

The Pacer

CENTRAL MICHIGAN AREA LOCAL - 300

AFFILIATED WITH: AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO, APWU POSTAL PRESS ASSOCIATION, MICHIGAN STATE AFL-CIO & MICHIGAN LABOR PRESS

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Aug-Oct 2020



245th Birthday

Lisa Jackson
CMAL President

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,
My time as your Local President will soon be coming to a close. I would like to say THANK YOU to the entire membership for this wonderful opportunity! As many of you know, I retired on July 31, 2020. I originally hired into the USPS on 5-06-78, 42 years ago! I have seen many, many changes and growth within the Postal Service. Some good and some not so good. I will remain as President of the Central Michigan Area Local until the end of my term and then pass the torch to the next Incumbent.

This is a good time to encourage anyone to step up and run for an office. I am aware of at least 3 other CMAL Officers who will retire soon. If you are interested but just unsure about the responsibilities, ask someone. I talk to members on a daily basis. I will gladly go over duties and responsibilities with anyone who inquires. This is your Union and in order to keep it strong, you the young members must get involved.

I would like to remind everyone to stay safe during the Global Pandemic. COVID-19 is still alive and well as we proceed on to our next season. Please wear your masks, wash your hands, and social distance. Currently, there are 37

positive cases of COVID-19 in our District. As my children return to school virtually, their Teacher begins their day with all students washing their hands. This is a great practice for everyone. I dread the phone calls I receive from Local Postmasters stating, "We have a positive case." Please be safe because everyone is at risk.

timely processed ballots for years now! I know that the approaching months are going to seem like Christmas but postal employees have always gotten the mail out. This may be difficult with the removal of machines. I think they are attempting to sabotage us, but we can do this. We will prove them wrong. We will show the

National Convention has been delayed until 2021. Our State Convention is on hold but elections will take place. We are all hoping that this Pandemic will be under control so that large gatherings are permitted very soon.

Our National Business Agents have been working from home. Arbitrations have been deferred until we can get control of COVID-19. Both the APWU and USPS are attempting to resolve cases that are scheduled for arbitration. CMAL has 2 cases that were scheduled and are now in the "try to resolve pile". I am confident that our National Officers will stay strong to resolve these issues contractually.

I have been watching and learning about the new status of the world. We are definitely living in a different time. I would have never believed that in my lifetime things could get so bad, and I am concerned for our youth; ALL LIVES MATTER. But, I have you noticed that whatever happens in the world, people want their mail; Everyday! You guys are doing a wonderful getting it processed and delivered despite the attempts from higher up to sabotage us.

I would like to remind everyone to VOTE! This election so important! Your vote does matter and if you want to see a change, VOTE!



The employees of the United States Postal Service have been under attack! Certain White House individuals, (The Donald), have no confidence in our ability to safely process absentee ballots in the upcoming election. That is a disgrace! Postal Employees have

public that their trust in the USPS is worthwhile.

I have been very busy on ZOOM. Since there is a restriction on the number of people that can be in a meeting at one time, both the UPSP and APWU are holding meetings and training via ZOOM. Our



L to R: MPWU President Mike Mize, CMAL President Lisa Jackson, U.S. Senator Gary Peters, MI House Rep. Kera Hope, MI House Rep. Angela Witwer and Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Vice President Michelle Rahl

In Solidarity,

Lisa

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Contract Highlights!

The Pacer is the official publication of the Central Michigan Area Local and is published quarterly as a means of communications with the membership. Any and all communications concerning the paper should be addressed to:

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The editor reserves the right to determine whether the material submitted for the Pacer shall be printed and reserves the right to edit as needed for space, libelous statements or personal attacks. All articles must be signed and a contact phone number included with the submission. Names will be withheld upon request. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the editor or officers of the Central Michigan Area Local.

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Denise Fuller Michelle Porter

MPWU

John D. Greathouse Editor

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,
It has been a mad world of sorts and in an effort to not get to my "wits end" I shall attempt to give you a brief rundown.

Covid-19

This virus is the cause for many of us to have experienced a good deal of anxiety, fear, sorrow or even relief!

We had a few cases in the Lansing plant along with some in the Lansing carrier sections as well. With the number of associate offices that we support in the 488 area, amazingly we have only had a few cases.

My best advice, ignore the political spin that is being thrown at this and stick to what seems to be working, wear a mask, social distance, avoid crowds and most importantly... take care of yourself!

Postmaster General

We have a new PMG now, Louis DeJoy. And after just a couple of months, it is clear, he is trying to make us fail!

- ♦ Mr. DeJoy is a major political donor and fund raiser for the GOP and the President.
- ♦ He was not on the list of prospective candidates for the PMG position.

a director of Mitch McConnell's Senate Leadership Fund Super PAC.

- ♦ The PMG in front of both the House and Senate Committees told the outright lies or just refused to answer questions.
- ♦ DeJoy has ZERO experience with the mail and instead of working with the senior staff at HQ, he shut them out and brought in his own team and went about drawing up his plan to cut and burn down the Post Office.
- ♦ If you do not thing, he is getting his marching orders from the White House, you need to reexamine your position with a review of the facts.

The point here is simple, if we do not defeat Trump in the election, the USPS's days are numbered because when Trump drained the swamp, the monsters all moved into his administration!

Election

We are rapidly approaching the 2020 election in like less that 60 days! And you should know that we, as postal workers are in the crosshair of this "soon to be" political storm!

Absentee Ballots! Yep, the same envelopes that we have handled for decades is now, courtesy of the President, the hot potato for this election!

To steal his own statement, "Voting by Mail is bad but Absentee Voting is Good". Can anyone please explain to me and the other 300+ American voters just what the hell is the difference?

I do know the answer but it seems that he doesn't! **They**

are the same thing!

We need to ensure that if we find ballots, that we must make sure that they get to where they are going, on time! Especially as we get close to the November 3rd election!

If you get instructions from your supervisor or manager telling you to not expedite one or delay it, follow that order but request a steward immediately!

All ballots must be received by the city, township clerks by 8pm on election day to be able to be counted, not just round dated!!!

More Election News

Did not think I was going to let you get off that easy... The Central Michigan Area Local... Your **Union**, is having nominations at the September 16th General Membership Meeting at 7pm! It is on ZOOM, look for links at the bottom of Page 6.

All Executive Board positions are up and it is time that, you the membership step up and become active! President, Vice-President, Treasure, Secretary, Editor, Craft Directors, Installation Directors, Trustees & Human Relations/OWCP.

There are numerous committees that you can be a part of that do not require a full-time commitment, sometimes it is just a small event like planning the Christmas Dinner, helping with an informational picket and more. We as a local need to become much more active and involved for our Union to grow and succeed! Think about it, and if you have questions, ask one of your stewards!

In Solidarity!

LANSING INSTALLATION STEWARDS	
Clerks, Tour 1	Steward / Alternate Steward(s)
1. Manual	Michele Porter / John Greathouse
2. Automation	Michele Porter / John Greathouse
3. AI / Far Side Manual	Michele Porter / John Greathouse
Clerks, Tour 2	
1. Manual	Dustin Hume / Dionne Davis / Jessica Kimble
2. Automation	Dustin Hume / Dionne Davis / Jessica Kimble
Clerks, Tour 3	
1. Manual	Lisa Hauser / John Greathouse / Dustin Hume
2. Automation	Lisa Hauser / John Greathouse / Dustin Hume
3. AI	Lisa Hauser / John Greathouse / Dustin Hume
Customer Service	
Main Office / BMEU	Dionne Davis / Tammy Corkwell / Lisa Jackson
Delta Annex / Retail	Dionne Davis / Tammy Corkwell / Lisa Jackson
Downtown	Dionne Davis / Tammy Corkwell / Lisa Jackson
SWCA	Dionne Davis / Tammy Corkwell / Lisa Jackson
Merrill Street	Dionne Davis / Tammy Corkwell / Lisa Jackson
Northwest Annex	Dionne Davis / Tammy Corkwell / Lisa Jackson
Maintenance	
1. Tour 1	Jim Steel / Janel Rambo / Phil Wieferrich
2. Tour 2	Phil Wieferrich / Jessica Kimble / Maceo Cosper
3. Tour 3	Janel Rambo / Jim Steel / Phil Wieferrich
Motor Vehicle	John Greathouse / Mary Stephenson
Chief Steward	John Juel
APWU Health Plan, NRP, OWCP, FMLA & Limited Duty Issues.....	Tammy Corkwell

Treasure Secretary Steve Mnuchin put his name in to the Board of Governors
♦ BOG Chairman Robert Duncan is

ARTICLES DEADLINE Aug 16, 2020

Members who wish to send articles to me via email are encouraged to do at this address: the.pacer@yahoo.com

Remember to include your name and a telephone number so I can check with you if I need to make revisions. It couldn't hurt to ask for an email receipt just to be certain I received your submission.

John Greathouse, Editor

UNION MEETINGS For 2020

Sep 16 ~ Oct 21 ~ Nov 18
2021 ~ Jan 20 ~ Feb 17 ~ Mar 17

Executive Board ~ 5:30 p.m. ,
General Membership ~ 7:00 p.m.

At the AFL-CIO Building meeting room, on the northeast corner of Washington and Lenawee in Lansing.

DeJoy's Fix for the Post Office Wrong Time, Wrong Plan, Wrong Man!

Mark Jamison
Savethepostoffice.com

August 29, 2020

After years of being a journalistic backwater the Postal Service is all over the news. From the usual contextually vacant reports about financial losses, we shifted to meaty and sometimes sensational coverage about the removal of Blue collection boxes and mail processing equipment at plants. There's also the entrance of a new villain on the scene, Louis DeJoy, a wealthy Trump and Republican contributor with business interests and investments that coincide with the Postal Service.

Mr. DeJoy began his tenure as Postmaster General in June of this year after being named to the post by the Postal Board of Governors, which oversees postal operations. The Board is populated by a former RNC chair, a couple of investment bankers, the CEO of a public affairs and corporate advocacy consultancy, and a former CEO of various logistics and transportation companies that also specialized in mail consolidation, a form of outsourcing of mail processing.

Mr. DeJoy's first couple of months have been eventful to say the least. His [comments](#) to the BOG at his first open session of the board on August 7th make clear that his intentions are to transform the Postal Service. Early in his remarks he says, "We are at the beginning of a transformative process. Our goal is to change and improve the Postal Service to better serve the American public, and I am excited about the opportunities ahead." He proceeds to offer the usual professions of fealty to the ethic of service to the American, followed by the even more usual assertions about the dire straits the institution finds itself in.

Whatever he may say, it's clear that Mr. DeJoy has entered the scene like a bull in a china shop. Within weeks of his taking office, there have been widespread reports of delays and service failures (which are backed up by internal USPS [documents](#)), news stories about Blue box removals, reports of mail processing equipment being removed, em-

ployee reports of mail left on docks or at carrier cases, and actions that seem to violate basic contractual provisions with the unions, causing the initiation of [grievances](#) as well as the breakdown of normal lines of communication between the [APWU and L'Enfant Plaza](#). Mr. DeJoy seems to be moving full steam ahead at executing the expressed desires of the president for dismantling the USPS.

It's fair to say that under DeJoy the Postal Service has lost any sense of urgency with respect to delivery of the mails. DeJoy seems to be taking his cue from the Wall Street manipulators who populate the BOG and hired DeJoy. He is in paring mode, sacrificing service and performance for operational reductions with questionable or at least unproven financial payoffs. This is especially damning during a pandemic and economic slowdown and certainly before an election, times when the postal network is more necessary and important than ever.

An article earlier this week in the [Wall Street Journal](#) suggests that DeJoy is actually doing the right things "to make the U.S. Postal Service's operations more efficient," but he may have picked the wrong time to get started on them.

But the problem is bigger than the timing. It's always the wrong time for any plan that sacrifices service for "efficiency." DeJoy's plan is the wrong plan for saving the post office, and DeJoy is simply the wrong man for the job.

The heightened scrutiny from the press has caused citizen concern and outrage, followed by hearings in both the [Senate](#) and the [House](#). The hearings generated a good deal of heat and some light. [Representative Katie Porter](#) got the new PMG to admit that he didn't know the price to mail a post card, while [Representative Stephen Lynch](#), a member with long experience on postal issues, engaged in some tough questioning of Mr. DeJoy. During the hearing in the Senate on Au-

gust 21st, Mr. DeJoy seemed to back off on some of his early initiatives, agreeing to halt the removals of collection boxes and mail processing equipment, although in his subsequent appearance before the House on August 24th he seemed to dig in, refusing to agree to reconnect mail processing equipment.

In his [opening statement](#) to the Senate Mr. DeJoy asserted that he has "been fully immersed in understanding and evaluating all aspects of the postal organization and business." He must be a quick study since in the bit more than three months since his selection by the BOG and two months since coming on the job he has managed to not only immerse himself in the operations of a large and complex bureaucracy that provides service to 160 million addresses but he has done so during a pandemic when the institution is confronted by extraordinary challenges.

His short but obviously intense immersion enabled Mr. DeJoy to institute major operational changes that resulted in significant mail delays and raised questions about the Postal Service's ability to perform essential mail processing during an election where more people than ever will vote by mail in order to avoid unnecessary exposure to a pandemic that has resulted in 175,000 deaths and left many with long term health deficits while also having devastating impacts on employment and the economy.

Much of the uproar over Mr. DeJoy's moves has arisen because his moves have the appearance of being politically tainted. Mr. DeJoy has been a large contributor to Republican causes for a long time. He was not initially a supporter of the president but he and his wife, Aldona Wos, have long supported far Right ideologies that sought to dismantle government. Ms. Wos, currently Mr. Trump's nominee for ambassador to Canada, served as North Carolina governor Pat McCrory's director of Health and Human Services and in that role worked to privatize the state's Medicaid system.

In the shorter term there are questions about how much contact Mr. DeJoy had with Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin prior to accepting his position at USPS. More troubling is the apparent involvement of Mnuchin has had with the Postal Service. One of Title 39's greatest flaws is [management model](#) it creates. Leaving the oversight of an important national asset to a remote board of governors is problematic, but the fact remains that that is what the law endows. The idea was to remove political interference and influence, but Mnuchin's involvement combined with the president's penchant for shooting fact less tweets through his loosest of cannons is disconcerting.

President Trump's obsession with conducting a W.C. Fields election: "If you can't win fair, cheat" makes the actions of the Postmaster General and postal leadership suspect regardless of what impacts these actions may have on operational efficiency. The president doesn't govern as much as manipulate. His modus operandi is to sow fear, confusion, and doubt. His [Tweet on August 17](#) pretending to want to fix things by proclaiming "Save the Post Office" was a bit of gaslighting that exceeds the word shameless. Mr. DeJoy's unwillingness to be transparent about what he's up to only contributes to these fears.

DeJoy's actions and reports of service failures may have had the opposite of their intended affect. Folks across the country rallied to oppose DeJoy's changes. Television news was saturated with postal related stories with postal workers and postal experts appearing to discuss the impacts of the operational changes – heck I even appeared on Chuck Todd's afternoon MSNBC show Meet the Press.

Congress has reacted too. Senators and representatives from both parties decried the situation. Nancy Pelosi called the House back into town to take up legislation that would roll back DeJoy's changes and establish lines of accountability.

DeJoy's Fix Continued on Pg 5

Preserve the People's Post Office: Let Us Do Meaningful Postal Reform

Mark Jamison
Savethepostoffice.com

August 26, 2020

It is said the Postal Service is mired in debt, that it is unsustainable, a burden to the American people. This is the position of the current postmaster general, supported by the board of governors who hired him and by a treasury secretary who seems to be the chief architect of the current assault on a cherished national institution, goaded by a president who cares little for governing or the public welfare.

These claims are a lie, one that has been pushed repeatedly for at least fifty years by those who would steal an American asset and convert its public benefits into private profits.

If the Postal Service has large unfunded liabilities, it is as much because they have been defined as such by those who seek to look at this most American of institutions in a way that lays the most burdens upon its shoulders. The truth is that the Postal Service has incurred its liabilities in the service of a greater and necessary good. Far from being onerous and intractable, they are evidence of a skewed perspective, a perspective bent on being intentionally blind in furtherance of an ideology that denigrates and denies the validity and necessity of government.

If one begins with the premise that government is only a creator of debt, then the normative

assumptions underlying the accounting systems designed to measure government will be weighted towards finding liability not value.

The Postal Service has employed as many as 800,000 Americans gainfully in jobs that paid living wage and provided life-sustaining healthcare and secure retirements. These benefits rebound and reverberate through local economies, spreading both wealth and security. They have lifted many whose options were otherwise limited into productive middle-class lives while bringing communities together. And this has been done in the service of a noble and useful purpose, creating an essential infrastructure whose uses are limited only by a failure of imagination and political will.

As the USPS OIG observes in its report on [The Postal Service's Role as Infrastructure](#), "For much of its first 200 years, the Post Office not only carried mail but also was deliberately used by the government to bind together and develop the nation. It promoted transportation innovations, extended post roads, and subsidized passenger transportation on stagecoaches and railroads."

This infrastructure is not indestructible, however. As the OIG warns, "Once the existing Postal Service infrastructure is disassembled, it would likely

be prohibitive to restore it as it is today. Only an agile and adaptive infrastructure will be able to maintain self-sufficiency and serve the nation effectively."

Ideologies that embrace perverse interpretations of efficiency that serve to consolidate wealth and economic benefit in the hands of a few are built on a cruel deception. They further a false narrative designed to narrow opportunity and confine benefit to those who already possess power and privilege.

Those who see only the potential for reduction in costs of doing business reduce human potential, productivity, and flourishing to a zero-sum equation. Their vision is a selfish one that sacrifices human and social benefit to individual profit, turning life into a false dichotomy of makers and takers that denies the fundamental human quality of contribution to community that all of us can make – something our Constitution calls "the public welfare."

It has been claimed that the Postal Service has losses of billions of dollars but that is largely because the powerful interests who design the methods by which we count and measure worth hate the concept of public benefit.

Instead let us acknowledge the value inherent in a public infrastructure that binds the nation together bringing every home and business into a network that furthers economic and social profit while promoting national security.

Let us acknowledge the public benefits of universal service.

Let us acknowledge the benefits of preferential rates for newspapers and non-profits and the intercourse and discourse that enhance public interaction, discussion and participation.

Let us acknowledge the potential and myriad uses that are inherent in a magnificent network in-

frastructure.

The Postal Service and the postal network have been under attack for generations by those who see only their bottom lines as important. The crisis has been ongoing but recent events have made it inescapable. Their talk of losses and liabilities tells half the story in a self-serving way.

Now while this attack on a beloved and essential institution is front and center and beyond denial, let us tell the whole story and account for the assets of the network in an honest way. Let us talk of the economic, human and civic benefits that a truly public postal network encompasses.

Instead of confining this essential public asset into a narrow box of liabilities and demanding it fulfill a narrow myopic idea of being self-sustaining, let us seize this opportunity to define a people's post office that sustains our ideals and communities with service, potential, and employment.

Now in this dark hour when the cynics and scions of the new gilded age would seek to destroy a public asset, let us demand real postal reform that preserves and expands a sacred national institution that can benefit generations to come.

2019 Terry Mead Scholarship Winners

Chase Corkwell
Sierra Bellinger



**Congratulations to our
Winners!**

Do to a limited amount of space, we were unable to print the winning essays in this edition and do apologize for this to the winners and all of our members.

HILCKKONOPACKICARTOONS.COM

KONO PACKI
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UNION



LIFE PRESERVER

DeJoy's Fix from Pg 3

The immediate question becomes, for all the retreat and withdrawal on the part of DeJoy and the Postal Service and the president, what has been actually won? Stopping operational changes that offered little financial benefit and used critical resources during a pandemic is good. Bringing increased focus and scrutiny to the processing of election mail is an alloyed good, but we also need to make sure states have sufficient resources to handle additional mail ballots. The Heroes Act passed in May by the House included \$3.5 billion for election assistance to the states and that money is critical – it can't get lost in the celebration of the moment.

President Reagan was fond of saying, "Trust but verify" with respect to negotiations with the Soviets. At this point there really can be no trust of the current administration. We've seen time and again how the administration has advanced outrageous programs, for example family separation and childhood detention, and announced roll-backs after public outrage became overwhelming. In too many cases however the abuses continued or renewed in quieter ways once the spotlight was off.

There has been a dangerous decline in mail delivery performance. Restoring Blue Boxes and sorting equipment won't reverse those declines. Many of the declines can be attributed to an institutional lack of urgency promoted by the PMG. Without eyes in every plant and carrier unit, we cannot be sure that every container gets on the last truck or every tray makes it out to the route. No matter what Mr. DeJoy says about using appropriate resources during the pandemic, we can't be sure that extra trip or overtime will be approved.

Getting back to a 96% on time rate will be hard but let's remember that 96% isn't good enough for election mail. Is anyone willing to see 4% of the ballots miss their deadlines? States could help by making ballot acceptance based on postmark not delivery. The news media could help by reinforcing the simple fact that we may not have full counts on election nights in tight races. This doesn't mean that there was fraud or shenanigans as

the president would have us believe. It means that we are in the middle of a pandemic where safety is critical so mail votes will far exceed previous amounts – people shouldn't have to chance their health to vote. It means we need to count every vote honestly and accurately. From the perspective of the Postal service it means that the only acceptable on time rate for election mail is 100% – that must be the standard.

Trust isn't good enough and is in short supply. Verification is essential. Congress needs clear, strong, and specific language creating an oversight regimen for the Postal service that will be in place from now until at least January. They must require eyes in plants and delivery units as well as regular and thorough reporting from USPS officials. Most of all Mr. DeJoy must go and the current Board of Governors who oversaw these changes must stand down.

Congress can and must create an interim postal governing board that would be in place until full postal reform legislation can be taken up by the next Congress. An interim PMG must be selected whose credibility and integrity is beyond question. I would recommend former USPSOIG and BOG member David Williams if he's willing to do it. During his tenure as OIG Mr. Williams repeatedly demonstrated himself to be an honest broker and a straight shooter. That's what we need.

But when the current election is over, we can't go back to the status quo ante in terms of postal reform. Too many people are willing to lay these problems solely at the current president's doorstep, but the sad fact is that the problems we face have existed for years, through administrations of both parties. That's largely the result of asking the wrong questions.

In *Gravity's Rainbow* Thomas Pynchon wrote: "If they can get you asking the wrong questions, they don't have to worry about answers."

That may be the best description of reporting on postal issues for the last ten years. Instead of talking about what the postal network is, what it means, what benefits it offers as an essential infrastructure,

the focus has been elsewhere. Like on the Postal Service's supposedly out-of-control, unfunded pension and healthcare liabilities, which are mostly a matter of concocted accounting issues.

Mr. DeJoy and the new Board of Governors, like so many before them, believe that the only way the postal network is valuable and viable is if it pays for itself through revenues, as if it were merely a delivery business. They are wrong about that, just as they are wrong about what equality and "We the People" means and promises.

It's good that the press is paying closer attention to postal issues. It speaks well of heightened citizen awareness and activity that the Postal Service rescinded collection box removals temporarily and that they will postpone further equipment removal until after the election.

Perhaps the most important thing is that all of us keep a cool head and retain perspective based on context and accurate facts. At the moment the story about collection boxes and equipment inventory at the Postal Service is a distraction, and they shouldn't divert us from what is most important.

From its first days in office, this administration has engaged in gaslighting, outright lying, and just plain bullshit. In his essay *On Bullshit*, philosopher Harry Frankfurt describes the characteristics of someone who engages in the practice of bullshitting:

He is neither on the side of the true nor on the side of the false. His eye is not on the facts at all, as the eyes of the honest man and of the liar are, except insofar as they may be pertinent to his interest in getting away with what he says. He does not care whether the things he says describe reality correctly. He just picks them out, or makes them up, to suit his purpose.

This describes to a tee what Mr. Trump and his minions and enablers are doing on a daily basis. By spreading disinformation and by taking provocative actions designed to heighten concern and even induce fear in the public, the administration causes folks to lose focus and in some cases chase their tails.

This administration engages in

daily misdirection and disinformation. The response needs be outrage but also a clear focus on the most important issues.

At this point the Postal Service, with \$12.9 billion in unrestricted cash as of June 30, 2020, has the funds it needs to ensure election mail is processed with urgency and accuracy. There is more than sufficient capacity to handle election mail, which amounts to a relatively small increase in the total piece count.

What is missing is a commitment by the part of Postal Service senior management to provide the necessary resources to make sure election mail is given the attention it deserves.

What is also missing is the political integrity in this administration to fulfill its responsibility to conduct a free and fair election. This is unacceptable and we and our representatives in Congress cannot and must not stand for it.

We must address postal reform, and hopefully it will be a priority of the next administration and hopefully it will focus on the Postal Service and the postal network as a national asset and an essential infrastructure.

Right now, at this moment our priority must be conducting a free, fair, and accessible election where everyone who wants to vote can vote and where every vote gets counted. In order to do that the resources of the Postal Service must be devoted to treating election mail with the highest priority and care, regardless of how it was mailed.

The Postal Board of Governors, Mr. DeJoy's bosses, needs to state unequivocally that the Postal Service will step up and fulfill its obligations to the American people in the coming election. There can be no excuses, waffling, or diversions.

Delivering election mail preserves a sacred American right, and it is the duty and moral responsibility of those in charge of the Postal Service to stake their personal reputations on ensuring the people's Postal Service fulfills its obligations fully and completely.

*Found a mistake...
I always try to have
something in each paper
for everyone!*

FRANKENMUTH SNOW FEST

JANEL RAMBO
TOUR 3 MAINTENANCE CRAFT STEWARD

The Snow Fest that Frankenmuth runs each year features some of the best ice and snow sculptures. It's also a way for local businesses to get some much needed attention during a very trying time of year. Many different groups help fund the snow fest each year, including a few unions.

So how was it this year? Very wet and disappointing. For the past 5 years this fest has really struggled with the weather. The turnout was more than I had expected given all the rain but it was still dismal. Most of not all of the snow sculptures were covered and very few ice sculptures we present. Ever since



the council voted to move the snow fest from February to January the weather has been an issue. With the exception of the one year when the polar vortex visited

us, all the other years have been in the 40's. I believe it needs to be moved back into February if this event is to ever be revived.

The few ice sculptures I could see were still amazing and really showcased the talent of the artist. The best sculpture was huge depiction of Jurassic park instead labeled Frankenmuth Park. It had the main gates and dinosaurs all around it. This sculpture was extremely large standing over 10 feet tall and at least 20 feet wide. This sculpture along with a raptor, t-rex foot print, and a triceratops

head were all protected from the rain under a canopy. It was the best sculpture I have seen in years and really showcased the talent present at the Snow fest.

Despite the bad weather I still would recommend visiting during the snow fest, especially if we get a cold year. Some the sculptures are honestly just amazing to see and it's always great to have some German food as well.

Editors Note: With the weather being a hot as it is right now, I thought this might help to cool you off!

245 Birthday of the Post Office



On July 24, U.S. Senator Gary Peters joined with the CMAL in celebrating the 245 Birthday of the Post Office with an unveiling of the Michigan Governors Proclamation honoring this event.

Guest speakers included MPWU President Mike Mize, CMAL President Lisa Jackson, U. S. Senator Gary Peters, Michigan House Rep. Kara Hope, Michigan House Rep. Angela Witwer and Lansing Chamber of Commerce Vice-President Michelle Rahl.

Senator Debbie Stabenow and U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin join in the fight in support the Post Office



On August 19th, after a brief tour of the Lansing P&DC, Senator Debbie Stabenow and Rep Elissa Slotkin held a press conference to describe the legislation that they are working, as well as the efforts to get the new PMG under control, secure additional funding and to prevent any interference with the election.

They invited MPWU President Mike Mize, 480-481 Local President Roscoe Woods, CMAL President Lisa Jackson and CMAL Legislative Director and Editor John Greathouse to join them. John Greathouse presented the position from the Union and how the changes can and will cause an impact and harm to the processing of mail.

The video of this press conference is available on the Central Michigan Postal Workers FB Page.



CMAL ELECTIONS

Here is how to join into the CMAL General Membership Meeting on **Wednesday, September 16th at 7pm.**

You can do it from a Smartphone, computer or just call in! Type in the link shown below as "Join Zoom Meeting" and enter the meeting ID and Pass code or call the number listed below and again enter the Meeting ID and Passcode.

Topic: CMAL E-BOARD & General Membership - Nominations for Board
Time: Sep 16, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6529583698?pwd=Ukg5cEQwbmgrbGRhUHdtSlhmQk00dz09>

Meeting ID: 652 958 3698
Passcode: 437393

By Phone - 1- 646- 558- 8656

THE ELECTIONS ARE COMING, THE ELECTIONS ARE COMING! 2020 CMAL ELECTIONS ARE SEPTEMBER 16TH

CMAL Constitution - ARTICLE 5 ELECTIONS

Section 1. The election of officers of this organization shall be by referendum vote and by secret ballot. Their term of office shall be **Three (3)** years.

Section 2. The Election Committee and Chairperson shall be appointed by the President during the June meeting prior to nominations with at least three (3) members from two (2) different local installations. No committee member shall be a candidate for office.

Section 3. At least thirty (30) days prior to the nominations meeting, the Election Committee shall:

- ⇒ Establish the rules of the election.
- ⇒ Submit a notice of the nominations to the editor of the PACER to be published and mailed not less than twenty (20) days prior to the nomination meeting. This notice will include officer positions to be filled and/or number of delegates to be elected; which officers are automatic delegates by virtue of their office; the time, date and place of the nomination meeting; qualifications for office (per Article 12 of the National Constitution); and the form of nominations.
- ⇒ Post a notice in the PACER and on all APWU bulletin boards, soliciting members to provide the Local with any address or name changes to update the membership list.
- ⇒ Secure two (2) return post office boxes in a post office not within the Central Michigan Area Local for:
- ⇒ Correspondence being directed to the Committee and return of undeliverable ballots.
- ⇒ Marked ballots to be counted (this shall be a locked box).

Section 4. Following the nomination meeting, the Election Committee shall also be responsible for:

- ⇒ Posting a notice on all APWU bulletin boards noting all nominated members and the positions for which they were nominated
- ⇒ The notice shall also specify the last date and time when a member may accept his/her nomination, and the procedure for acceptance.
- ⇒ Requesting from each candidate how they would like their name to appear on the ballot (including the use of nicknames).
- ⇒ Distributing a written copy of the election rules to all candidates for contested positions.
- ⇒ Posting a notice indicating when postal employees must be a member to receive a ballot.
- ⇒ Checking the membership list for accuracy.
- ⇒ The printing of the ballots and instructions.
- ⇒ Securing the ballots.
- ⇒ Distributing the ballots.
- ⇒ Notifying members on how to contact the Election Committee to request a duplicate ballot, and establishing a cut-off date for such requests.
- ⇒ Counting the ballots.
- ⇒ Reporting the election results.
- ⇒ Investigating and ruling on any grievance to the election process (see Section 6).
- ⇒ Maintaining the election materials for one (1) year after all appeals have been exhausted.

Section 5. The nomination of officers of this organization shall be held at the regular monthly General Membership meeting in September with the election held in November. Attendance at the regular General Membership meeting in September of election year is not necessary for nomination. In the event that a quorum is not achieved at the September nomination meeting, the nomination of officers shall be handled according to the following alternate procedure:

- ⇒ Notice of the lack of a quorum shall be posted at all member offices within 48 hours of the September meeting date.
- ⇒ Any member may nominate themselves for any CMAL office by sending written notice of such nomination by certified mail to the election Committee within **fourteen (14)** days of the September nomination meeting.

Section 6. All nominees present at the nomination meeting in September shall have the option of accepting or declining verbally at that time. All nominees shall have eight (8) days from the time of the nomination meeting to accept or decline in writing to the Election Committee.

- ⇒ The Election Committee Chairperson shall be responsible for informing those nominated who are not present at the nomination meeting of the requirements to accept or decline in writing within the eight (8) day period.
- ⇒ Nominees to contested positions shall have until October 5th to submit a campaign article to the Editor of the PACER, length not to exceed 350 words. Articles must be sent via certified mail or hand delivered to the Editor.
- ⇒ Nominees shall be afforded an equal opportunity to campaign, but all campaigning must be done at their own expense and on their own time. No union funds, including the use of equipment or office supplies, may be used by any candidate for union office, for purposes of campaigning

Section 7. Any member who feels aggrieved in connection with the conduct of a local election shall file his/her grievance with the election committee within seventy-two (72) hours after his/her grievance arises. (For the purpose of this Article, the term "election" shall include nominating procedures). Appeals from the decision of the local election committee shall be filed in writing to the National Election Appeals Committee within five (5) days of the local committee's decision.

Section 8. To be eligible to hold office, a member must have been a member in good standing for nine (9) months prior to the nomination meeting. Any otherwise eligible member who voluntarily holds a managerial, supervisory or EAS position with the responsibility for issuing or recommending discipline, or applying or interpreting the Nation Agreement for any period of time in a year shall be ineligible to hold office for a period of one (1) year after returning to craft. Any otherwise eligible member who has submitted an application (written or verbal) to test for or be considered for any managerial, supervisor, or EAS position with responsibility for issuing or recommending discipline or for applying or interpreting the Nation Agreement shall withdraw such application prior to acceptance of nomination for any office in the CMAL. Written documentation of such withdrawal must be provided to the Election Committee.

Section 9. Ballots shall be mailed not later than November 5th. They must be returned to the Election Committee's locked box by 9:00 a.m. on November 21st. In the event that November 21st falls on a Sunday, the deadline shall be extended to 9:00 a.m. on the following Tuesday.

- ⇒ All ballots shall be accompanied by a copy of voting instructions. Ballots shall be declared void if the instructions are not followed.
- ⇒ All ballots must be accompanied by two (2) envelopes; one (1) must be blank for the ballot; one (1) must have the return address of the Election committee in the upper left hand corner with postage paid. The word "Ballot" must be printed on the envelope with a space for the member to sign the envelope. All ballots shall be returned to a locked container. The envelopes shall be sent First Class mail.
- ⇒ Per the APWU National constitution Article 12, Section 4(a), "Write-in votes shall not be valid, counted or considered."

Section 10. All officers of this organization shall be elected by plurality (the number of votes cast for one candidate that is greater than the number cast for any other in the election, but may be less than a majority).

Section 11. In the case of a tie affecting the final selection of one (1) or more candidates, only the names of the tied candidates shall be resubmitted to the Election Committee, who shall prepare and mail a ballot to all eligible voters within five (5) days. Voters shall have (15) days to return their ballot.

Section 12. The terms of officers elected will become effective January 1.

Section 13. The officers elected shall be installed at the regular January General Membership meeting.

Section 14. A member may hold only one Executive Board position.

Section 15. Effective January 1st any and all property of APWU-CMAL in the possession of a vacating incumbent including, but not limited to; documents, correspondence, financial records and capital equipment shall be transferred/surrendered to the newly elected incumbent.

Section 16. In the event any office is vacant effective January 1st any and all property as stated in section 15 shall be transferred/surrendered to the current CMAL President effective January 1.



2020 - TERRY MEAD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



RULES

Members Name _____

Address _____

Work Location _____

Soc Sec _____ [Document Share](#)
[Timeline Photos](#)

Relationship to applicant _____

Students Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Alternate Number _____

Date of Birth _____

Soc Sec # _____

Accredited institution attending/planning to attend:

1. First consideration will be given to seniors in High School and/or recently graduated within the last three years and based on the financial need of the student (**application must include copies of 2 most recent pay stubs for verification**).
2. All Central Michigan Area Local members' children or grandchildren are eligible to apply.
3. Applicants' parent/grandparent must be a member in good standing for at least one year prior to making application (associate members are not eligible).
4. Applicants must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning (College, University, or Vocational school).
5. Scholarship recipient must be a full-time student, carrying and passing, at least 12 credit hours per semester/quarter.
6. Each scholarship is \$500 and at least two scholarships will be awarded annually as a one-time award.
7. Scholarship money will be awarded at the end of the first term/semester/quarter upon presentation of a transcript from the accredited institution.
8. An essay of **at least 200 words but not more than 350 words** on a UNION related topic, i.e. what the Union means to me, Growing up in a Union family, etc. must be submitted with this application.
9. All essays become the sole property of the Central Michigan Area Local with reproduction rights.
10. All decisions on scholarships will be made by the scholarship committee and are final.

NOTE: The following statement must be signed by the member and applicant.

I understand that the decisions of the scholarship committee are final and binding. If I am selected, I will abide by these rules. I further agree to allow the CMAL to publish my name and photograph. I swear that all information on this application is correct and true.

Signature of Applicant

Date _____

Signature of Member

Date _____

**Terry Mead Scholarship
PO Box 21154
Lansing, Michigan 48909**

**Applications must be
RECEIVED by
Jan 1, 2021**



The Pacer
Central Michigan Area Local 300
PO Box 21154
Lansing, MI 48909-1154
Change of Service Requested