



# Razorback Scheme

American Postal Workers Union • Northwest Arkansas Area Local

April 24, 2025

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Royce "Ike" Mills

Hello Union Family,

Well I sure can't say that life is boring lately. There has been a lot going on and, as usual, picking what to write about is always a challenge. First of all I would like to thank all of you that took the time to participate in the National Day of Action on March 20th. It was great to see a good turnout and see other Unions and Allies with us in our fight. We are in the midst of some very troubling times right now and it is going to take all of the Labor Movement to prevail in this fight. That is why it is so important for all of us to band together and show these jerks what the working class can accomplish when we all have a common goal in mind. There are many ways to get involved and help in this battle against the attacks on the working class and federal employees. The first one is to join the Union if you are not a member yet. You should be doing everything you can to educate yourself and your families and anyone else you can about what is happening with the Postal Service. You should be reaching out to your representatives and voicing your concerns and asking for support in the legislation that will help us and asking them to help defeat the ones that are detrimental to us and our jobs and families. This battle can not be won by the few of us that attend Union meetings and are active as officers and stewards. It is going to take all of us working together and kicking these bums butts. I guess I should move on to something else a little more exciting. In closing I would like to say thank you to all of you that have chosen to take advantage of the VERA that was offered and wish you all the best as you start a new chapter in your life. Until next time in the words of Moe Biller, our long time APWU President, remember,

**"The Struggle Continues."**

In Solidarity,  
Ike Mills

The *RAZORBACK SCHEME* is the official voice of the Northwest Arkansas Area Local of the APWU – AFL-CIO. However, opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writers and not necessarily those of the APWU, Local, officials or Editor. Articles, artwork, cartoons and/or other material are solicited from member readers who wish to share their views. Although freedom of the press is recognized, contributors are exhorted not to submit derogatory material about any fellow union member or to submit any false or unsubstantiated allegation concerning management or any other individual inside or outside this organization. All letters must be signed (if hard-copied) or emailed via an identifiable, recognized screen name. Names will be withheld upon request. Send submissions to *RAZORBACK SCHEME*, P.O. Box 654, Fayetteville AR 72702; or email to: [editor@nwaal667apwu.org](mailto:editor@nwaal667apwu.org)

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# The True Cost of Privatizing The US Post Office

— by Darrell “Barney” Barnes

Say goodbye to “Universal Service.” The USPS is obligated by law to deliver to every address in the country, regardless of cost.

Private postal services the world over prioritize profit over service. They are driven by profit, so if it costs more to deliver your prescriptions to your house than it does to a more convenient location, simply charge more, to make a profit, or don't deliver there at all, make the customer come to your location to get their mail, no matter how far.

A privately owned Post Office could even be ordered by the owner not to deliver election ballots to certain areas that voted against their side in the previous elections.

The public United States Postal Service is required by law to provide these essential services at a consistent, uniform cost to the American people, by law. (39 U.S. Code 101 - Postal Policy). That's why it costs the same to mail a letter from Anywhere, Arkansas to Anchorage, Alaska, as it does to close by, Oklahoma.

The administration argues that the current Postal system is “unsustainable.” In a way, that is very true. When parts of the administration are allowed to prevent the US Postal Service from updating their delivery vehicles for 20-plus years by mandating those funds be put away for the retirement of employees who won't even be born for 70 years, that is “unsustainable.”

According to a report by CNN Business, the USPS takes in about \$82 billion a year in revenue. Personally, I would love to own the Post Office and be in charge of \$82 billion a year, wouldn't you Mr. Musk?

The United Kingdom has had a public postal service for 500 years. They just agreed to sell it to a Czech billionaire, I guarantee he did not buy it to “break even.” The cost of postal services in the U.K. is going way up.

According to some, “there are large parts of what the postal service does that would benefit from more use of public-private partnerships — transportation, logistics, and sorting,” The obvious problem with that has been shown by the fact that the USPS has taken back parts of the privately contracted transportation routes because they would not meet USPS standards of delivery.

Sure Mr. Trump, go ahead and privatize the Post Office. Oh, wait! That's outside your job description, so instead, why not allow the USPS to legally make a profit by changing the rate structure for its services. Just allow us to charge for a stamp or envelope like the Department of Defense pays for a hammer or toilet seat. We should break even then.



Cartoon by Barney Barnes

## Brothers and Sisters of the APWU:

At this time, I would like to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to serve you as the Maintenance Steward for both Area 667 and Local 7027 at separate times. It is now time for me to change my path and retire from the USPS on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2025. It has been a very rewarding experience over my 24 and a half years serving in Maintenance. I have seen several coworkers come, go, and sadly pass away. I have made a few lifelong friends. I do hope that whoever my successor is that you treat him or her with the same respect you have been giving me. Keep fighting the good fight through solidarity we will overcome.

Yours in Solidarity  
Philip Morgan

# DON'T LET DONALD TRUMP DEFINE YOU

by Pamela Beck

If you know me at all, then you know that I am no fan of our current president, but I am not writing today to convince you to change your politics. There is only one thing I ask: Don't let Donald Trump define you in any way.

Among the many troubling things that Trump has done in the first hundred days of his second term, I am especially bothered by his labeling of Mahmoud Khalil, along with all pro-Gaza protesters, as an antisemite, a Jew hater. It is a false equivalency he is using to justify some of his own actions, as well as those of Israel. This is a president who cozies up to white supremacists, and has appointed some to his cabinet, who is now namecalling people as antisemites.

It is *possible* to be horrified by the ruthless destruction of Gaza, without any animosity for the Jewish people. It is *possible* to hold sympathy for both sides of this conflict. Disapproving of the actions of a government does not mean that you hate all of the people under said government. It is *possible* to hope for Liberty and Justice for ALL (Haven't I heard those words somewhere before?)

Trump is using the label of antisemitism to justify revoking the legal resident status of Mahmoud Khalil and to ultimately deport him from the US, even though he came here legally and hasn't been charged with any crime. And he is just one of many.

But this is just typical Trump rhetoric. If you are pro-Gaza, you *must* hate Jews; If you defend the rights of immigrants, you are anti-American (ignoring the fact that we are all immigrants); If you are pro-choice, you are Un-Christian; If you are Unionized, you are a thug, or a communist; and on, and on, and on.

It has long been a tactic of the rich and powerful to sow discord among the lower classes, to divide and conquer, so to speak. Trump didn't invent this stratagem, but he is very, very good at it. If you have found yourself at odds with friends and family the last few years, know that this is exactly his plan. All I ask is that you think independently. Don't fall for it. Don't let him categorize you. Don't let him tell you whom you should hate (the answer is no one) or who you should BE.

Abraham Lincoln told us, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Our country is teetering on the edge of a dangerous precipice. It is time to forgive and forget our petty differences. It is time for the American people to come together on the principles that we can all agree on, such as **preserving our constitution**.

As a postal employee, your job may soon be in danger. We cannot expect to escape the chopping block that other government employees have been facing. If you are not a Union member, it is a good time to consider joining. Our Union has the strength required to fight for our jobs. In the words of Benjamin Franklin, father of the American postal service, "We must all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

## FROM THE EDITOR:

If you wish to receive an email copy of the *Razorback Scheme*, please send your email to the address below. Emails will not be used for any other purpose or sold or forwarded to any other organization. If you wish to receive a print copy at your personal address, you may request that as well. Please send all requests or contributions to:

EDITOR@NWAAL667APWU.ORG or EDITOR, PO BOX 654, FAYETTEVILLE, AR 72702

Please congratulate our members who will soon be retired (4/30/25) under the Voluntary Early Retirement offer:  
James Hickman, Pam Beck, Carl Nelson, Kraig Zimmerman, Phillip Morgan.

Retirements will leave some holes in our steward roster. If you would like to step up and get involved, please speak to Ike. Current and imminent openings are: Maintenance steward and maintenance alternate; Tour 1 alternate; Tour 2 steward; Fayetteville customer service steward; Customer Service Alternate; and a Rogers office Steward.

T2 and customer service are currently covered by Kaylynn Mills and will continue to be covered even while considered vacant, however, as Vice President, Kaylynn is steward for all of our AO's that don't have their own steward. She has a lot of duties and does not receive extra compensation for covering vacant positions. Our local's constitution provides that any person may only hold one paid position.

Alternate positions are not paid, but are a good way to start out and get some steward training. If you have any questions about steward duties or training, you can speak to Ike or refer to our local Constitution, which is accessible on our local's website.

# Virginia Hickman Memorial Scholarship Application – Local 667

## Eligibility requirements:

A. The applicant shall be the son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter of a parent, grandparent, or legal guardian who has been a member in good standing of the Northwest Arkansas Area Local for at least one (1) year.

B. If the member (parent, grandparent, or guardian) is deceased and was a member in good standing of Local667 for at least one (1) year prior to the time of his/her passing, the son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter shall be eligible to apply.

C. The sponsoring employee (parent, grandparent, guardian) cannot have occupied, or applied for, a management position for at least one (1) year prior to application.

D. Applications for the scholarship must be made on the official application form and sent to: Secretary-Treasurer of the Northwest Arkansas Area Local667 at PO Box 654 Fayetteville, AR 72702, or handed to the Secretary-Treasurer in person. The Scholarship Committee will draw for the award. Applications may be submitted April 1 through June 30 of each year. Applications received after June 30th will not be accepted.

E. Applicant must submit a transcript from his/her secondary school, college, or vocational school last attended as an attachment to the official application.

F. Scholarship recipient must plan to attend an accredited college, university, or vocational institution of his or her choice. The scholarship must be used towards pursuing an undergrad/graduate degree or vocational certification. The applicant must submit proof of application or acceptance at an accredited college, university, or vocational institution. (When this is the same institution as the transcript submitted, the transcript shall be sufficient.)

## Applicant Information

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

FULL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

## Education Information

HIGH SCHOOL OR LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COLLEGE OR SCHOOL OF CHOICE (RECIPIENT OF FUNDS): \_\_\_\_\_

## APWU Member Information

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK LOCATION (POSTAL FACILITY): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ EIN# \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF APWU MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Please also check out the Local's official website at [NWAAL667APWU.ORG](http://NWAAL667APWU.ORG). Find announcements of upcoming events, contact info for your steward and officers, as well as archived copies of The Razorback Scheme. Scan QR code for quick access to website.



All APWU-represented employees  
Join YOUR Union for our next Union Meeting

SUNDAY 1:00 PM, May 18, 2025  
at GUSANO'S PIZZA in Rogers  
2603 W. Pleasant Grove Rd. Suite 112  
Rogers, (Exit 81, Behind Chick-Fil-A)  
Soft drinks & Snacks provided!  
\$50 Door prize!