

INSIDE
Award-winning
entries & conference
photos!

2017 PPA awards presented



— photo by Lance Coles

Proudly displaying PPA awards after the awards banquet at the 2017 Biennial Conference of the APWU National Postal Press Association in Altoona, Iowa are (seated left to right) Nora Taggart, associate editor, *The Union Mail*, New York, NY; Diane North, editor, *Florida Postal Worker*, Davie, FL (representing Martha Shunn-King); Florence Summergrad, editor, *The Union Mail*, New York, NY; Phillip Breunig, editor, *Tour's End*, Gainesville, Florida; Cindy Housh, editor, *DMI News & Views*, Des Moines, Iowa (representing Brian Brommel & Sara Cart); Bonnie Sevre, editor, *News & Views*, St. Anthony, MN; Louise Balog, editor, *The Newsroom*, Mentor, OH; (standing from left to right) John Miceli, editor, *The Hi-Lites*, Milwaukee, WI; John Greathouse, editor, *The Pacer*, Lansing, MI; PPA President Tony Carobine; APWU President Mark Dimondstein; Mike Bates, associate editor, *DMI News & Views*, Des Moines, IA; Bruce Clark, president, Iowa Postal Workers Union; Robert Dyer Jr., editor, *Evergreen State Postal Worker*, Mountlake Terrace, WA; Sarab Singh, editor, *Greater Seattle APWU News*, Seattle, WA; Jim Balog, contributing photographer, *The Newsroom*, Mentor, OH.

First place and honorable mention awards in 14 categories were presented on Saturday, August 5 during an awards banquet at the PPA biennial conference in Altoona, Iowa.

The Postal Press Association Awards Program was established 50 years ago at the 1967 PPA Conference in Cleveland. Originally called the Biennial Award of Merit Program, it was established for the purpose of

recognizing editors, and newsletter contributors for outstanding work in writing, editing, and publishing. The first awards were presented in 1968 in Minneapolis.

The judging procedure involved the chairperson of the awards committee organizing the entries according to the proper category and sending the entries to the other members of the Awards Committee. Committee

members independently reviewed and rated each entry using a point system. The results were tabulated by the chairperson to determine the top eight entries in each category. An outside judge then made the final selections from the finalists in each category.

Members of the Awards Committee included: Chairperson Jenny Gust, editor *Black Swamp Outrider* and *Ohio Postal Worker*, Toledo, Ohio;

Ray Holland, editor *The Alabama Flash*, Falkville, Alabama; Connie Sadler-Nelson, associate editor, *The Pulse*, Tucson, Arizona; Patricia Sartain, editor, *Newscaster*, Panorama City, California and Mike Reece, editor, *The Six-Bits*, Salt Lake City, Utah.

The outside judge was Mike Konopacki, cartoonist and labor activist.



— photos by Lance Coles

BEST EDITORIAL (*First Place*)**Please don't drink the Kool Aid**

By Shirley Jean Taylor,
National Business Agent
Unionizer
Walnut Creek, California

I live in the city of Oakland, California and a short distance from my home there is a cemetery. This cemetery is very special as it is the place where the victims of the Jonestown massacre are buried. They were followers of the infamous Reverend Jim Jones. He was the toast of the town. He was touted by politicians and all types of people in high places. His congregation was huge. They say he had charisma, but in fact he was a charlatan.

When questions started being asked about what was really happening within the church, Jones convinced a great number of his congregation to leave the United States for a new world in Guyana where they would grow their

own food and become self-sufficient without the malicious world intruding or questioning the manner in which he chose to treat his followers.

Some of the people who took the journey with Jones were highly educated and well-to-do individuals, while others were comfortable and middle class, but the majority of those who followed Jones were not. They were workers with low paying jobs and people who did not have much, but Jones convinced them that if they believed in him, they would prosper if they sacrificed and filled the coffers of the institution. They were seemingly mesmerized by this leader who promised them paradise. So they followed the Pied Piper.

When they got to this so-called promised land, things were very different than what they had been led to believe. Some escaped and reported what was really happening to the people in the jungle of Guyana. There were armed guards placed over the population. People attempted to extricate their children and relatives but were stopped. Rumors of abuse were rampant.

California Democratic Congressman Leo Ryan took a delegation to Guyana to investigate and to bring home anyone who wished to leave. Rather than have his kingdom threatened, Jones ordered the drink Kool Aid to be poisoned and he then ordered the parents to give all the children the poisoned drink. He then ordered his remaining followers to drink the Kool Aid.

Those who failed to obey were shot. Congressman Ryan was ambushed, shot, and killed along with some of the people who had come to assist him as he tried to bring some of the people out of the compound. It was a horrible and tragic event because in the end, those who believed in the false promises ended up drinking the poisoned Kool Aid.

Some might say I am engaging in hyperbole when I ask that **you do not drink the Kool Aid in the upcoming presidential election**, but there is simply no getting around the fact that Mr. Trump is a person who should not be allowed anywhere near the White House. As APWU Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Powell has stated: "Trump's blatant attempt to incite racial, ethnic, and religious divisions are offensive and dangerous."

Donald Trump purports to be a champion of working people, but is not sympathetic to an increase in the minimum wage and has said that "wages are too high". He stiff's the people who work for him and he has the lawsuits to prove it. He supposedly gives to charities, but the charities say it is not so.

He refuses to release his tax returns. (What is it he wants to hide?) Trump stands directly in our faces and tells outright lies and dares the public to call him out over the falsehoods. He insults our intelligence with impunity. He belittles the military and he admires dictators who "lead" better than the leader of the free world. Trump deals in malicious,

coded, routine, and strategic racism and sexism. He has made a deliberate decision to manipulate the racial and gender fears and hatreds of others for selfish ends in an attempt to divide and conquer.

I ask again that you not drink the Kool Aid in this presidential election! On the other hand, as indicated in the APWU News Bulletin, after the primaries President Dimondstein and Legislative/Political Director Judy Beard met with senior advisors to Hillary Clinton, who assured them the former Secretary of State is committed to championing a strong public Postal Service.

In addition, the Democratic Platform also advocates expanding postal services, including offering basic financial services. Hillary Clinton has the needed temperament to guide this great nation of ours, she cares for working people, and has worked throughout her career to take care of the needs of children. Secretary Clinton supports collective bargaining and a worker's right to join a union. She supports raising the minimum wage and she strongly supports voting rights.

During the week of August 22 to August 25, 2016, in Orlando, Florida, the delegates to the APWU National Convention, which is the union's highest governing body, voted to endorse

Hillary Clinton for president. I truly realize that who you choose to vote for is each member's personal and private business, but I fervently hope that you consider voting for your own best interest as a union worker in the upcoming election.

Consider what the working person's interests are up and down the ballot in this election. The next Supreme Court nominee(s) are more than ever going to be composed of individuals who will make or break it for workers, for the middle class, for the working poor, for the disabled, and for all the disenfranchised people of this nation. Your vote is important!

You are important! Your family is important! You are **SOMEBODY!** We are all worthy as it is our sweat and toil which builds this nation and we should be rewarded generously for what we do for our country. If you believe that your vote does not matter and that you can wait this one out, and that someone is going to rescue you in the future, recall that Congressman Ryan was too late and that he could not save the people who had listened to the false promises and who ended up drinking the Kool Aid. Please **VOTE** and **PLEASE DO NOT DRINK THE KOOL AID.**

The struggle continues.
In Solidarity.

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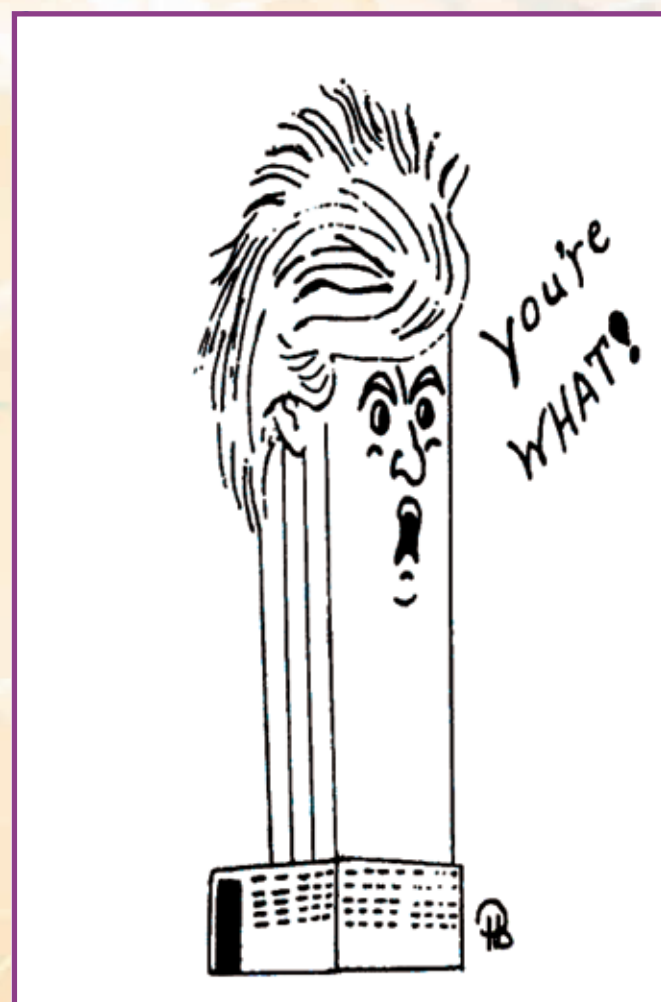
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This publication is 100% union printer produced: Union typeset, Union layout, Union printed.

**BEST CARTOON**
(*Honorable Mention*)

By Phillip Breunig, Editor
Tour's End
Gainesville, Florida

Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas votes to unionize



PPA award recipients

First place and honorable mention awards in 14 categories were presented on Saturday, August 5 during an awards banquet at the PPA biennial conference in Altoona, Iowa.

JOURNALISM AWARDS

BEST EDITORIAL:

First Place: **“Please Don’t Drink the Kool Aid,”** *The Unionizer*, Walnut Creek, California; Shirley Jean Taylor, National Business Agent

Honorable Mention: **“Caveat emptor – Let the buyer beware”** *Florida Postal Worker*, Davie, Florida; Martha Shunn-King, Legislative Director

BEST NEWS STORY:

First Place: **“Valley Fire decimates towns”** *Redwood Empire Area Local Newsletter*, Petaluma, California, Valerie Schropp, Editor

Honorable Mention: **“DMI Area Local 44 organizing victory”** *DMI News & Views*, Des Moines, Iowa; Mike Bates, Associate Editor

BEST NON-POSTAL LABOR STORY:

First Place: **“Working women, unions & voting in America”** *Evergreen State Postal Worker*, Mountlake Terrace, Washington, Robert Dyer, Jr., Editor

Honorable Mention: **“The largest methanol plant in the world by N/W Innovation Works, Inc.”** *Greater Seattle APWU News*, Seattle, Washington; Ron Morrison, Retiree

BEST FEATURE STORY:

First Place: **“First time attending the national convention”** *DMI News & Views*, Des Moines, Iowa; Brian Brommel & Sara Cart, Stewards

Honorable Mention: **“African American history helped shape our fighting postal union”** *The Union Mail*, New York, New York; Florence Summergrad, Editor

BEST CREATIVE WRITING:

First Place: **“What the Trump just happened,”** *The Eagle’s Perspective*, Greensboro, North Carolina; Hank Anderson, Retiree Counselor

Honorable Mention: **“Labor-management meetings through the looking glass,”** *Evergreen State Postal Worker*, Mountlake Terrace, Washington; Robert Dyer Jr., Editor

BEST COMMUNITY SERVICE:

First Place: **“Auxiliary Executive Board visits Children, Inc.”** *News & Views*, Saint Anthony, Minnesota; Joyce Tanguay, District 7 Coordinator & Bonnie Sevre, Editor

Honorable Mention: No award given.

BEST CARTOON:

First Place: *The Newsroom*, Mentor, Ohio; Louise Balog, Editor

Honorable Mention: *Tour’s End*, Gainesville, Florida; Phillip Breunig, Editor

BEST HEADLINE:

First Place: **“Postal Banking – America’s best weapon against our criminal banking system”** *The Union Mail*, New York, New York; Nora Taggart, Associate Editor

Honorable Mention: **“We don’t struggle in a vacuum! Unite with your class,”** *Iowa Postal Worker*, Des Moines, Iowa; Bruce Clark, President

BEST PHOTOGRAPH:

First Place: *Greater Seattle APWU News*, Seattle, Washington; Sarab Singh, Editor

Honorable Mention: *The Newsroom*, Mentor, Ohio; Jim Balog, Contributing Photographer

BEST WEBSITE

There were no entries in the Best Website Professional Category

BEST WEBSITE NON-PROFESSIONAL:

First Place: Queens Area Local, Ozone Park, New York; William Matusiewicz, Website Editor

Honorable Mention: Detroit District Area Local, Detroit Michigan; Dale Zanardelli, Website Editor

OVERALL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

BEST PROFESSIONAL: Defined as a publication printed by a commercial printer from camera-ready copy prepared by the printer.

First Place: *Detroit Postal Worker*, Detroit, Michigan; Keith Combs, Sr., Editor

Honorable Mention: *Unionizer*, Walnut Creek, California; Stephen Lysaght, Editor

BEST NON-PROFESSIONAL (A): Defined as a publication printed by a commercial printer from camera-ready copy; prepared by the APWU editor.

First Place: *The Pacer*, Lansing, Michigan; John Greathouse, Editor

Honorable Mention: *The Hi-Lites*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; John Miceli, Editor

BEST NON-PROFESSIONAL (B): Defined as a publication printed in-house by the APWU editor from camera-ready copy; prepared by the APWU editor.

First Place: *The Spectrum*, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Jim Gabe, Editor

Honorable Mention: *News & Views*, Saint Anthony, Minnesota; Bonnie Sevre, Editor

HANK GREENBERG AWARD FOR BEST NEW EDITOR

This award recognizes a new editor striving to produce a union publication that exemplifies dedication, sincerity and professionalism. Named in honor of past PPA President Hank Greenberg, this award signifies the type of spirit, determination and leadership that Brother Greenberg displayed as president for over 17 years.

First Place: Keith Combs Sr., *The Detroit Postal Worker*, Detroit, Michigan

Honorable Mention: Bonnie Sevre, *News & Views*, Saint Anthony, Minnesota



BEST CREATIVE WRITING (Honorable Mention)

Labor-management meetings through the looking glass

By Robert Dyer, Jr., Editor
Evergreen State Postal Worker
Mountlake Terrace, Washington

—with apologies to Lewis Carroll

Attending Labor-Management meetings [LMMs] in the Postal Service is something of an adventure. I was once attending just such an adventure at the union hall . . . but hark! Alas, I was suddenly transported to the other side of the looking glass—just as adventurous Alice once found herself suddenly down the rabbit hole! Or some kind of a hole, maybe a rat hole . . . seems like the room was full of them. Pesky little pain-in-the-butt creatures they are, packing around who knows what, and most certainly never, NEVER the bearers of good tidings.

I had mistakenly thought that I was attending a LMM. Mistakenly, I say, because what transpired over the next hour hardly resembled anything akin to labor-management. No, not even a trifle, but it did remind me of a tea party I once read about when I was young . . .

“The table was a large one, but they were all crowded together at one corner of it: ‘No room! No room!’ they cried.”* just like the fairy tale goes. Yes, these words were familiar to me, and I realized, with amazement, that it was at a tea party when these words were last spoken, and by some other unpunctual rodent that was all in a lather to get somewhere—anywhere but down a rabbit hole for a tea party.

Then began the nonsense

“Take some more tea.”, the March Hare said very earnestly.

“I’ve had nothing yet,” retorted another in an offended tone, “so I can’t take more!”

“You mean you can’t take less!”, said the Mad Hatter. **“It’s very easy to take more than nothing!”***

“Nobody asked your opinion!”* retorted the other.

Wow, this was all very familiar to me . . . but why this meaningless banter at the union hall? Oh yes . . . I forgot, this is a LMM . . . but it can’t be!!! My ears betray me. The next thing you know, the March Hare—a five and a half foot rabbit—was frantically searching for the Dormouse.

“Where is the Dormouse???? Well, we can’t very well discuss anything concerning the rabbit hole without the Dormouse! Guess we’ll have to move on to some other issues.”

I was wondering where the DOOR was, at this point, and thinking about moving in that direction.

“Yes, but WHERE IS THE DORMOUSE!”, snapped the March Hare. **“Where is he!!!”**

No one could say. The Dormouse was off doing micely duties somewhere else, and not to be found. **Perhaps he doesn’t like tea . . .**



Next thing you know, the Queen of hearts bleats out, **“Off with his head! Off with his head!”**

We were immediately transported to a garden, and playing croquet with the Queen’s underlings, all gathered together as if to watch Tiger Woods tee-off at the U.S. Open. But it was a croquet course, and all cluttered with life-sized playing cards.

A stacked deck

“Jehova’s Holy trousers!”, I muttered under my breath. “Where did THIS bunch of bottom dealt losers come from????! And what’s with the talking rabbit?”

“Off with his head! Off with his head!”, screamed the Queen of hearts again.

Off with whose head? I asked.

“Why who else . . . but the Installation Head!” she cried. **“Each and every one of them.”**

“Well, how many Installation Heads are there? There has only ever been one that the union has ever heard of, or recognized. I think you’re ALL sixes and sevens and nines!” I chuckled at her dismay.

“Don’t be impudent.”, snapped the Queen. **“There are quite a number of them, and all of us know that—the whole deck of us!”**

“Alright, then name them! Come on, I double dog dare you!”

“I can’t! I mean . . . we cannot divulge the mystery of the Installation Heads until negotiation with the knave of clubs is finished.”

“Do you mean we—as in the royal WE—or do you mean that not one of you crooked cards has any idea who

the installation head is? And how can there possibly be so many heads, and yet YOU cannot name even one of them?”

Not a single deuce stepped forward.

Suddenly, we were no longer on the croquet course, but were back at the union hall sitting around a table.

“Excuse me”, one curious cat purred out, **“but I am the head of an installation.”**

I glanced down the table and was amazed. . . . **“What in Sam-hell is that???”**—some grinning, six foot calico cat was speaking, and all of the rats snapped-to with great attention and admiration.

“I’m Cheshire, and I am worthy to bear the title of installation head.”, retorted the cheerful feline. **“Indeed I am!”**, he bragged.

“No! No! No!”, shrieked the queen. **“The Installation Heads must remain a secret!”**

The smiling cat’s ears laid back, as he hissed his disapproval.

Off with his head

“The King of diamonds is not here, and I am in charge!”, snapped the Queen.

The Cheshire Cat curled up in the corner—growling with his head under his paws.

“Besides, when I say off with his head, I mean OFF with his head!” The Queen sneered with disdain.

At this point, one of the rats squeaked out, “You can’t cut off a head unless there is a body to cut it off from.”*

The March Hare piped up, **“Anything that HAS a head can be be-**

headed, now just shut up and do your job!”

The Queen let out a baleful wail, screaming that if something wasn’t done about it in less than no time she’d have everybody executed, all round. (It was this last remark that had made the whole party look so grave and anxious.)*

At this point, a rather lean looking rat with a spotted tail—sitting across the table from me—leaned over with a very serious look on his face and whispered, **“Beware the Jabberwock, my son!”***

The shrill voice of the Queen once again pierced the air, **“Off with their heads! Off with their heads, however many there are!”**

I think they have ALL lost their heads, I thought to myself—ignoring the sincerely offered sage advice of the ridiculous looking, however, poetic rat across the table. He smiled approvingly, oblivious of my pondering what he might look like with his slimy little tail sticking out of the grinning cat’s mouth.

Growing up

Just when I thought I had seen everything, one of the smaller rats complimented the Queen on her illustrious and judicious handling of the throne. Then another of the rats, not to be outdone, commented on the regal and royal appearance of Cheshire—the grinning feline. The beaming cat purred his approval, and his furry head began to swell.

Then all of the other rats began to compliment the Queen, the cat, and the Mad Hatter—all at once. All of their heads began to swell, and SWELL and SWELL!!!

“Dang!” I muttered under my breath, “I haven’t seen that much hot air in a bag since the Hindenburg went up in flames.” I was wondering how they would ever get out of the door.

Suddenly, the smiling, smirking cat looked at the Queen’s incredible swelling brow in alarm and screeched out, **“Yipes!”** and ran for the door with the Mad Hatter close behind.

The March Hare yelled out, **“Oh my! Look at the time!”***, and sprang from his chair—sprinting for the door as well.

The Dormouse was still nowhere to be found—off on a micely mission somewhere I suppose. Then—as if on cue—the whole dumb deck of cards, and all of the rats as well, rushed for the exit just in time to squeeze through the door before their incredible swelling noggins were too big to fit through it.

I watched in total disbelief as the fleeing bloated spheres floated off into the distance. “I’ll never call Labor Management-Meetings boring again.” I muttered.

Life, what is it but a dream? Labor-Management Meetings, what are they but a mirage.

*Quotes taken from *Alice in Wonderland*, by Lewis Carroll

BEST COMMUNITY SERVICE (First Place)

Auxiliary Executive Board visits Children Inc.

By Joyce Tanguay,
District 7 Coordinator
Bonnie Sevre, Editor
Auxiliary News & Views
Saint Anthony, Minnesota

The War on Poverty is the unofficial name for legislation first introduced by United States President Lyndon B. Johnson during his State of the Union address on January 8, 1964. This legislation was proposed by Johnson in response to a national poverty rate of around 19 percent. (Source: Wikipedia)

The E-board met in Richmond Virginia on February 25-26. Before our board meeting we had a chance to visit the headquarters of Children, Inc., in nearby North Chesterfield, Virginia the focus of our human relations project for the next two years. We had an opportunity to meet with Shelly Callahan, Development Manager, Renee Kube, Director of U.S. Programs and Luis Bourdet, Director of International Programs. Renee has worked with Children Inc. for over 30 years and shared a wealth of information. She talked about “food deserts” which refers to poverty areas where there are no grocery stores. Not only does Children Inc. take part in backpack programs, they also see

that other needs are met as well. For example, taking fruit baskets to schools, purchasing books for children as they learn to read, purchasing shoes, school supplies, and weather-appropriate clothes for the children.

Sometimes a child might have a special need that would not be a part of the



Renee Kube, Luis Bourdet and Shelly Callahan.

normal needs provided. Funds may be provided so that the child can participate in a special event, or receive a little extra help with some other need.

Because our focus is on U.S. Programs we learned that Children Inc. is active in seven states (Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Michigan, Louisiana, Arizona, New Mexico) plus the District of Columbia. This program was started in 1964 at the time President Lyndon Johnson declared the “War on Poverty”. Rural Appalachia was the first area serviced by Children, Inc. Children were adopted into the program and provided with basic needs to be able to attend school. The child was helped during his/her school years. As more funds have become available the project has expanded into other areas of the United States. Some of the areas being serviced are depressed cities like Detroit, Michigan and Washington, D.C. Children, Inc. is currently working on plans to move in to New Orleans to help children in this depressed city.

Children Inc. has been able make it possible for some children, at the age of 17, to apply for a limited number of scholarships. At this time over twenty have been able to complete their studies and thirteen are currently enrolled.

Along with sponsoring children, the program also accepts donations of books to be put in the schools. They also have “Underneath it All” drives where people

donate underwear and socks to be distributed to children in need.

Of the funds raised 84-86% goes directly to the needs of the children they



Shelly Callahan, Development Director with Joyce Tanguay, Human Relations Chairman.

serve. The rest of the money is used for administrative costs which include finding areas of need, overseeing that the funds are used for the purpose intended, and there are minimal financial, administrative expenses.

The leaders of this organization are dedicated to helping stamp out poverty one child at a time!

BEST NEWS STORY (Honorable Mention)

DMI Area Local 44 organizing victory

By Mike Bates, President & Associate Editor
DMI News & Views
Des Moines, Iowa

The DMI APWU Area Local 44 petitioned the National Labor Relations Board to organize PAE, better known as Mail Transport Equipment Service Center (MTESSC), in Urbandale, Iowa. On October 21, 2016, the employees voted 18-8 in favor of joining the DMI APWU Area Local. We celebrate this victory and welcome them to our union family!

The organizing drive was prompted by recent company changes that resulted in unfair working conditions. The employees were outraged by unrealistic production goals, as well as the hostile work environment created by management. After several meetings with Citizens for Community Improvement (CCI), the PAE employees and CCI representatives, Maddie Cano and Emily Schott reached



Top Row - Juan Juarez, Juana Cerda, Dina Quinteros, Zoila Jacobson, Craig Tyler, Gloria Gonzalez, Lonnie Matticks, Mike Bates, Ruben Lafebre, Leonardo Andrade, and Irineo Perez. Bottom Row - Alba Quinteros, Emily Schott, and Maddie Cano.

out to the DMI Area Local to help unionize the 99% Hispanic workforce.

The PAE employees told the union they were seeking “respect and dignity in the workplace, job security, wage and

benefits increase and a voice within the company.” DMI organizer, Lonnie Matticks said, “It was the easiest organizing campaign he had ever seen in his 40 years of being a union organizer.” The

DMI Area Local 44 would like to thank CCI for orchestrating this organizing effort! The PAE employees are a hard-working, respectful and unified family, and we look forward to representing and supporting our new members!

Organizing is never easy, however. Since the vote to unionize, three employees have been unlawfully terminated by the company. We are in the process of filing an NLRB labor charge to bring these employees back to work. National APWU Director of Support Services Steve Brooks is working on securing a first collective bargaining agreement that meets the needs and concerns of the workers. He anticipates negotiations will start as soon as December.

It is time to start growing Support Services. We need to continue organizing within and capitalizing on all opportunities to organize any company that touches the mail! It’s time to get busy; it’s time to get organized. It’s time to UNITE!

In Solidarity.



BEST CREATIVE WRITING (First Place)

What the Trump just happened?

By Hank Anderson, Retiree Counselor
The Eagle's Perspective
Greensboro, North Carolina

On the morning of 11/9, I am sure that millions of American citizens asked that question. Like me, they may have used a different word to replace Trump's name in the question. Whatever statement that was used was based on the fact that Donald Trump pulled off the Presidential Election despite (on face value) having so many obstacles ahead of him. Despite not winning the majority vote, Trump was able to get enough electoral votes to win. This was the fifth time, in U.S. history, that this was achieved during a presidential election.

The previous times occurred in 1824, 1876, 1888, and 2000. Including this election, four of the victories were by Republican candidates. As you are aware, there have been hundreds of protests against the election of Trump. These protests have been attended by people from different backgrounds.

These individuals share the same belief that Trump is dangerous for all working people. These individuals feel that Trump is a serious threat to immigrants, people of color, women, LGBTQ people, and the disabled.

Postal workers, other federal employees and unions can expect a ramped up effort to be dismantled. The combination of a Republican president and Republican controlled Congress solidifies the possible dismantling of anything that is pro union. The possibilities exist that this administration could appoint Supreme Court judges that are hostile to public sector unions by creating an anti-union/anti-worker Department of Labor. This in turn will organize an "employer-friendly" National Labor Relations Board that will have the power to take away the gains accomplished over the past years. Lastly (but not least) appoint members to the Postal Board of Governors that will be looking to dismantle and privatize the United States Postal Service.

Trump's administration is looking to deliver a major blow (to the Labor Movement) by promoting a national "Right to Work" legislation. If this administration is successful then it will hurt the national movement for unions and the fight to increase minimum wages to \$15 per hour.

Along with the impact to the Labor Movement, Trump's victory will have a major impact on "everyday living". During his campaign, Trump had publicly announced his desire to deport millions of undocumented workers, profiling Muslims, placing restrictions on women's reproductive rights, returning anti-LGBTQ laws and support of the controversial "Stop and Frisk" campaign that was designed to harass, brutalize, and/or incarcerate minorities. Programs that working people need to survive will experience deep cuts in government funds. These programs include Medicaid, Social Security, food stamps, education, and housing to name a few. The tradeoff will be more tax cuts

for the rich and more money given to boost up the military.

In the upcoming weeks, leading up to Inauguration Day, several organizations will be looking to participate in demonstrations protesting this election. These organizations include students, labor, community and/or women's groups. They will be looking to have demonstrations in Washington, D.C., during the inauguration festivities, as well as other major U.S. cities. I am sure there will be spontaneous protest for the next four years!

We, as postal workers, need to stay united (regardless of what political party you belong) to save our jobs. We will need to keep our elected officials informed of the importance of the U.S. Postal Service and of the other labor union jobs that help build America.

We, as Americans, can make "America Strong Again" by fighting the same fight and struggles, against the Trump movement, that our ancestors had previously fought!

Any injury to one is an injury to all!

BEST NON-POSTAL LABOR STORY (Honorable Mention)

The largest methanol plant in the world by N/W Innovation Works Inc.

By Ron Morrison, Retiree
Greater Seattle APWU News
Seattle, Washington

N/W Innovation Works, Inc., a China Government backed company, was intending to build the largest methanol plant in the world right here at the Port of Tacoma. It was announced that the company would produce methanol from the fresh water, electric power of Tacoma, and piped in natural gas from Canada. The methanol would be loaded on huge methanol tanker ships at the port to be exported to China via Puget Sound. The purpose was said to be for the production of plastics in China.

The Port of Tacoma had already leased an old aluminum site at the Port to N/W Innovation Works for a small sum and now it was time to finish up the feasibility study with an environmental impact statement. The Tacoma City Planning Department had somehow been empowered to produce the final environmental impact statement and wanted the

citizens to participate. It was announced there would be three meetings held to complete this environmental impact statement: two at the Tacoma Convention Center, and one at N/E Tacoma's Meeker Middle School.

I went to the first two at the Tacoma Convention Center. Both were packed with worried citizens. Two concerns were very real. One was the hazard of a large methanol plant in our midst in Commencement Bay. The other was the announced demand of the plant for fresh water every day of about 10-15 million gallons.

What about the fresh water supply for the rest of the city?

It was announced the plant would demand about as much electric power as the city already used. What about the electric power for the rest of the city? I remembered that several years earlier the city had to bring in barges loaded with diesel electric generators to supply the city due to a situation of having low water behind the cities' hydropower dams. I also remembered those generators

caused a blue haze of smoke on the far side of the port where they were located that summer.

So, they are telling us this is a great opportunity for Tacoma because it will boost the economy with jobs but, what about our safety and our water and electric power? Last summer they asked us to cut back on water use because of drought and NOW WE HAVE 10-15 million gallons per day to give to a new methanol plant and electric power in surplus too?

I did my library research on methanol hazards. At the environmental impact statement meetings I realized I was not alone when the whole room full of citizens (about one thousand) stood in opposition to the methanol plant being constructed. Subsequently, AFTER SOME CONSIDERABLE DELAY AND CONFUSING STATEMENTS/SILENCE, the methanol proponents:

N/W Innovation Works, Inc. withdrew their plans to build a methanol plant at the Port of Tacoma.

I spoke to my state representatives

and senator and learned that we have no law that gives humans priority over available fresh water supplies. To me this is a serious error in state law GIVEN OUR WEATHER CHANGES AND INCREASING POPULATION!

I learned of a group of similarly concerned citizens: www.savetacomawater.org. Together we crafted a petition to limit the water a new company can take from the city to one million gallons per day unless the company gets a vote of the people to allow them more of our fresh water. I AM AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER IN SECURING TACOMA VOTER PETITION SIGNATURES TO AMEND OUR CITY CHARTER AND ORDINANCES TO LIMIT NEW CORPORATE DEMANDS FOR OUR FRESH WATER TO ONE MILLION GALLONS PER DAY UNLESS OVERRULED BY A VOTE OF THE CITIZENS. I believe this is what citizens who value their country/state/county and city must do if we are PRESERVE and PROTECT our LIMITED NATURAL RESOURCES!



BEST FEATURE STORY (First Place)

First time attending the national convention

By Brian Brommel & Sara Cart,
Stewards
DMI News & Views
Des Moines, Iowa

Brian Brommel

I recently had the honor of attending the APWU 23rd Biennial National Convention. While there I was able to learn how we, as a union, choose to move forward and select our future goals. I was inspired by many of the key speakers who attended as well. The stories by each of these speakers showed a real struggle for working class people around the world. Many also had overcome great adversity such as Dr. Mona Hanna-Attish who showed scientific evidence of lead poisoning in the water of Flint, Michigan resulting in help for the people of Flint who had been suffering for years just so the state could save a little money.

I was able to help choose the direction the union will move over the next two years. Over the course of the convention, we would address resolutions submitted by members through their respective locals. We would go over the resolution, allow delegates to address the convention with why they believed it was necessary or not necessary, and ultimately vote on whether we, as a union should adopt the resolution. Many resolutions passed, such as to boycott Nabisco products which are made in Mexico, as these products were previously made by union workers, who lost their jobs so the company could save money on cheaper, nonunion labor.

Finally, I was able to meet many people, including, John Richards, who had participated in the strike in 1970 from Pittsburgh. I was also able to meet many members from around the country who struggle with management just as we do. I was able to meet the maintenance NBA who works on grievances that reach step 3 from Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas. He handles every grievance which I file that goes up to step 3. I was able to meet Mark Dimondstein, our national president, as well as many of our national officers.

Being able to participate in the national convention has been an inspiring and learning experience for me. From meeting new people, learning and participating in the process of choosing

our direction for the future, and hearing from leaders fighting for working rights, I have gained a new appreciation for the APWU.

Thank you.

Trying to keep up with all of management's violations while still working very hard at my own 8 hour bid soon became very overwhelming. After only about 8 months I told my president I

all the answers now and I have a long road of learning ahead of me. But what I do know is I am passionate about us people who work hard and I want to fight for us!



These three stewards were selected to go the 2016 National Convention as IPWU Delegates. This was their first time at the National Convention and they also represented our 35 and younger age group, which entitled them to have half their expenses paid by our National Union. Brian Brommel, DMI Local; Matt Lewis, Dubuque Local and Sara Cart, DMI Local.

Sara Cart

I am writing this article to tell my union brothers and sisters about my experience at my first national convention for the APWU. I recently became a steward after my passion for our union really started to grow.

I was sick of seeing my fellow workers/friends treated unfair (PSEs especially), sick of seeing management violate the contract that we fought so hard to obtain, and sick of a lot of their decisions all together. However, quickly after I started I wondered everyday what the heck I got myself into. I found it to be an extremely hard job with a ton to learn. Although all my fellow union stewards and officers are always more than patient and willing to teach me, I got frustrated watching them out there kicking ass, while I still felt lost in what I was doing.

didn't think I wanted to continue on as a steward. This was shortly before the convention, which I still wanted to attend as I planned on being as involved in my union as I could, perhaps just in other ways.

As I sat in this huge room full of motivational speakers and thousands of fellow postal workers who are extremely passionate about the APWU, something came over me and I made the decision to continue as a steward. It was so inspirational to hear these people speak, and to know that my votes at this convention may really make a difference in our future. These people are continuously fighting vigorously for our wellbeing, and to know that I was a small part of that makes me very proud.

I can only hope to be as good one day as some of my fellow stewards and officers in our local. I do not have

At 28 years old I really want to encourage my fellow young workers to join me in this fight. We may all end up in trouble when our wonderful people we have fighting for this local decide to retire from the job. If we don't stand up and do something, no one will! Some management will violate our contract in every way possible unless someone is there to fight them for it! Your union is constantly working behind the scenes so that you have a good job to report to every single day, and that is something we all need to realize.

To conclude this article I would like to thank the APWU and our local for giving me the opportunity to attend this convention. It was exactly what I needed to recharge and refocus. And although I have a ton to learn, I plan on continuing this fight the best way I can!

BEST HEADLINE (First Place)

By Nora Taggart, Associate Editor
The Union Mail
New York, New York

Postal Banking — America's best weapon against our criminal banking system

BEST CARTOON (First Place)

By Louise Balog, Editor
The Newsroom
Mentor, Ohio



Trumpcare

BEST NEWS STORY (First Place)

Valley fire decimates towns

By Valerie Schropp, Editor
Redwood Empire Area Local News
Petaluma, California

When Redwood Empire Areal Local member Tom Kosten left home on Saturday, September 12, he was unaware that it would be the last time he would see his home in Cobb, California.

Cobb, along with Middletown, are two of the hardest hit areas in the Lake County area which suffered devastating damage from a fire that turned into a firestorm in less than 12 hours.

Kosten and his wife Jeanne left their home on Evergreen Drive for a day trip to Bodega Bay. On their return, at about Guerneville, Tom received a call from a friend telling him that he needed to return home quickly as there was a horrific fire. An emergency call put in place that notified other residents of the area to vacate immediately had failed to call their cell phone. Knowing their dog Jaide was at home alone, the Costas raced home to Middletown up Highway 175 only to be turned away because of dangerous flames. They turned around and dropped off a friend they had with

them and headed up Ziegler Canyon. They then tried Red Hill to the town of Kelseyville and went to the animal shelter to try and locate their dog, a seven year old yellow lab. They were unsuccessful.

The Kostens found themselves at the Calistoga evacuation site where they have been since. "I don't know what I'm going to do," Tom said in a phone interview. "For now we're staying in Forestville with friends, but we come to Calistoga during the day so we can be with people we know. Neighbors and stuff." While on the phone he talked to another evacuee about them being able to get their mail tomorrow or Friday. They were waiting for a check. The Lakeport postmaster has asked him to help out tomorrow. They will bring the mail down from Lakeport and try to reunite the mail with the owners. The Cobb and Middletown mail is being worked out of other offices for now as both towns are still unsafe for residents, but most residents can't make it to those towns.

A customer leaves the Lakeport post office holding a package and laughing. The postal employee asks her what's so

funny. She responds that this (package) is all she owns now.

This fire is the third major fire in Lake County since August 14 when the Rocky Fire broke out and burned 69,438 acres. This was joined by the Jerusalem Fire on August 24 which burned 25,118 acres.

Many were not at home when the fire first broke out. Their pets and their horses and other farm animals were unable to be rescued for the most part. Horses were set free when they were too scared to get into their trailers for transport.

On Tuesday officials started escorting people to their homes, as long as they weren't located in Cobb or Middletown, to check on their pets; 15 minutes and not a minute more. Not everyone could be accommodated. Fire personnel are putting hay and water out. Volunteers are putting scoops of dry food out where dogs and cats may be. But these are the same places where homes no longer stand. Animals are being placed in various shelters in four counties and few have been reunited with their families.

The fire is still burning in Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma County, which we represent, as well as Napa County. Tom

has seen pictures of a burned out truck that is three lots down from his, 200 feet from the now demolished famous Holberg Resort. Their last memory of the area is driving by the main gate to Hidden Valley and seeing the fire fast approaching.

They bought their home in 1992. Becky Wheeler, a rural carrier out of Lakeport also lost her home.

He says he wants to take a couple of weeks off and will use annual leave if necessary. He can't deal with the public right now.

Nineteen thousand persons have been displaced by the fire with the majority staying at the evacuation camp down Highway 29. More are up north in Kelseyville. Half of the citizens of Cobb and Middletown are now believed to be homeless. Because water and power is out and power poles are falling over it will be a while before they are allowed back to assess the damage. The fire has currently burned 73,700 acres and is only 35% contained.

As I am putting the finishing touches on this, Tom texts me that Jaide's body has been found. We're sorry for all of your losses.

BEST NON-POSTAL LABOR STORY (*First Place*)

Working women, unions & voting in America

By Robert Dyer, Jr., Editor
Evergreen State Postal Worker
Mountlake Terrace, Washington

Women have been unionizing in America for well over a century. During the height of the Civil War, and in response to the need for uniforms, women were employed by the thousands throughout the cities of the North—some 30,000 in New York city alone.

Working conditions were not ideal, to put it mildly. Many were forced to labor ten to fifteen hours a day for 15 cents or less—out of which they had to supply their own thread and pay for any damaged goods. It is no wonder that they began organizing in an effort to achieve better working conditions and wages, but this was no easy task in the 1860s.

Working women unionize

Difficult times are often the driving motivation for positive change. During these difficult times, the sewing women organized a “benevolent association”, the Working Women’s Union, and soon began attending meetings such as the New York Trades Assembly. Soon after that, the Associations of Sewers began organizing in many other major cities, petitioning for better wages and seeking accountability from employers. Many times, the working women had difficulty collecting the paltry little they were owed.

In Detroit, in 1865, the Sewing Women’s Protective Association opened an office, and with support from the Detroit Trades Assembly they were able to buy sewing machines for women to use at the union hall—working with customers directly and avoiding the contractors who paid them next to nothing. A Boston newspaper’s statement commented as follows:

“Let such unions be formed among sewing women everywhere. They are sure to succeed if they are in real earnest as spunky women know how to be.”
(Andrews and Bliss,
Women In Trade Unions)

In response to the plight of the sewing women of the 1860s, the Working Women’s Protective Union emerged. This organization was made up mainly of middle and upper class women who were concerned about the working women who were powerless to defend

themselves. The union made available free legal services, and filed over 27,000 grievances—more than 20,000 of which were settled out of court over a 15 year

period, and which recovered tens of thousands of dollars for the working women. Such protective unions soon began serving as employment agencies,

caused a voice for women’s rights to be heard by publishing *Revolution*—a progressive weekly women’s rights magazine—through which she became



and the sewing women were able to move into different branches of labor, receiving both placement and training in other lines of work.

a crusader for such issues as the eight hour day and equal pay for equal work.

In addition to her efforts through the media, Susan B. Anthony was the

Voting now and then

From the Civil War to present, there have been numerous organizations which have collectively joined to promote the rights that are now granted to women in the workplace, and in American society.

The important role that women have played in the development of American unions is indispensable, and undisputed.

Women have brought to the forefront, in America, a debate concerning dignity and respect in the workplace. They forced into the public arena the open discussion of issues that have affected all workers in America—issues such as the eight hour work day, equal pay for equal work and reasonable accommodation of working conditions.

However, it is the right to vote that is the engine that drives such changes in our society. Voting in labor unions sets the agenda for efforts to support the American work force. Voting in the union, the United States of America, determines the course of our nation—including its posture towards the average working American woman and man.

Dare any of us forsake this privilege for which so many have sacrificed, and which will determine the future of all working Americans and our union?

Research for this article taken from: *We Were There. The Story Of Working Women In America* by Barbara Mayer Wertheimer, and *The World Book Encyclopedia*, Field Enterprises Corp.



and the sewing women were able to move into different branches of labor, receiving both placement and training in other lines of work.

Workplace conditions improve

In the 1890s, the first organized efforts began to improve working conditions via the practice of “selective buying”. Women’s advocates urged customers to patronize only establishments where stools would be provided, so workers wouldn’t have to stand for ten hours at a time. Susan B. Anthony

main force behind the Women’s Loyal National League during the Civil War, and along with Elizabeth Stanton she founded the National Women’s Suffrage Association. Through this organization it was sought to seek the help of states, rather than the federal government, to grant women the right to vote.

Women voting in the union

The territorial legislature of Wyoming became the first to grant women the right to vote in 1869. Over the next



— photos by Lance Coles

BEST HEADLINE (Honorable Mention)

By Bruce Clark, President
Iowa Postal Worker
Des Moines, Iowa

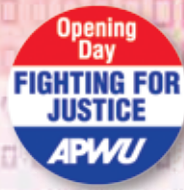
We don't struggle in a vacuum! Unite with your class!



— photos by Lance Coles

BEST PHOTOGRAPH (First Place)

By Sarab Singh, Editor
Greater Seattle APWU News
Seattle, Washington



Members of the Greater Seattle APWU wear stickers at the general membership meeting on February 11, 2016 ahead of the opening day of contract negotiations. Every member should have received the sticker and the letter from APWU President Mr. Mark Dimondstein in the mail.



BEST FEATURE STORY (Honorable Mention)

African American history helped shape our fighting postal union

By Flo Summergrad, Editor
The Union Mail
New York, New York

The meaning of the phrase, “Tomorrow is not promised,” is that life is an impermanent state, a precious gift that we should appreciate each day. But it can also mean that things we take for granted can be taken away. One of these things is the United States Postal Service, which has been under threat of privatization for a number of years.

The APWU has put out a poster, celebrating our Grand Alliance of postal workers and community to fight to save our public Postal Service. It says: “Yesterday. Today. FOREVER. Our Postal Service. Our National Treasure.”

This fight has a special significance during February, African American History Month. Postal employment has been a path to economic security and advancement for many black workers.

In Phillip Rubio’s book, *There’s Always Work at the Post Office: African American Postal Workers, and the Fight for Jobs, Justice and Equality*, the author’s answer to “Why are there so many African-Americans in the Post Office?” is that, “historically it was less prone to

racial discrimination than other employers and offered a way out of poverty.”

Privatization is a way to close that path for black workers. African Americans are 30% more likely to work in local, state, and federal jobs than those of other races. This is because anti-discrimination



Eleanor Bailey addresses Shop Steward Training 2016.

laws for public sector employment have opened doors for blacks that were shut in the private sector.

The attack on public sector workers is a blatant attack on equal opportunity hiring. Since the USPS does not use a penny of tax money, postal privatization cannot hide behind the false defense of saving

public money. It is a deliberate attempt to bust national unions and deprive postal workers of their federal protections under EEO and Veterans Preference.

NY Metro Area Postal Union came out of the great 1970 wildcat strike that forced the Postal Reorganization Act and laid the basis for our first Collective Bargaining Agreement. Our predecessors spearheaded the strike and our local has a tradition of leadership.

The basis for militancy in the post office was already laid – in part by years of struggles of black workers against discrimination in hiring and promotion. The National Alliance was organized to represent blacks, either because local unions were whites only or because they did not take on the fight against discrimination on the shop floor.

In urban areas like New York City, Chicago, Washington DC, and Los Angeles, the Alliance was a strong labor representative for postal workers. There were also blacks in carrier and clerk locals, who were active in both the labor and civil rights struggles of the ‘50s and ‘60s. In NYC, the Manhattan/Bronx Postal Union (MBPU) was an integrated local that was very active in the 1970 strike. The unions in New York City

“probably practiced more unity in favor of equality than anywhere else.” (Philip F. Rubio, Ibid, Ch. 8)

We can be especially proud that our local’s historic role as a leader was based on its inclusion of women as they came into the ranks of postal workers. In Rubio’s book, retired MBPU Executive Vice President Philip Seligman is quoted explaining how an influx of mostly black women in the ‘60s transformed the post office and its unions: “They brought a new force with them, a dramatic change. . . . The change was a more aggressive change, they wouldn’t take abuse, they fought back, they hit back, and it was good.” (ibid., Chapter 7) Our own Eleanor Bailey, now President of the Moe Biller Retiree Chapter, and Josie Macmillan, NYMAPU president in the 1980s and ‘90s, organized direct action protests with the support of local president (later national president) Moe Biller. Moe built a strong NYMAPU by involving women and workers of color.

Today, we have a strong and aggressive leadership in NYMAPU. We have a team of experienced stewards and officers and a crew of dynamic new stewards. Let’s keep our Local on the map as a leader in the APWU.

BEST EDITORIAL (Honorable Mention)

Caveat emptor — Let the buyer beware

By Martha Shunn-King,
APWU of Florida Legislative Director
Florida Postal Worker
Davie, Florida

President Dwight Eisenhower, Republican, uttered these words on November 8, 1954: "Should any political party attempt to abolish Social Security, unemployment insurance and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes that you can do these things. Among them are a few Texas oil millionaires and an occasional politician or businessman from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid."

Exactly sixty-two years later, this "splinter group" won the presidency of the United States and has taken control of Congress. Not by the choice of the voters, mind you, but because of the Electoral College. I wonder what Ike and our forefathers would think of this election.

So the first thing the House of Representatives did when they took office this year was to pass a resolution that contains language that will allow them to decrease the number of federal workers

and their pay if they are paid by the U.S. Treasury. This is known as the "Holman Rule" which allowed \$1 salaries for government workers. Postal Workers don't believe this can't happen to you.

"Should any political party attempt to abolish Social Security, unemployment insurance and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes that you can do these things."

Remember this "splinter group" does not like UNIONS.

Thank you President Obama as one of your many class acts before leaving, you gave federal workers a 2.1 percent raise. While Donald Trump on the other hand has promised to decrease federal jobs and freeze workers' pay when he takes office. This is the man that pretends to care about workers and states he will bring back jobs to America.

Paul Ryan and the "splinter-group" are coming after your Medicare and Social Security that you have been paying into

all these years as a separate tax, the monies that Congress steals for their spending and to balance the budget. WE must all be proactive and vigilant in saving these benefits; everyone must call their rep-

would hold Trump accountable to the promises he made to working people throughout his campaign. So far Trump has failed in his promise, when you look at who he has been appointing to his Cabinet. He railed during his campaign against Wall Street and big banks but has appointed a billionaire as treasury secretary who made his money on home foreclosures.

The education secretary is also a billionaire lobbyist that is all about taking public school money for private schools and it goes on down the list. Instead of putting people in the jobs to protect, he has chosen those that would destroy instead, just like the "fox guarding the hen house". (By the way check the records; they all contributed handsomely to his campaign.)

The "splinter group" is not the Republican Party of my childhood, Teddy Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. I don't think they would claim this party as these Republicans, like to claim them.

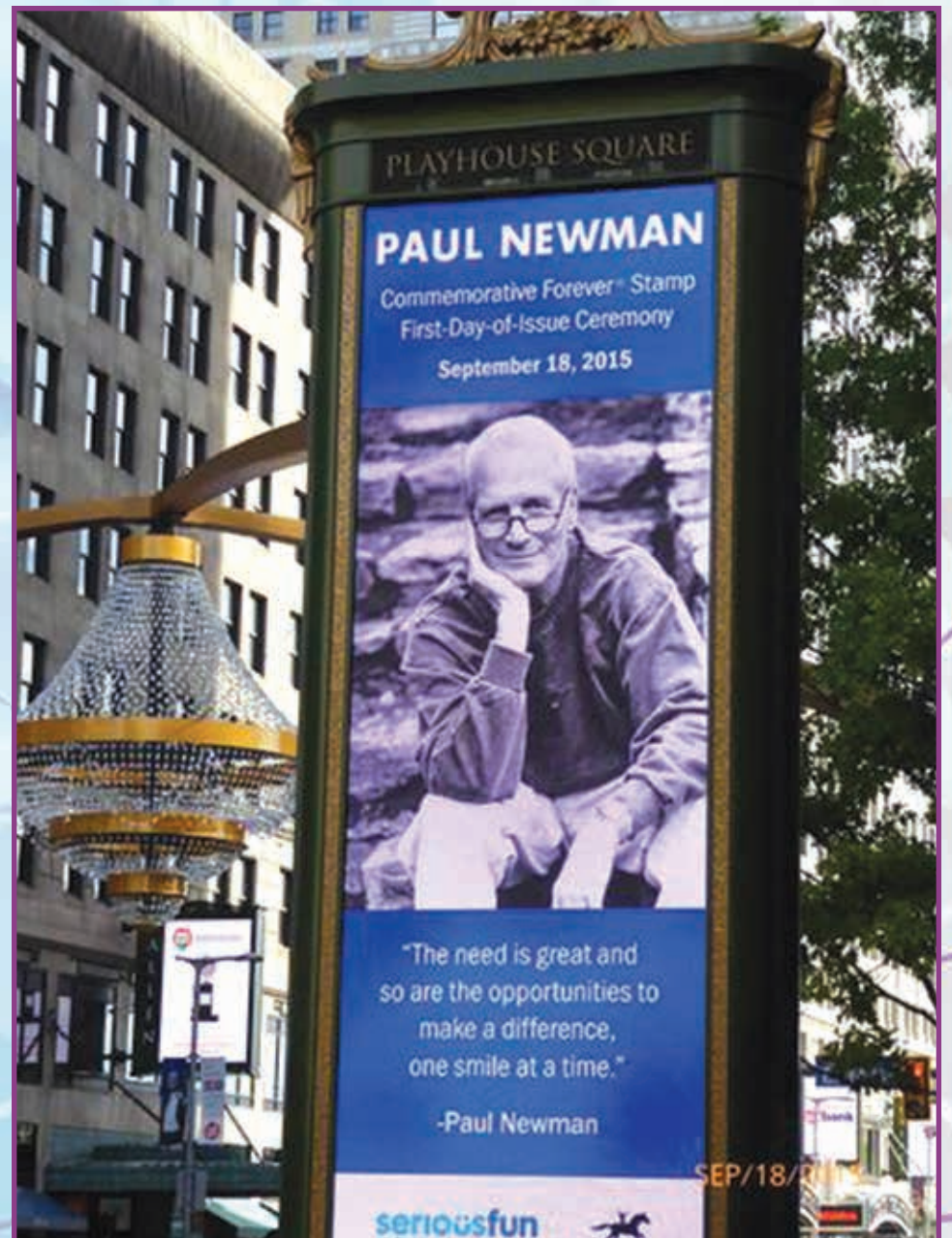
representatives and tell them to keep their HANDS OFF.

They do not have a plan that will give us more but will take from the many and give to the few.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka made it clear after the election we

BEST PHOTOGRAPH (Honorable Mention)

By Jim Balog,
Contributing Photographer
The Newsroom
Mentor, Ohio



Electronic billboard advertising first day of issue for the Paul Newman stamp at Playhouse Square in downtown Cleveland. Note outdoor chandelier to the left of the billboard.

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