOOK FOR ONLINE EDITION OF THE RIFLE

Day of Action Rally-U.S. Mail is Not for Sale!

On March 20, 2025 APWU Local 497 participated in the nationwide “Day of Action” rally at Main Street Station in downtown Springfield. Together, with Locals throughout the nation, the message was clear, “Hands off Our Public Postal Service-U.S. Mail is Not for Sale! “The recent actions towards our brothers and sisters in federal agencies and services can’t be dismissed. An administration that once praised us as essential workers, is now openly advocating to privatize -in whole or in part- the public Postal Service and our jobs. The American people deserve a Postal Service that remains true to its public mission and to serve communities across the country, no matter where they live. In an effort to preserve our livelihood and careers as U.S. Postal Service employees over 40 APWU members, relatives and concerned customers joined the informational rally. Regressive proposals that threaten our job security, retirement programs, workmen’s compensation rights, and the collective bargaining process are all benefits to potentially be attacked. As a long-time member and advocate for this Local I CAN NOT stress enough the importance in participating in rallies or events related to this existential threat. No contract provision or grievance can stop the catastrophic changes on the horizon without a fight from us. Our motives are universal service to the nation, fair rates, respectable wages and benefits- the opportunity to maintain a decent standard of living. Please stay informed by visiting APWU.ORG regularly. Please consider participating in future events. Ask not what the Union can do for you; ask what you can do for the Union!

In Solidarity,

Stu Kibbe, Executive Board member APWU Local #497



Day of Action- Stu Kibbe, as Elon Musk, making a statement.

In Solidarity

RONDA WYNN, EDITOR

We made the front page of The Republican! March 20, 2025 was an amazing, collaborative action with our Local 497. The talks of “postal privatization” are in full throttle and with such short notice to organize this crucial rally, we all pulled together. Many union members, the union president, vice president and the craft directors, volunteered their time to stand in solidarity. Jake Carroll, the Unions Legislative Director, contacted the public officials, the newspaper, and WWLP 22 News, to join us and cover the story, on this important protest. The U.S. Representative, Richard Neal, joined our local members and supporters at the Springfield, Main Street Station Post Office to rally against the potential plans to privatize the postal service. Our voices were heard but this is just the beginning of the fight we have before us. We all need to attend the future “Hands Off” rallies to support OUR future. These demonstrations are happening in cities around us and across the U. S. They are focused on many different issues including the potentially harmful changes to Social Security, Healthcare funding and research. In addition, the Department of Education which affected us already with the cuts in MA funding for K-12. Keep informed about upcoming events and continue to stand in solidarity!

The Republican. 200 YEARS OLD. BRAND NEW EVERY DAY. MASS LIVE. FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025. \$1.00. NEWS THE REPUBLICAN CO. | 11-00

“We are a service for the people, not a business for the billionaires.”

DAVE BOVACE, CRAFT DIRECTOR FOR THE AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION OF THE SPRINGFIELD AREA



SPRINGFIELD
USPS workers want to stamp out Trump, DOGE talk of privatization

By NINA SANDERS
ninasanders@republican.com

Another James has worked for the U.S. Postal Service for over two decades.

When she learned last week that Louis DeJoy, postmaster general, is working with the Department of Government Efficiency, the new federal agency that oversees government spending, on plans to cut jobs and shuffling from the USPS budget, “it was one of the worst days in USPS history,” she said. “It is horrifying,” she said. James, who works in the vehicle department, managing parts for delivery trucks, said, “I fear that I will lose my job.”

Her concern was a part of a larger issue: President Donald Trump has a plan to take control of the USPS, meaning the agency, which has been independent since 1970, would exist under the executive branch.

“We want to have a Post Office that works well and doesn’t lose massive amounts of money,” Trump told The Associated Press in February. “We’re thinking about doing that. And it’ll be a form of a merger, but it’ll remain the Postal Service, and I think it’ll operate a lot better.”

James was one of dozens of people who attended a protest in front of the USPS on Main Street in Springfield on Thursday, alongside many of her colleagues and management, all of whom are opposing Trump’s plan.

“What the Trump administration is doing is illegal and hostile,” said Dave Bovace, craft director for the American Postal Workers Union of the Springfield area, while standing in the back of a pickup truck outside of the post office.

James said one of her biggest worries is that a privatized postal service would mean people who rely on daily deliveries won’t have

Postal workers and their supporters gather Thursday at the Springfield Post Office on Liberty Street to protest plans to privatize the service.

USPS
CONTINUES FROM PAGE A1

access to their mail anymore.

“They could pick and choose who to deliver to. What about elderly people? What about rural residents? What will they do?” she said.

In a letter sent to DOGE, which is led in part by Elon Musk, DeJoy asked for the federal department’s help in addressing “big problems” at the \$76 billion-a-year agency, which has sometimes struggled in recent years to stay afloat. The agreement also includes the General Services Administration in an effort to help the Postal Service identify and achieve “further efficiencies.”

USPS delivers to 167 million addresses nationwide on a daily basis, said Bovace. Privatizing the postal service, which employs nearly half a million people nationwide, would not only eliminate jobs, but it also would mean that people would not get mail that they rely on, he said.

“We are a service for the people, not a business for the billionaires,” he said.

The USPS has historically hired with preference to veterans and minorities, losing the value of diversity in its workforce.

One of the protesters, Pat Reganelli, a longtime Springfield resident, said she is opposed to Trump’s plan to change things at USPS. A relative, she said, worked for the USPS for a long time.

“Elderly people and disabled people rely on USPS for their Social Security checks, their medications,” she said. “It’s a service that many are dependent on, especially in rural areas.” She agreed that privatization could end delivery in rural parts of the country.

Reganelli was standing next to a fellow protester, Karen Casavet, of Ludlow.

“I support the union. The USPS should stay a government service,” she said. “Everything

Morning Star Chambers, a supporter of union postal workers, chants while joining USPS workers and their supporters at the Springfield Post Office on Liberty Street to protest plans to privatize the service.

will be more expensive when the USPS is privatized, and there will be less congressional oversight.”

In the background, protesters walked up and down Liberty Street, holding their signs and chanting slogans like, “U.S. mail is not for sale.”

Mikolay though the protest, a man dressed as Musk, wearing a mask of the tech billionaire’s face and a black trench coat that Musk has been seen wearing in several photos, dragged a cardboard Cybertruck behind him and held a chain saw as he made his way to the front of the post office.

The man declined to give his name to the press, insisting that he was “Elon Musk” and was at the protest to battle supporters of the postal service with \$100 bills.

“Do you want a job?” he asked a reporter.

U.S. Rep. Richard E. Neal, D-Springfield, visited the protest, on foot. On the daily afternoon, he said, the postal service’s staff have “the confidence of the citizenry.”

Earlier this week, a U.S. postal worker reported a fire in Springfield’s Forest Park neighborhood while delivering mail.

“The (postal service) provides another set of eyes and ears in neighborhoods. You take care of the street out. They look forward to seeing you,” Neal said. “When they see you, they’re reminded of that security blanket that you’ve provided.”

Of the proposed plan to privatize, Neal said, “This is an offense to the American people.”

“There is no rhyme or reason to threaten to privatize one of America’s most essential and popular services, the United States Postal Service,” he said.

Material from The Associated Press was used in this report.

"HANDS OFF!" OUR PUBLIC POSTAL SERVICE!

The Republican Newspaper ran a full-page story from our **HANDS OFF!** Day in Action



Dennis Langrin, Reggie Bouchard and Jake Carroll taking action!

US Rep. Neal joined the "front line".



The public stood alongside APWU Union members and showed their support.



"HANDS OFF!" OUR PUBLIC POSTAL SERVICE!



DAVE BOGACZ, Clerk Craft Director, on the microphone getting the supporters "hyped up" for our **"DAY IN ACTION RALLY"**.



US Rep. Neal joined the "front line".



JAKE CAROLL, Legislative Director, rallying with our supportive, **Jesse Lederman**, Regional Director, Office of US Senator **Edward J. Markey**, at the rally.

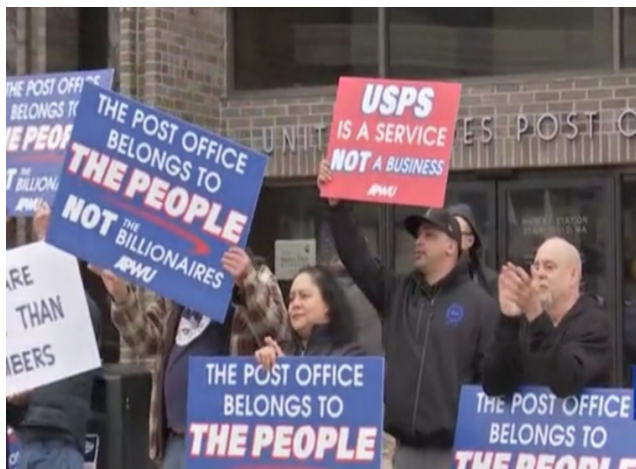
Union members standing in unity



"HANDS OFF!" OUR PUBLIC POSTAL SERVICE!



Stu Kibbe (Elon Musk), along with U.S Representative Richard Neal, supporting OUR fight not to privatize.



Jay & Enid Rivera, along with her father, a retired postal employee, Rafael Irizarry, rallying with Union member

WESTERN MA LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST, MARCH 14, 2025

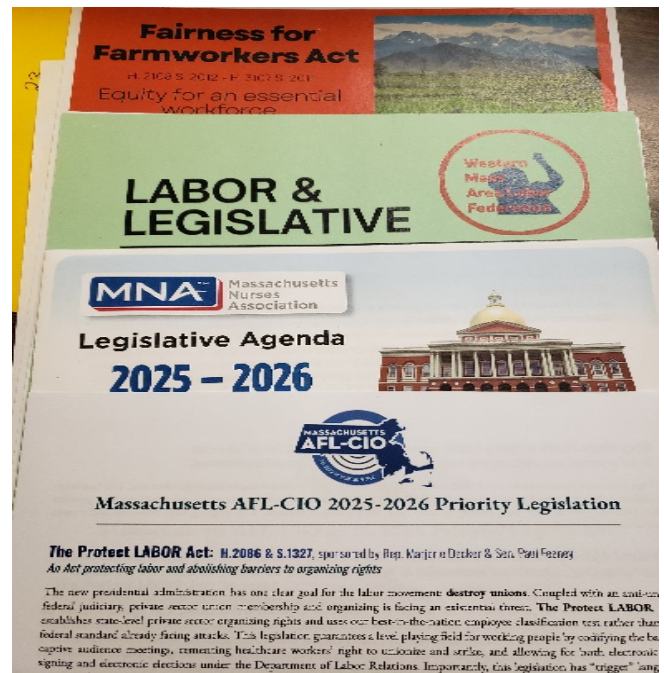
The Western MA Legislative Breakfast is an event that brings together lawmakers, workers, and organized labor leaders to discuss labor priorities for the new term. This year it took place on March 14, 2025 at the MGM Springfield. Our local union officers, stewards, and members attended the breakfast and heard enthusiastic speakers address their local concerns. As we have all heard, the new presidential administration has one clear goal for the labor movement and that is to destroy unions. The workers rely on unions to advocate for their rights, negotiate fair wages, and provide union representation between workers and management. Check out the MA AFL-CIO website, [**www.massaficio.org**](http://www.massaficio.org) for important information.



BACK ROW: Dave Bogacz (Clerk Craft Director), Jay Rivera (Safety & Health Rep) , Carol Ciccarelli (Treasurer), Diana Kirkland (member)

FRONT ROW: Nancy Kenyon (Research & Education), Enid Rivera (Maintenance Craft Director) Charlin Morin (Vice-President), Sarah King (Clerk Steward)

WESTERN MA LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST, MARCH 14, 2025



KEEP INFORMED!!

The latest Union news ...

Keep updated online at apwu.org

by Ronda Wynn, Editor



The Postal Service is facing some difficult times with the potential plans of taking away OUR service

and making it private. This threat of destroying the independence of the Postal Service and moving it under the Commerce Department is an illegal, hostile attack. We are a public service that belong to the people. This is a crucial time for the APWU and our community to fight back! We need everyone's voice heard! "Defend Our Public Postal Service!" Keep spreading the news to your family, friends and neighbors to get involved.

We need to fight for our jobs. We need to fight for our Service! Most importantly, we need to fight for our future!

The new Postmaster General, Dave Steiner, who is expected to take office in July, stated on May 9, 2025, "I deeply admire the public service and business mission of this amazing institution, and I believe strongly in maintaining its role as an independent establishment of the executive branch...I look forward to engaging with the unions and management associations to ensure that together we create a world-class employment experience."

We are hoping that Dave Steiner follows through with his beliefs!!



There are no problems,
only challenges
and solutions.

– Anurag Mishra (AMsir)

A few words from the Maintenance Craft Director, ENID RIVERA

Standing United to Protect the People's Postal Service

On March 20, 2025, postal workers, union members, family members, and community supporters gathered for a powerful rally to voice one unified message: the United States Postal Service (USPS) must remain a public institution, serving the people and not private interests. The energy was electric, and the turnout was a testament to the strength and solidarity of our cause.

The threat of privatization emerges large over the USPS. Privatizing the Postal Service would prioritize profits over people, leading to higher costs for customers, reduced access to essential services, and potential job losses for hardworking postal employees. This rally was our opportunity to send a clear message to lawmakers and the public: the USPS is not for sale. The rally was a resounding success. With signs held high and chants echoing through the street, representing the diverse workforce and communities that rely on the Postal Service. We had speakers from the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), who talked about the years of dedication and hard work to the USPS.

Jesse L. Lederman Regional Director, Office of US Senator Edward J. Markey, came out to support the Postal Service. He talked about the privatization of the postal service and how it would affect our communities. He stood with the Postal Service and agreed the postal service is not for sale.

One of the most moving moments came when longtime postal supporter Congressman Richard Neal stated, **"Stay with it! I intend to stay with you on this! There is no rhyme or reason to threaten to privatize one of Americans most essential and popular services, the United States Postal Service!"** His words reminded us all why we fight so hard to protect this institution: the Postal Service is a lifeline, not just a business.

The rally also showcased the unity and determination of postal workers. Despite differences in roles, backgrounds, and experiences, we came together with one voice, proving that our collective strength is greater than any challenge we face. This demonstration of unity is a crucial reminder of what can be achieved when we stand together. As the fight to protect the Postal Service continues, we must keep up the momentum. Stay informed, stay engaged, and continue to advocate for the USPS. Together, we can ensure that the Postal Service remains a public service for generations to come.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the rally. Your dedication and passion are what makes our union strong and our cause just. Let's keep moving forward-united, resilient, and unwavering in our commitment to protecting the USPS.

In solidarity, **Enid Rivera, Maintenance Craft Director**

The latest news on Safety and Health

by Jay Rivera, Safety and Health Representative, Tour 2, 700am-330pm

APWU Safety and Health: Overcoming Challenges with Management

Safety in the workplace is not just a priority – it's a necessity. As employees for the United States Postal Service, we hold a shared responsibility to ensure that every employee works in a safe environment. However, trying to do this often comes with struggles, especially when management is slow to address or abate safety concerns. I have been on the workroom floor, and I hear employees talk about how they filed a 1767 but they have heard nothing about it. It is important when Reporting these Safety Issues: **1. Report Immediately:** Notify a supervisor as soon as you identify a safety hazard. **2. File a Form 1767:** Complete a PS Form 1767, Report of Hazard, Unsafe Condition or Practice. The directions are on the back of the form. Please read and follow the instructions. Management is required to follow the instructions as well. But inform yourselves with the procedure. **3. Keep a Copy:** Always keep a copy of the completed Form 1767 for your records. **4. Follow Up:** Once submitted, your supervisor is required to respond to the issue. If the response is inadequate or delayed, escalate the matter to me. After submitting Form 1767 ensure accountability. The supervisor must forward the form to the manager for review and action. The form should also be routed to the Safety Committee. Check the order books to confirm that your 1767 has been included in the process. If you do not see your safety issue in the order book, ask your supervisor for an update. When management fails to act: Contact your Safety and Health representative. Reach out to me, Jay Rivera. I am a Building and Equipment Mechanic in the Maintenance Department on Tour 2 (0700-1550). I am here to advocate for you and ensure that your concerns are addressed. If you see me on the workroom floor, don't hesitate to approach me with any safety issues or questions. Also, utilize the Union Mailbox outside of the union office. You can drop off your FORM 1767 along with your contact information. Make sure to include a copy of the fully completed 1767 for reference. Safety is everyone's responsibility. Each of us plays a role in finding hazards, reporting issues, and holding management accountable. As your APWU safety and health representative, I am committed to taking every measure necessary to uphold our collective safety.



**THIS IS WHAT THE USPS PS FORM 1767:
REPORT OF HAZARD, UNSAFE CONDITION OR
PRACTICE LOOKS LIKE. IT SHOULD BE
AVAILABLE IN ALL OFFICES.**

**THE DIRECTIONS ARE ON THE BACK SIDE OF
FORM. PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS
ACCORDINGLY.**



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Report of Hazard, Unsafe Condition or Practice

PS Form 1767, (March 2007) PSN 7530-01-000-9001

I. EMPLOYEE'S ACTION
Complete this section.

Describe the unsafe condition or practice, how it could be corrected, and any other information you wish to provide.

Employee Name (Print Last, First, Middle Initial) _____ Date _____

II. SUPERVISOR'S ACTION
Recommendations, actions taken, or other information to be provided to the approving official for review and action.

Supervisor Name (Print Last, First, Middle Initial) _____ Date _____

III. APPROVING OFFICIAL'S ACTION (Check One and Complete)

The following information was submitted and the approving official has reviewed the report and taken appropriate action. The approving official has taken the following action:

☐ A written report was submitted to the approving official and the report was forwarded to the appropriate authority for review and action.

☐ There are no reasonable grounds to believe that a hazard exists. The report is being closed.

Approving Official Name (Print Last, First, Middle Initial) _____ Date _____

IV. MAINTENANCE ACTION (Complete if Necessary)

Maintenance Supervisor Name (Print Last, First, Middle Initial) _____ Date _____

PS Form 1767, (March 2007) PSN 7530-01-000-9001

THESE SIMPLE SAFETY RULES **FORKLIFT SAFETY** MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE!



- Wear proper protective equipment as needed.
- Keep hands and arms inside the lift truck.
- Adjust the forks to the width of the load for security.
- Make sure the load is stable before you move it.
- Obey posted speed limit and aisle markings.
- No horseplay! - Operate lifts in a responsible manner.
- Do not let anyone ride on the forks - ever.
- Sound your horn and proceed with caution at doorways.
- Be alert for other trucks and low overhead clearance.
- Start, stop & travel with no jerky movement.

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A few words from “All Areas”, AO Steward, Andy Mayo...

Understanding Your Rights in the Workplace

My name is **Andy Mayo**. Some of you might remember me from my 14 years in maintenance at the big house, also known as the BMC/NDC. Six years ago, I took a downgrade from my role as an electronic technician to become a building maintenance custodian at the Agawam Post Office. Since Agawam is my hometown and the job offered daytime hours with weekends off, I jumped at the opportunity. Once I arrived in Agawam, I noticed how different it is from the BMC/NDC. The contrasts are difficult to describe, and unless you’ve worked in both places, it’s hard to fully grasp. However, one thing hasn’t changed: management continues to exploit workers while disregarding the contractual agreements.

Shortly after starting in Agawam, I observed supervisors and the postmaster performing work designated for bargaining unit members. Even though sorting and distributing is clerk work and I wasn’t directly affected, I felt compelled to address the situation. I reported my observations to the local union president. It was surprising that the clerks didn’t seem concerned; they accepted management’s help even after a recent reduction in a clerk position. After contacting the president, I became the clerk steward for the Agawam office and quickly put a stop to these violations. I now also serve as the maintenance steward for all area offices and maintenance techs.

During my time as a steward in Agawam, I have witnessed many supervisors and postmasters come and go. With each new manager, the same contract violations appear. When confronted, they typically respond with statements like, "I didn’t know that was against the contract," or "That’s how we did it at my last office." This raises questions about whether employees at area offices understand their rights or if they choose to stay quiet. Hopefully, it’s the latter, as allowing management to violate the contract undermines our collective strength. Our contract rights are like muscles; if we don’t use them, they will weaken and disappear.

Upon learning that an issue of the Rifle was being prepared, I requested an opportunity to write an article addressing common contractual violations I observe frequently. While some rights may seem obvious to some, many local members are unaware of the rights and benefits available to them, particularly in the area offices. I hope this article serves to educate them about some of their contractual entitlements.

CLERKS

If you observe management performing bargaining unit work, request a steward immediately. Document the specific work they were doing and their duration. This work belongs to you. Remember, it is not your responsibility to ensure the mail is up by distribution up time; that duty lies on management.

Management is prohibited from requiring you to work more than 12 hours in a day, regardless of lunch and/or splits durations. For instance, if you start at 4 AM, you cannot be scheduled beyond 4 PM. If you reach the 12-hour limit or 60 hours in a week, you should be sent home immediately. If you exceed these limits, request a steward and file a grievance.

For offices with Non-Traditional full-time employees (NTFT) in them, management cannot require you to work outside your assigned bid hours unless you're on the overtime desired list or it qualifies as an emergency. According to our contract, an emergency is defined as something that is unforeseen. Anything they knew about beforehand does not qualify as an emergency. Staffing issues are not emergencies either. I think we can agree that a company the size of USPS should be able to manage with one or two callouts and it's not an emergency. This applies to regular clerks as well as NTFT clerks in the office. If you work outside your scheduled hours as an NTFT, ensure you receive either out-of-schedule premium pay or are in overtime status.

PSEs have limited contractual rights, but one important right is that you must be offered at least one non-scheduled day each week. You should be informed of this day by Wednesday of the prior service week, and it cannot be changed after that Wednesday.

CUSTODIANS

In our area offices, we are often our own worst enemies. Many custodians ask why they do not receive line H payments like those at the plant. A significant factor is our failure to document all additional work we do that is not recorded on our PS-4852 forms. Unlike the BMC/NDC, we don't have electronic systems for keeping records. Our daily assignment sheets are completed using paper and pen. Any work you do that is not on your office's 4852 must be noted on your PS-4776 daily assignment sheet so it can be accounted for in line H hours. This includes tasks such as cleaning up spills, changing locks, replacing bulbs, planting flowers, and more. If you are uncertain whether a task should be recorded, document it anyways, and we will sort it out later during line H time.

These examples represent just a fraction of the contract violations that are occurring in our area offices. If you believe management is not adhering to the contract, request a steward. It is management's obligation to provide you with a steward and you should not have to independently find one for yourself. For general questions, do not hesitate to contact the local union office. If they cannot provide the answer, they will connect you with someone who can.

Exercise your rights! Do not allow them to shrivel up and fade away!

15th Annual New England States Convention

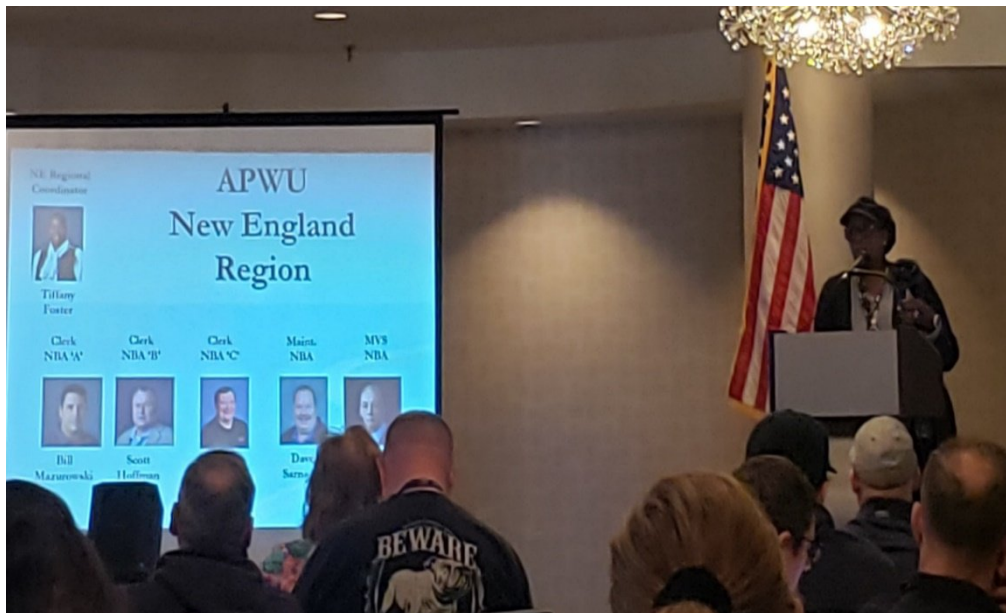
Portsmouth NH, April 11- April 13, 2025

By Ronda Wynn, Editor

APWU Local #497 Officers and Delegates attended this weekend convention in NH. It was a weekend of substantial information with the National Officers kicking it off with their speeches and keeping us informed of the upcoming changes.

President Mark Dimonstein was enthusiastic and talked about our local contract negotiations. As he reminded us, the expiration of our contract was September 20, 2024. As he articulated, negotiations are never easy and never will be. He specified “due to NLRC and the election, slowed down our contract negotiations. But we are still in negotiations for the APWU and USPS agreement.” Most importantly, he passionately voiced how “Our power comes from our Union.” President Dimonstein also was adamant about getting the word out! He stated, “this is not the end. This is just the beginning. We have to fight our fight in the streets! We have work to do APWU family!” He quoted a Canadian Clergyman, Thomas Douglas from February, 1986, “Courage, my friends; ’tis not too late to build a better world.”





Tiffany Foster, NE Regional Coordinator, opened up the convention. She confirmed that there seems to be a rise of hostility and harassment at the postal workplace. In regards to Publication 552, request from management a Harassment Inquiry Form. Also, ask if the one conducting the 552

interviews is trained. Most importantly, request the results of the 552 in writing. You are entitled to this report. Also, she wants the local branches to establish a POWER committee (Post Office Women for Equal Rights.) The committee aims to encourage women's participation in the union, promote affirmative action, support women in leadership roles, and improve the working environment for women.

Thank you Tiffany for all your insight and your continued fight for a better workplace! We appreciate you!



Debby Szeredy, APWU Executive Vice President handed out a powerpoint booklet with the topic to "Mobilize Power for the Privatization Fight". She discussed how important it is to get people involved, including your families and neighbors. She suggested going to a Town Hall meeting and make constant contact with Representatives and Congress. She gave a list of "Actions" we could take. Some of these actions included reaching out to a radio station, podcasts and the newspapers along with press releases, creating phone banks, more protests, flyers, and circulate petitions to stop privatization. She addressed S.M.A.R.T. Tools for Strategizing. **Specific Measurable Assignable**

Realistic Time-Based. SMART goals to ensure success! It was a very informative presentation!

From left to right: Tiffany Foster, Nancy Kenyon (Local #497 Research and Education Director), Ronda Wynn (Local #497 Editor), Debby Szeredy, (APWU Executive Vice President), and Enid Rivera, (Local #497 Maintenance Craft Directo



Scott Hoffman, Clerk NBA “B” stated firmly that, “We are in troubling times. We are a union and we need to push the procedure! We need to stick to time limits and push



our business! We have our agenda and Management has theirs. We are in tough times! We better be tough!”

Mike Foster, Director, MVS Division discussed the upcoming changes that will be happening in MVS. He stated, “We have a lot of challenges ahead of us and do not know what the future holds. Obstacles in front of us as Union officers and Union members. Contact Congress members and continue to fight for our cause.”

Dave Sarnacki, Maintenance NBA NE Region, spoke on numerous topics. He also spoke on hostile work environments in New England, stating things are “out of control. We need to educate ourselves with Zero Tolerance Policy, Hostile Work Environment



with Publication 552 and the ELM 665.24.” He touched on how the arbitrations are doing well in Maintenance. He articulated that Steward’s continue to do a great job on putting together cases. Dave also highlighted on the Local Negotiations which falls under Article 30-LMOU. He gave important points on how to get the negotiations started-PUT IT IN WRITING to the Plant Manager/Postmaster. Negotiate-Final proposal is what counts! Meet and bargain. Most importantly, Dave stated to make sure you set rules on who speaks, make a sub-committee, make provisions, caucus outside meeting room to discuss what is being negotiated, and ALWAYS take notes!

Dave also did a slide presentation on the Eagle Clean Program and explained in detail how this program works. He presented it along with Jason Treier, Assistant department.Maintenance Director “B”, and Terry

Martinez, Assistant Maintenance Director “A”. He stated the Eagle Clean is no longer a pilot program. TL-5, EMARS offices will NOT be getting scanners, known as MDD-Mobile Delivery Device.

Moreover, TL-3 offices should NOT be transitioned to TL-5 with this new program. Dave also complimented the stewards for “doing a great job putting together case.”

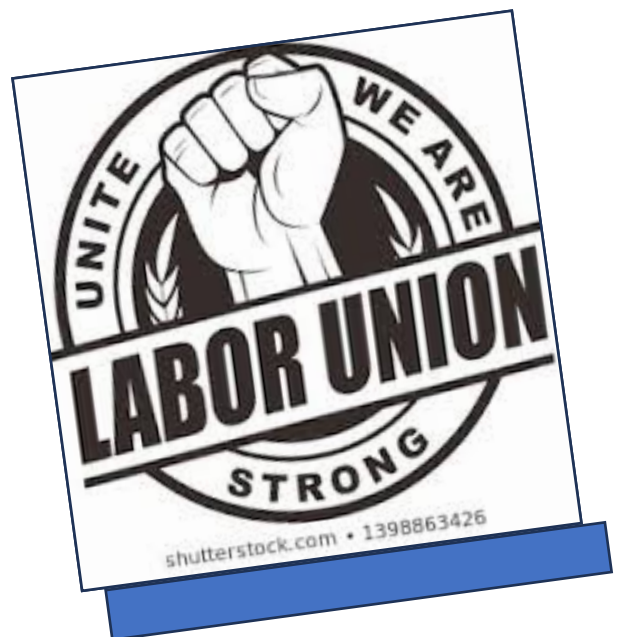
I would like to give a shout out and Thank You Dave for your availability and your continued support in our Maintenance!!!

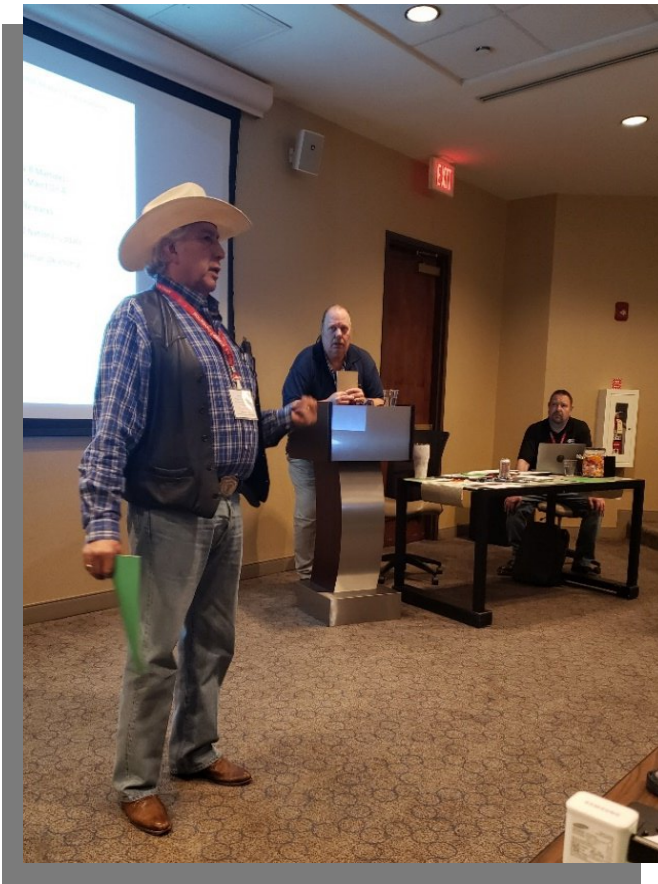
HAPPY RETIREMENT PETE MOORAD←

At the NH Convention, Ed Rowell, President of the APWU Local #497, presented Pete a plaque from the membership. This recognition was for Pete’s countless years of dedication to the Union. Thank you Pete for 42 years, to be exact, for all your contributions to the APWU. Your long-term dedication and hard work, over the years, has not gone unnoticed. The positive impact and positive influence you have had on the membership, over the last four decades, is much appreciated! You have left a lasting legacy here at the 497! Enjoy every moment of this well-deserved retirement.

In solidarity, Local #497







New Hampshire Convention attendees

Left to right: Mario Colucci, Nancy Kenyon, Ed Rowell, Pete Moorad, Enid Rivera, Ronda Wynn, Dave Bogacz



Dave Bogacz won at the COPA raffle!!!!

MAY 2025

SPRINGFIELD RIFLE

ISSUE #2



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SERVICE AND SACRIFICES YOU HAVE MADE FOR OUR SAFETY AND FREEDOM.



CREDIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE – BUYING BACK MILITARY TIME

Why should you consider buying back your military time? Making military service payments could increase the amount of your annuity and could add credit to your eligibility for retirement. More information can be found on the APWU website listed below.

<https://apwu.org/veterans-resources-0>



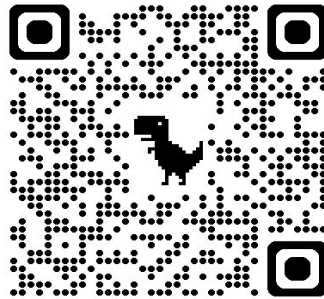
“A life that touches others goes on forever.”



**THIS PAGE IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY TO ALL OUR
BROTHERS AND SISTERS
AND FAMILY MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED AWAY.**



Our APWU Local #497 website can be accessed by this QR code and/or typing, ***apwusal.org***, in the *URL*, which is address bar at TOP of page, NOT Google search.



CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE! OUR WEBMASTER, DAMIAN HEROUX, GAVE IT A WHOLE NEW LOOK!

Note from the Editor:

This Rifle will be an online issue due to time constraints. I would love to hear from our members. Please feel free to submit any input and/or articles for our Rifle. Feel free to drop any material at the Union office or email me at [***Ronda497editor@gmail.com***](mailto:Ronda497editor@gmail.com). I will review them to reassure they follow the press guidelines. I would like to thank you all for your patience in this process.



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