



American Postal Workers Union • Northwest Arkansas Area Local

November 21, 2025

# From our President

By Royce "Ike" Mills

Hello to all of the Union family in NWAAL 667, by the time you all get this newsletter we will only have about six weeks left in this year. I just can't believe how fast this year has flown by. I want to thank all of you that took the time to vote in the National Officers election for the APWU but the turnout was very low and I was hoping for a lot more participation in the process for our next team of Union leaders in Washington DC. We had 18 of our 125 members cast their vote and voiced their opinion of who they wanted to lead our Union for the next three years. I sure hope our participation increases drastically in the next election. The same can be said about the participation in our Union also, for those of you that are active and are involved in the process I want to say thank you to all of you for all that you do to make our Union successful. For those of you that are sitting on the sidelines treating it as a spectator sport I want to ask you why? If you're paying Union dues thank you but if you aren't why not? Do you not appreciate the pay and benefits that your Union has negotiated for you? I want to encourage you all to get more active in your Union this coming year. If you're not a member then sign up and find a place you are comfortable with being a part of the process and help us all to be successful. If you're a member that has not been active then find a place where you can be comfortable helping. If you're active then make an attempt to mentor two new people and help them to become active in the process. We all can make this Union effective and productive if we work together.

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

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# Fighting For Our Future — by Sonya Kirsch

Sunday, October 5th, the APWU Legislative and Political Department held a one day Legislative conference prior to the Start of the 2025 APWU All Craft Convention. The overarching theme was the fight for the future of the Postal Service, our jobs, and our ability to continue collective bargaining.

**Reshaping Democracy at the State and Local Level** was my first session of the day. There were two main things to keep in mind, first that we must be proactive in doing all we can to protect our voting rights and second, postal causes can be presented to local and state representatives to build community support.

As individuals it is important that we continue to make sure our voter registration is current and up to date. We are encouraged to vote in all local and state elections as many states are looking to change voter thresholds for ballot measures and referendums. In addition, several states are looking to redraw congressional districts which can affect your vote at the national level.

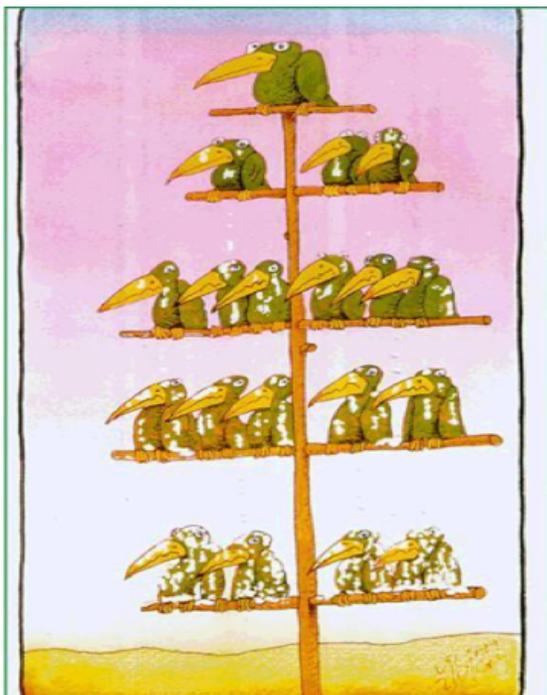
By getting out in our communities and letting aldermen, city council members, county officials and state representatives know how important USPS is to their constituents, we can educate them on how attacks on the Postal Service and privatization would negatively affect their communities. Our federal senators and representatives may be more likely to listen to community leaders speaking on behalf of their constituents than they would individual voters. There is strength in numbers.

[commoncause.org](http://commoncause.org) will help you find every representative you have based upon your address.

To recap, too often people forgo political issues at the state and local levels in favor of national political issues. By getting to know local lawmakers and bringing the importance of postal issues to their attention we can help educate the public on how integral universal mail delivery is to all members of the communities they serve. The truth of the matter is by reaching out to city, county, and state representatives, we can create momentum to bring pressure to bear on the national level.

**Holding Your Representatives Accountable with Legislative Advocacy and Lobbying** was the second session of the day. The key to being heard on postal issues is to avoid partisanship. We covered how to schedule meetings and prepare, as well as conducting ourselves during meetings and how to “close the deal” when asking for support.

## Postal Management Organization Chart



**When reaching out to our elected officials we are urged to push bipartisan postal issues like:**

**House Resolution 70 and Senate Resolution 147 which reads:**

“Expressing the sense of the [House or Senate] that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.”

And **The Federal Retirement Fairness Act (H.R. 1522)** which would make it possible for eligible postal workers to make deposits equal to the amount they would have contributed to their retirement benefits had they been career employees during their time as noncareer PSEs, casuals, or temporary postal employees.

**Last but not least, we were all urged to call the APWU Legislative Hotline at 844-402-1001. You will hear a brief recorded message of the current issues and then will be connected to YOUR members of Congress.**

# CYA - Cover Your Anatomy

- By "Barney" Barnes

Hello, Fellow Postal Employees! This is Barney from the Siloam Springs P.O. reminding EVERYONE...  
CYA!

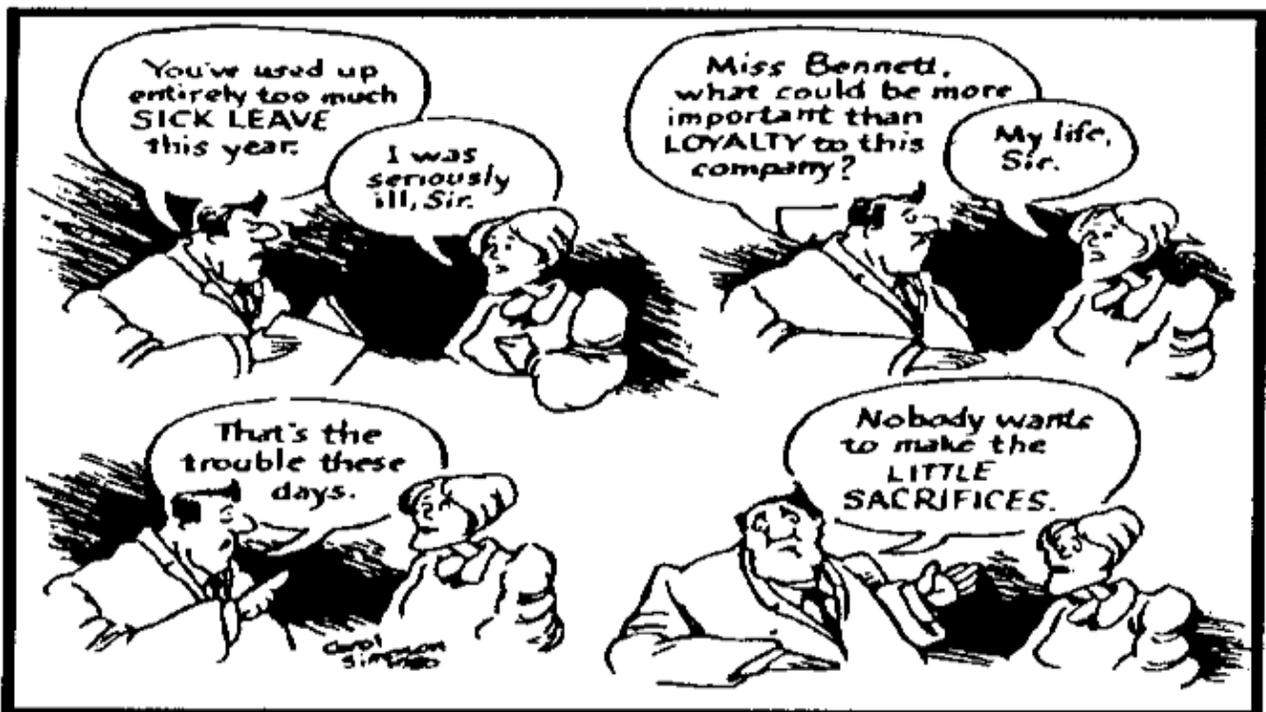
For those of you who don't know me, I'm one of the few Building Maintenance/custodians left. Although, I hear that the 'powers that be' have finally realized they can actually save the P.O. some \$ \$\$ by having a BM/C in house, as opposed to always bringing in outside help to repair everything.

Sorry, I'll get off my soapbox.

What I need everyone to listen to, and hopefully take to heart, is simply this: **Save as much sick leave as you can!!!**

Back in February of this year, I completed 31 years at the P.O. Things looked good and I was rocking along nicely. Then, in early May, I was diagnosed with throat cancer. Yeah. Wasn't figuring on that one at all. The treatment for this form of the Big C is 7 weeks of chemo, once a week, and radiation 5 times a week. By the time they get through poisoning and nuking you, trust me, folks, you ain't gonna be working for a while. The truth is that I ran out of sick leave and annual leave before I got well enough to come back to work. But the good Lord has never made a mistake in my life (those were all my doing,) and he never will. I have to thank Him so much for letting this be me writing and not my wife. Also, I really have to thank Him for all the support He sent my way. Don't let anyone make you think that prayer to the Lord doesn't work. It does!

Hopefully, none of you will ever have to go through this but the truth is something can happen. So, save as much sick leave as you possibly can. If you never have to use it...fantastic! But have it there just in case. Seriously, folks - Cover Your Anatomy!



## Do you always protect yourself?

- by Kaylynn Mills

If the answer to that question is yes. Then why are you not a member or getting more active? The ones of us here will not be here forever to help protect you. Your best defense always is to have the knowledge to protect yourself. So please help yourself and start getting involved. There are plenty of things that you can do to be able to get your feet wet and learn the ropes before you dive in head first. When we are gone you will be left to your own devices and we want you to be able to protect yourself once we are no longer here to do it.

We had some new members join in on both state and all craft. The best part was that they kept saying how much they learned! It was awesome to see them see the other side of the coin. And that glow of being energized to fight for themselves because that is who it is about. Everyone should understand that yes your union representative is more than glad to help but at the end of the day each and every issue fought begins with the individual. So do yourself a huge favor and get involved, learn, and fight for yourself! There are so many different classes available to pick from you can choose by things you are really interested in and by things you would love to be better educated on.

If you would like to receive a free email copy of the Razorback Scheme, please send your email request 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 to your residential address, you may request that as well. Please send all requests and your original art or articles for publication to:

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Please also check out the Local's official website at 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 below for quick access to website.



### Next Meeting...

As usual, there will be no APWU meeting in December. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 11 at our regular meeting place which is Gusano's Pizza in Rogers. We are in the upstairs meeting room. Lunch and soft drinks provided.

#### NEXT YEAR'S MEETING SCHEDULE - 2026

January 11  
February 8  
March 8  
April 19  
May 17  
June 14  
July 12  
August 9  
September 13  
October 4  
November 8

Don't Forget — OPEN SEASON for Health Benefits closes on **December 8th!!**

Most rates ARE increasing, so use your opportunity to compare rates and make the best choice for your current situation. Don't procrastinate and regret later. **APWU Consumer-driven option** is VERY affordable if you have been a member for a year OR for PSE's. CHECK IT OUT!



## 2026 Convention Schedule

| Event  | Date   | Location                                 |
|--|--|--|
| Arkansas Postal Workers Spring Business Meeting<br>AND<br>Tri-State Convention | State — April 8 - 9<br>Tri-State — April 10 - 11 | Springdale Holiday Inn Convention Center |
| APWU National Convention   | August 14 - 20                                   | Los Angeles, CA                          |
| Arkansas Postal Workers Fall Meeting   | September 17 - 19                                | Jonesboro, AR                            |