



# Aurora News

Official Newsletter of the  
Aurora Colorado Local, APWU

July 2006

Volume 7 Number 2

## Now Hear This!

### All PTF's Are Full Time Workers as of June 24, 2006.

#### President's Report

by Shelly Alvarado

In my short time as your Local President there is so much that I have already experienced and learned. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of these things with you. It is not my objective to take credit for these things but to try and reach out to the members as to what is going on in the Local. Some of the accomplishments that we have made as well as what changes lie ahead and in the near future.

#### Local Accomplishments

We currently have a Full-Time Workforce throughout the city due to the hard work of the officers, stewards and, primarily, our past President Rick Borsick. There are two people pending a full time status upon scheme training

completion but when they pass we will have a 100% Full-Time workforce. This was all due to a Step 3 settlement received May 3, 2006 that went into effect June 24, 2006. Ten PTF's were converted to Full-time regulars and the final two PTF's are pending scheme training qualification. This also means that the next PTF hired will be hired as a full-time regular. This is an exciting time and a wonderful accomplishment for our local. I would like to express my sincerest heartfelt congratulations to all the new FTR's.

After an exhaustive membership drive our Local membership is over 90% for the first time in our existence and we are still climbing with eleven non-members left to go. I don't know what it is going to take for them to join but maybe you could ask them *"Why do you refuse to pay your fair share?"*. To all of you that have signed up new members - Job Well Done! To the new members - welcome to the Aurora,

Colorado Local. I would like to ask the membership for help and ask people to get involved in any way possible. Maybe by attending a general membership meeting, there are only four per year and we would love to see you there. We are currently looking for stewards and alternate stewards at many stations and volunteers for any of the various committees that we sponsor. You can even help by signing up a non-member or giving to COPA. Just give it some thought and let any Officer know.

#### Changes in the Local

Effective July 1, 2006 Tom Sullivan resigned as Secretary/Treasurer of the Aurora, Colorado Local and Dan Van Minnen has been appointed to the office for the remainder of the current term. Tom, I thank you for your years of service as Secretary/Treasurer to your local and

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#### Dan's Tool Box

by Dan Van Minnen

If you've been to the past couple of union meetings you're aware of the attacks that we'll soon be under. Even if you haven't attended recently, you've probably heard of the President Bush's Postal Reform Commission. This is a serious attack on our families and working people. He has attempted to dismantle our collective bargaining rights, which we've worked hard for over the past 30 years and we are now in a fight to protect our mere existence as postal workers. Having said this we've been trying to raise awareness of our COPA needs. Later this year we will have the political fight of our lifetime on our hands in the November ballot and we will need all the resources possible. COPA

contributions don't come from our dues. COPA funds are separate and voluntary contributions that we need to support both Republicans and Democrats that will decide whether we continue to earn a decent livable wage and the benefits that go along with it.

***We will need supporters  
from both sides of the aisle  
in Congress  
to help steer our future.***

Just picture yourself working for the Post Office at half (or less) your present wage. What about that annual leave? Do most companies "give" their employees 5 weeks of vacation time after

15 years? Then there is that sick leave, 104 hours a year? How many family and friends do you know that have the health benefits that we enjoy? What about that seniority? Jobs are bid on, not just given to whoever is in favor this week. These things are taken for granted. They're ours, right? The fact is that every single thing we have is a result of collective bargaining. We don't have anything that's been "given" to us. Our Union dues made these things possible.

We know about NAFTA. Almost everyone has heard of the devastating affect NAFTA has had on manufacturing jobs in the US. We have lost over 2,000,000 jobs since Congress passed it. What was our reaction? We felt bad for the

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Aurora News PO Box 471234 Aurora, CO 80047 is the official newsletter of the Aurora Colorado Local APWU. We welcome original articles, stories and artwork from our local union members and their families. All opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the editor, local officers of the Aurora Colorado Local APWU or the publisher. The editor reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for this publication shall be printed and will edit if needed for space. Libelous statements or personal attacks will not be printed. All material must be signed, however, anonymity may be requested.

**OFFICERS** President - Shelly Alvarado Vice-President - Bob Burton Secretary-Treasurer - Dan Van Minnen

Editor - Dan Van Minnen Trustees - Bob Burton, Dan Van Minnen, Ted Seidler

**STEWARDS** Altura - Bob Burton Buckingham - Vacant Fletcher - Shelly Alvarado Gateway - Vacant

Hoffman Heights - Vacant Main Office - Rick Borsick Tower - Vacant Maintenance Dept. - Dan Van Minnen

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of March, June, September and November at the Local office located at 1010 South Joliet Street Aurora, CO 80012.

Do your part and attend a meeting convenient for you.

**Get involved Brothers and Sisters -- Separated we will Fail but In Unity we will Prevail!**

# State Convention, Grand Junction, CO

27-30 April 2006

## State Convention Highlights

State Elections yielded the following: State President **George Prusak**, Vice President **Gil Trujillo** and Secretary Treasurer **Sonda Goss** ran unopposed and were all elected. Elections were held for the State Trustees with the following results: **Tom Sullivan**, **Chuck Bader** and **Gail Kirby**.

**Tom Sullivan** was re-elected as State Trustee for the Colorado Postal Workers Union.

Forty eight State Convention Delegates raised \$4,000 for COPA through Electronic Transfer and Cash Contributions.

Delegate Assignments: Shelly Alvarado	National Convention Committee
Tom Sullivan	Kelley Award Committee
Dan Van Minnen	COPA Committee Chair
Blessie Tagle	Election Committee

Delegates adopted 7 of 8 proposed Constitution resolutions and adopted 11 of the 15 proposed Labor/Management resolutions, with 1 referral to the MVS craft.



Aurora, CO Local State Delegates **Blessie Tagle**, **Shelly Alvarado**, **Dan Van Minnen** and **Tom Sullivan**



National Business Agents **Mo Merow** and **Steve Zamonakos**



Aurora, CO Local State Convention Delegate **Blessie Tagle** served on the Election Committee and signed up for Electronic Transfer to COPA with National Auxiliary Director **Trisa Manion**

# Denver Regional Assembly, Golden, CO

9-11 June 2006

## Denver Regional Assembly Highlights

Fourteen National Officers were in attendance at the Assembly; President Burris addressed the delegates and stated that the business at the Convention in Philadelphia in August will be concerning the upcoming Contract Negotiations. Secretary/Treasurer Terry Stapleton informed the delegates of the financial state of our Union, Clerk Craft Director Jim McCarthy spoke on Clerk Craft issues and Maintenance Craft Director Steve Raymer gave a MS-47 case update.

One hundred seventy-seven Regional Assembly Delegates from five states -Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming - were in attendance and collectively raised \$3,286 for COPA through cash contributions.

Aurora Local APWU Auxiliary President Mary Van Minnen was appointed State President of the Colorado Chapter of the APWU Auxiliary.

Delegate Training: Shelly Alvarado - Local Negotiations  
Bob Burton - Safety & Health  
Dan Van Minnen - Clerk Craft Issues



**Dan Van Minnen** presenting a gift award to a COPA contributor during the Denver Regional Assembly. Over \$3,200 was raised for COPA over the weekend. A wide variety of drawings and contests were conducted by both the Aurora Colorado local and the host local, the Denver Metro Area Local.



Maintenance Craft Director **Steve Raymer** conducted training for maintenance personnel during a breakout session on June 10, 2006. The Director also is anticipating a decision from arbitrator Das on the MS-47 issue later this year, hopefully by the time the National Convention in Philadelphia is here.

### Dan's Tool Box from page 1

folks whose jobs left the country. We thought something should be done to fix it and we went on with our lives. We knew it couldn't affect us, right? GATS changes all of that. After devastating the manufacturing industry they are now focused on our service industries which also include postal services around the world. How could GATS touch your life? The postal services in Germany and Holland have been partially privatized. They compete with other countries against their own postal services. The European Union (EU) has challenged the US **Private Express Statutes**. They contend that the Private Express Statutes are an illegal trade barrier under GATS. The EU also contends that the Private Express Statutes violate GATS obligations to allow companies from foreign countries to compete for the right to process and deliver postal services in the US. The WTO and GATS allow foreign countries to come in and do to the service sectors of our economy just what the

WTO and NAFTA did when they came in and decimated the manufacturing industries of our economy. These laws will allow others to come in and take our work, but not require those companies to pay a livable wage or benefits.

This Presidents Commission on the Postal Service is going to try to change the laws so those competitors, both foreign and domestic, can do our jobs.

This isn't only a "Democrat v. Republican" thing or a "Union v. Management" thing. We need to put our efforts together and build up our COPA dollars. We will need supporters from both sides of the aisle in Congress to help steer our future. These COPA contributions will be used to financially support campaigns of incumbents and challengers that commit to us to protect both our jobs and our futures. We can't ignore these things and think that they will just disappear. This isn't something that the APWU can negotiate with management and is way be-

yond anything our national officers or your local officers can address through collective bargaining.

Hopefully you can see the need to be a part of the solution. Our first step is to start contributing to the COPA fund. An easy way has been developed to help us raise COPA \$\$\$ . Complete one of the COPA forms and send \$1.00 each payday to COPA through your checking or savings. Perhaps you could send \$2.00 a payday. Our goal is to raise \$2 a pay period for each member in our Local. If we have about 100 members times \$2 times 26 pay periods annually = \$5000 a year. If we all contribute just \$1 or \$2 a payday we stand a chance of building support in Congress that could save our futures and help our kids to have some security in their future. Please join us in doing whatever you are able to help protect our jobs.



## Colorado APWU Auxiliary Teaches Kids about Labor History

by Dan Van Minnen

Members of the APWU Auxiliary held classes on Labor history for 12 kids at the Denver Regional Conference held in Golden, CO at the Denver Marriott on June 10, 2006. District Coordinator Mary Lois Clayson and members of the APWU Auxiliary taught Child Labor classes to children of some of the delegates that attended the Conference. The APWU Auxiliary provides something for everyone, uniting friends, families and retirees. The Aurora, CO Local POC is Mary Van Minnen and can be reached at 303-680-5469 if you have any questions or interest in becoming a member or just getting involved.

The Auxiliary is a grassroots organization of volunteers serving out a deep abiding commitment to our American postal Workers Union and its members. United by common goals and interests, Auxiliary members are engaged in the kind of community and civic involvement that is necessary to present the best possible image of labor to the American people. The Auxiliary stresses both political and philanthropic work. Without their help, the APWU would be unable to carry out many of the time consuming "nuts and bolts" activities essential to the success of our union. Membership eligibility is for any person sponsored by an APWU member, unless that person is a USPS supervisor and not related to an APWU member. Retirees and their families are also eligible.



APWU Auxiliary members teaching a Child Labor Education Class on Labor Leaders of the 20th century to children of some delegates at the Denver Regional Assembly. District #2 Coordinator Mary Lois Clayson and new Colorado State President for the APWU Auxiliary Mary Van Minnen were on hand to hold the training.



### President's Report from page 1

your continued commitment to your local as a steward for the Altura Station. Tom has always done an exceptional job as Secretary/ Treasurer and steward for your Local. Tom thanks again.

Effective August 1, 2006 your local is looking for a committed volunteer to serve as a committee representative of APWU Clerk Craft on the Aurora, CO Social & Recreation Committee. Lori Bonamo has served in this position and I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the Local. If anyone is interested please contact me at Fletcher Station.

We're moving forward in 2006 and with the first half of the year in our rear view mirror we look ahead with contract negotiations being the business that we will address at the upcoming National Convention in Philadelphia and we will continue the fight locally to protect workers rights. What direction we move in is up to you the member so let your local officers and stewards know. They cannot be everywhere all the

time so remember to request a steward on any contractual or safety violations that arise in the workplace. Help us protect your rights and our jobs! One way to do this is by reading your contract and knowing what your rights are. Ask questions, request a steward or just pick up the phone and communicate with any of our Officers. You can even share your experiences with the membership by writing an article in the newsletters for the good of the Local. For those of you who are already an APWU representative or on a committee you could write an article for the newsletter. Finally, at the last Aurora, Co. Local general membership meeting we allocated some funds to have a membership function sometime between now and Oct. 31, 2006. What is it you would like to do? A picnic or dine out? Maybe some sort of family event or something for the community? As a local we should be out there serving our community as a group, again I ask are there any volunteers? The few that have committed to serve your Local are accomplishing wonderful things and we continue to move forward, but together we could accomplish so much more if we had

more members stepping up and serving our local. Have you given to COPA this year? Did you know that COPA is like car insurance? Only it is job insurance! Due to the few that contribute to COPA (committee on political action) our local has always done well but with your help we can excel. Being a part of a Labor Union sometimes involves having influence on the political landscape and our membership dues cannot be used for any political reasons so that is why we continue to seek donations for COPA. Talk to your officers or stewards about COPA. Every member can afford to contribute at least \$2.00 a pay period. It is in your best interest to do so.

Lastly, please let me hear from you. I want to hear not only the good, the bad, the positive & the negative but I am also interested in what you think we can do as Local Officers to make our Local stronger and more unified. I am here to serve the membership and to accomplish this we need communication from you the member.

In Unity and Solidarity



## APWU Grievance Settlement/Accomplishments

<b>Craft</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Clerk	<b>Supervisor performing Bargaining Unit Work</b> Art. 1.6, (12 Separate Times)	Pay 125 hrs OT	<b>\$4,125.00</b>
Clerk	<b>Crossing Crafts</b> (5 Separate Times)	Pay 10 hrs	<b>\$ 225.00</b>
Clerk	<b>Enforcement of Previous Grievance Settlement</b>	Settlement Enforced	<b>\$2,250.00</b>
Clerk	<b>Not working Principal Assignment area</b> (2 separate times)	Lump Sum	<b>\$ 180.00</b>
Clerk	<b>Guaranteed time</b>	Pay 11 hrs	<b>\$ 180.00</b>
Clerk	<b>Crossing Crafts</b>	Pay 1 hr	<b>\$ 22.00</b>
Maintenance	<b>Subcontracting</b>	Pay 8 hrs	<b>\$ 175.00</b>
Maintenance	<b>Higher Level Assignment</b>	Lump Sum	<b>\$ 350.00</b>
Clerk	<b>Notice of Removal</b>	Notice Rescinded Employee returned to work w/ ALL Back pay	<b>Priceless</b>
Clerk	<b>7 day suspensions</b> (3 Separate times)	Reduced to 3 months Letter of Warning L.O.W.	<b>Priceless</b>
Clerk	<b>Improper Reversions of 12 Duty Assignments</b>	PTF's converted to Full Time Regulars	<b>Priceless</b>
Clerk	<b>6 Duty Assignments Improperly assigned</b>	Returned to PTF Preference	<b>Priceless</b>
Clerk	<b>Improper performance of scheme duties</b>	Pay 1 hr	<b>\$ 20.00</b>
Clerk	<b>Senior employee displaced by junior employee</b>	Pay 8 hrs	<b>\$ 180.00</b>
Clerk	<b>Consecutive days off changed to non-consecutive days</b>	Pay OOS Premium Reversed back to consecutive days off	<b>\$7,000.00</b>
Clerk	<b>Consecutive days off changed to non-consecutive days</b>	Pay OOS Premium Reversed back to consecutive days off	<b>\$3,500.00</b>
Clerk	<b>Consecutive days off changed to non-consecutive days</b>	Pay OOS Premium Reversed back to consecutive days off	<b>\$ 500.00</b>
Clerk	<b>Consecutive days off changed to non-consecutive days</b>	Pay OOS Premium Reversed back to consecutive days off	<b>\$ 500.00</b>

***Union Membership - 90%***  
***Full Time Workforce - 100%***  
***New Postmaster - Priceless!***

Cf



## COPA REPORT

The 2006 Campaign for COPA is in full swing. In the first and second quarters of 2006 members from our local contributed over \$600.00 through June 30th. Our goal is to exceed totals for last year which were \$1,600 as a local. With the National Conventional in August we will be raising money for COPA. Our little local did the best in the state on a per member basis as far as contributions are concerned for the second year running. We exceeded the goal that the National office had of \$10.00 per member. As far as the second half of the year is shaping up, we are planning a function as an outing for our membership and to raise funds for COPA. Please get involved and participate in any way that you can. You can sign up a payroll deduction through Postal Ease or buy a raffle ticket whenever we do a 50/50 raffle, contribute if you wish separately by talking to your steward. See any local officer or steward for more details.

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