



# OSHA Proposes \$33,000 Penalty for Safety Violations

see page 5

## The President's Report

by Shelly Lucido

On May 1 we celebrate 50 years as a Local. It is a good time to reflect on how far we have come and where we are going. Many people have made sacrifices and fought for the wages, hours and working conditions we enjoy. In a struggling economy we are fortunate to have a no-layoff clause and to have negotiated wages and benefits so we can provide for ourselves and our families. Yet we sometimes forget the individuals who fought before us so we could enjoy these wages and benefits. A union is about solidarity, upholding the contract and fighting not just for ourselves but also for those who will come after us, just as our predecessors did. A union is only as strong as its members.

### Article 1.6A states:

Supervisors are prohibited from performing bargaining unit work ... except:  
1) in an emergency;

- 2) for the purpose of training or instruction of employees;
- 3) to assure the proper operation of equipment;
- 4) to protect the safety of employees; or
- 5) to protect the property of the USPS

*As long as local management chooses to disrespect the Collective Bargaining Agreement, we will continue to file the same grievances.*

If management is performing your work - touching the mail, moving equipment, delivering express, lobby sweeps etc. - you should be requesting a steward. Do not continue to allow them to do our work and eliminate jobs.

### LMOU Item 21 F.

“... the successful bidder shall work the duty assignment as posted and shall not be displaced by a junior employee.”

**You** bid the job and **you** should be working the job as posted. There is no provision for you to be working at other stations if it is not posted on your bid assignment. To do so is to assist management in eliminating jobs. Of course you must do what you are instructed to do but you should be requesting to see your union steward.

### DUO = Destruction of Unit Operations.

I can respect the Postal Service goal to eliminate costs but I cannot agree to it at the expense of customer service and the causing of unsafe working conditions. Employees working at Hoffman Heights have been experiencing

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## Dan's Tool Box

by Dan Van Minnen

The Postal Service got more takers than they wanted. The projection was for 20,000 employees to take the VERA nationwide. Approximately 25,500 employees have opted to retire or resign. In our little local we had 6 who decided to take advantage of this program so I would like to personally extend my best wishes to you all. Most of the people who are leaving are eligible for retirement. Those

employees requesting early retirement account for 19 percent nationwide of the total, and employees who decided to resign to receive the incentive amounted to only 1 percent. The Aurora Local 6315 would like to congratulate and give best wishes to all of the APWU represented employees who are retiring as you will be sorely missed.

With this many employees retiring, the Post Office will be hard pressed to fill all of the vacant positions. In the VERA agreement it states that the postal service can hire and maintain as many PSE's as they want without regard to our PSE cap. This is allowed for only 90 days. After 90 days if they are still over the caps, they must convert some PSE's to regular to get back under the PSE caps.

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# Congratulations And Good Luck To All Who Are Leaving

**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 editors, local officers or the Aurora Colorado Local APWU. The editor reserves the right to determine whether material submitted for this publication shall be printed and will be 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 - Executive Editor Shelly Lucido | Vice-President Bob Burton | Secretary-Treasurer | Managing Editor Dan Van Minnen  
**STEWARDS** Altura: Dan Van Minnen / Alternate: Shelly Lucido | Buckingham & Hoffman Heights: Shelly Lucido / Alternate: Dan Van Minnen  
**Fletcher**: Shelly Lucido / Alternate: Dan Van Minnen | Gateway: Dan Van Minnen / Alternate: Bob Burton | **Main Office**: Shelly Lucido / Alternate: Dan Van Minnen  
**Maintenance Dept**: Dan Van Minnen / Alternate: Shelly Lucido | **Tower**: Bob Burton / Alternate: Shelly Lucido | **Step 2 Designer**: Shelly R. Lucido

Members are encouraged to attend the General Membership Meetings, held in the morning on the second Sunday of March & November at various locations, and in the early evening on the second Tuesday of January, May, June, September at the Local office located at 1010 South Joliet Street# 201, 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.

# Unless You Are With The Union, You Are Alone.

by Tom Sullivan

I would like to once again thank everyone for the kind words and thoughts that were expressed to me and my family through the cards that were passed around the workroom floor this past July and delivered to us shortly thereafter. Those of you who personally took the time to send a card expressing your own comments I know took a lot of courage to do as well as those who found the strength to come to Alex's viewing or funeral. Simple words cannot express how much I appreciated those acts.

From day one of this ordeal my Union has been standing next to me and my family to lend any support or comfort that we needed. While I sat in the common area of Gateway HS on 7/20 waiting to be given the worst news that any parent could ever get, that your child was dead, my Union was with me. Our local president sat in the parking lot calling me to see what she could do and telling me that calls from around the state and country were coming in to her to ask what could be done.

Cards and letters began to come to my house on that first Monday and the first one I opened was from my Union brothers and sisters in the state of Washington who offered condolences and a check. Those cards and checks from Unions across the country continued for weeks.

The national clerk craft director Rob Strunk came out from DC to be with us at Alex's viewing, funeral and burial. He also was at my house several times including

Alex's wake where in pure Irish fashion we toasted him with stories and Jamison until the wee hours of the morning.

I was invited to attend a memorial service in LA prior to this years national convention for Alex and I also addressed the convention after a moment of silence for not only Alex but all those that our Union had lost since it last convened. That was a true honor.

Absent in their support was my employer the Aurora Post Office. I worked in Aurora for 26+ years, originally assigned to the Main office when it was on Dayton St. then was part of the group that opened the new main on Buckley/Alameda. I am not a new hire. You would be hard pressed to find someone in the city who at least didn't know my name. Alex worked as a bartender in Aurora for years and when people at his bar would talk about the PO he would always chime in that his dad worked at the PO and when asked who he was he told them Tom Sullivan. It always got some kind of groan of recognition.

While my family and I worked our way through this tragedy I saw the outpouring of support that people are capable of. My wife's supervisor and a co-worker were with her all day 7/20 inside Gateway HS while we awaited word. My daughter works at a public relations company who nearly shut down to help us through the media requests. Our picture was on the front page of 97 major newspaper in the US and we were getting 70-80 interview

requests the first 10 days. Megan's employer handled every one of those calls. Not a single one of those calls came from my employer, the Aurora Post Office

My house was filled to overflow by family, friends, neighbors and co-workers who came over to help in any way or to offer us a word of support. I know now how hard that was for many when you certainly don't know what to say, but every time just to see a friend was often all we needed. No words had to be expressed maybe just a hug or holding our hand was all we needed. No one from my employer ever came to my house, even though many of them knew my son. He had helped move furniture when a station manager re-married, twice, still no one person from Aurora management could come to my home to offer condolences.

The President of this USA took time out his schedule to sit down next to me and my mother to ask us to tell him about Alex. This was my mother's only grandson yet no one from Aurora management could take the time to either let me know that things would get better or to ask how I was doing and if they could help.

I know that we have all lost someone during our lives be it a parent or sibling and a select few are part of this group who have lost a child. I would never expect them to do more than what they have to do and most times I have found that they will do the least they can. This was different.

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*The Aurora Local APWU extends our condolences to our brother, long-time member, steward and union activist Tom Sullivan, and his family, on the death of their son Alex at the Aurora theater shooting on July 20, 2012.*

*You can donate to the Alex Sullivan Fund in three ways:*

**Make a donation online** via PayPal: [www.alex.sullivanfund.com](http://www.alex.sullivanfund.com)

**Mail a check** to the following address: US Bank - Hampden Crossing Branch  
18101 East Hampden  
Aurora, CO 80013

*Note on envelope and check "Alex Sullivan Memorial Fund"*

**Go to any US Bank Branch** and mention the Alex Sullivan Memorial Fund to make a donation; or call the Hampden Crossing Branch at 303-400-2780

*50 Years Strong - continued from page 1*

hazardous working conditions that the Postal Service caused when they moved carriers, clerks and mail from Fletcher to Hoffman Heights. In December, OSHA performed an inspection and we are awaiting their official findings. In the meantime District Safety - present during the OSHA Inspection - is well aware of their findings - called *unmanaged egress aisles*. A 28" egress aisle must be kept at all times, but due to the inadequate space at Hoffman it is impossible to achieve. Management's response is to search for another location for the carriers and distribution or reconstruct Hoffman.

Whatever station you are working at least a clear 28" aisle must be maintained in your work area, around carrier cases, etc. If it is not you should be filling out a Form 1767 or requesting a steward.

Fletcher and Altura have experienced the effects of the so called DUO's. Missing mail, insufficient time to do second notices, return packages etc. Management's response is to further make customer service worse by eliminating jobs at these two stations. A job at Fletcher has already been eliminated and, per MCS Donna Flaherty, the elimination of a job at Altura is forthcoming.

It doesn't matter what station you are at, if mail is being delayed - second notices, forwards, return to senders etc. - you should be reporting it to the OIG or requesting a steward.

#### **Wos, CSV and Flash reports.**

Every time there is a reversion or an abolishment of a job, these are the reports management utilizes to justify it. These reports are driven by some things you either do or don't do. ***I cannot stress enough*** the importance of assuring you are making moves on the clock depending on what duties you are performing. ***I cannot stress enough*** how important it is to account for every customer visit by recording it in the POS machine. ***I cannot stress enough*** the importance of assuring that you are accurately recording mail volume. Help us save ***your jobs*** by doing ***your part***.

**Scheme Training, Travel time and Mileage.** It is management's responsibility to provide and schedule training and your responsibility to go. If you incur additional

mileage due to traveling to the AMPO, you should be paid mileage. Ask your supervisor or Manager for assistance in requesting reimbursement for mileage.

**Senior Bidders.** You have a right to do your scheme training immediately before or after your regular tour or on the clock with the use of annual. If you are being mandated for overtime and it interferes with your training, request a steward. Clerks under certain circumstances such as abolishment of your job or reposting of your job you may be entitled to conduct your scheme training on the clock. Remember: if you are traveling on or off the clock you are entitled to be paid for mileage. In addition, if you are traveling off the clock you are entitled to travel time. Recently I became aware that Clerks for some time have not been paid for their travel time or mileage. This means management has not been paying you correctly. This means they have purposely been robbing you of your pay. Andy Weaver has provided me with training records for the last 6 years and I believe I have identified the clerks that were robbed of their pay. At this time Mr. Weaver wants to argue that it is untimely to get you paid now. I am currently working on a response or solution, whether it is notifying the OIG, Dept. of Labor, contacting your Congressional Representatives or perhaps filing a grievance on your behalf. I promise you this, there will be a response. Robbing employees of their pay will not go without a response. In speaking to employees it appears it was not a problem prior to Mr. Weaver and in speaking to others they were unaware they were not paid correctly.

#### **JCIM Art. 37, page 5, Question# 22.**

In early 2012 I sent a letter to Postmaster Cook outlining my position on the above mentioned provision and that any violation of my position would be grieved. It was grieved and has recently been resolved. It is now agreed among the parties that when overtime is needed for scheme distribution: **1)** the employees on the OTDL who are scheme qualified must be maximized first; **2)** then the clerks on the OTDL not possessing the skill must be utilized to perform mail distribution via alpha-numeric; **3)** then mandating non-OTDL clerks. This was a very expensive lesson for management, but a provision of

the contract they were well aware of prior to the violation.

These are just a few of the provisions of our CBA that must be enforced. Do not allow your contract to be violated without saying something. We cannot sacrifice our fellow employees and future APWU members, or turn our backs on those who have sacrificed and fought for the wages, hours and working conditions we enjoy today. Get involved in the day-to-day fight. In addition, get involved in the legislative issues that affect workers all over this great country including Postal Workers.

As long as local management chooses to disrespect the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) - which the Postal Service agreed to and signed - ***we will continue to file the same grievances***. As long as certain Managers and Supervisors are not held accountable for the thousands of dollars paid out in grievances every year, ***we will continue to file the same grievances***. As long as local management shows no integrity in honoring the agreement the Postal Service signed, ***we will continue to file the same grievances***. We must not give up and allow management to violate our contract. We must not play "Let's Make A Deal" with the contract to benefit just ourselves. The outcome of such deals is the destruction of what being a union is all about and the elimination of current and future jobs.

**Blame Postal Management, not your union.** Remember your union has your interest at heart. Your Officers and Stewards took an oath to uphold and enforce the contract and will do so to the best of their ability. Remember the APWU is not trying to destroy the USPS by filing a grievance, as management sometimes claims. We are enforcing a contract that both parties agreed to and it is management that chooses to violate the contract.

God bless and Best Wishes to our retirees. I ask you all to stay involved and remain a member of this local or become a member of the retiree department. In 2013 and forward we must continue to stand with one another, pray for one another and be there for one another as the fight and struggles continue.

*Shelly*

# Happy 50th Birthday Aurora Local 6315

by Dave Blank, Local Trustee.

The Aurora local 6315, American Postal Workers Union will celebrate 50 years of being a Union. It all started with the United Federation of Postal Clerks, May 1st, 1963 and then 20 years later on June 1st, 1983 our prestigious local was awarded a charter with the current American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO. To help us find a way to celebrate

and honor these anniversaries, we are asking that the members attend the Sunday, March 10th, 2013 meeting at the Golden Coral Steakhouse on the corner of Parker and Arapahoe Roads at 8:30am.

This will be a meeting to bring your ideas and suggestions on how, when and where to celebrate this anniversary. During the January General Membership Meeting it

was announced that since we are co-hosting the upcoming state Convention with our brothers and sisters from the Littleton Local at the Double Tree on I-225 from May 16-18, 2013 that we might want to consider this celebration to be included at the convention. Please attend the March Meeting to give your input and finalize the details.

## Get Involved In Your Union

We currently have 72 members in our local. There is a need for someone of you to step up and become a steward. It saddens me to hear people complain about their working conditions and knowingly allow Management to violate our agreement but yet fail to provide the Union with a statement. I mean that people are not requesting stewards nor filling out statements that allow the Union to investigate the situation but then they want to complain about what is happening or not happening when they know it is wrong!

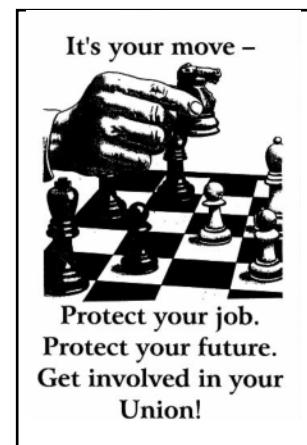
The contract is your guide and you have a responsibility to enforce it just as your officers and stewards do! I took an oath to do so, yet each and every day I become disheartened when I see all the sweetheart deals that continue to go on. Do you people care about your place of

employment? Do you care about your job? Do you care about your fellow coworkers? Do you care about your Union? Then please get involved in any way that you can.

It is not just about filing grievances; there are safety committees that require immediate attention and there are legislative issues that require involvement. When was the last time you contacted one of your senators or congressman? Are you giving to COPA? Try becoming involved with one of these issues. Our PSEs are depending on our survival, not only as a company but as a Union. Do you think that you could care enough about them the way that those before us cared enough about us? **Our** legacy will be defined by **our** collective efforts. We make a decent wage and have great benefits because of

**our** ability to collectively bargain with **our** employer. Don't ever forget that and, if you *do* forget that, then don't bother saying goodbye when you leave because you were never a part of the struggle to begin with!

*Dan Van Minnen, Secretary / Treasurer.*



*Congratulations - continued from page 1*

Management will continue to look at ways to reduce our already reduced work force by not filling the vacated positions. All reversions need to be reported and grieved. Once again, those of us not leaving should thank those who are, for their long service and dedication to the Post Office and the Union. I sure wish that I was one of them, but alas I do not have the years in service or the age to be eligible to retire. All in all I wish you *Fair winds and following seas to a paradise of your dreams!*

### Maintenance Issues

Locally, there has been little movement for the Custodian Craft that has resulted after the DUO process that involved the Fletcher Station to Hoffman Heights move on October 6th, 2012 and then the Altura Station to AMPO move on October 20th, 2012. Staffing was not affected and most

disruptions were absorbed within the guidelines of our agreements. The word from SSCS Andy Weaver is that there will be a forthcoming Function 3B Staffing Package as a result of these DUO's but as I write this there is still no changes to report to the membership.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to custodian Ernie Romero who has decided to retire effective January 31st, 2013 under the retirement incentive offer. Best of Luck to you and your family, enjoy retirement and know that we will miss your smile and enthusiastic manner.

Management has posted the job that Ernie vacated and it will be filled in accordance with Article 38. PAR sheets have been sent out and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to give me a call. It appears that building cleanliness and

employee safety are once again concerns at the AMPO and at Hoffman Heights. This has come from the additional personnel and equipment that is on the workroom floor and from Management's lack of increasing the frequencies for cleaning. There are many issues involving a lack of floor care and other duties being assigned that the Custodian is not receiving proper credit for on the PS-4852's. If you have any concerns please contact your Union by requesting a steward, or fill out a PS-1767 form they are located at the time clocks. You can also contact OSHA. This was done as a result of improper *egress* for employees at the Hoffman Heights station and we are awaiting an outcome on this matter. As always, the struggle continues.

*Dan Van Minnen, Maintenance Steward.*

# OSHA Proposes \$33,000 Penalty for Safety Violations

## *Problems at Hoffman Heights Station Constitute a "Repeat Violation"*

Aurora Local President Shelly Lucido has released a letter from the Englewood Area Office of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ( OSHA ) in response to a complaint she made regarding safety and/or health hazards at Hoffman Heights Station.

The accompanying OSHA citation listed two specific violations: **1)** ... *employees were exposed to tripping hazards in that mail, containers of mail and packages, and other equipment were stacked in walkways and working areas, and 2)* ... *employees were exposed to fire and engulfment hazards during daily mail sorting tasks in*

*that mail, containers of mail and packages and other equipment were placed in exit routes.*

These violations placed all employees at substantial life threatening risks on a daily basis and were the result of a hasty decision by management to combine the delivery operations of both Fletcher Station and Hoffman Heights Station in one building.

It was noted in the OSHA citation that the Postal Service had previously been cited for a substantially similar violation at another facility, making this latest problem a repeat violation.

The recent consolidation of offices and reduction in the number of clerks has not been as carefully thought through and planned out as management would like us to think, as evidenced by this OSHA problem. Management has often taken a "ready, fire, aim" approach to solving problems.

All APWU members should keep in mind that **Safety** is always first, whatever else management might want us to believe, and the union should always be informed whenever an unsafe condition is observed and not immediately corrected by management when notified.

## State APWU Assembly May 16 -18 Doubletree Hotel, 13696 E Iliff Aurora CO 80014

### *Volunteers Needed for Hospitality Suite Duty Thursday & Friday*

*Interested Members should contact Dan Van Minnen or Shelly Lucido*

*Unless Your Are with the Union - continued from page 2*

I lost my father 3 years ago, my wife lost both her parents in the past 8 years and as much as that affected us and hurt we were allowed to work through that pain in a private manner. Remembering a birthday or the day they passed - we can do in our own way. When we lost Alex the world became aware.

Stories in the paper and on every network went on for several weeks. Court cases started, a family is suing the theater, people are upset about how the donated money is spent and a theater is re-opening. All of this is going on and we just had a series of 6 month anniversary stories. We are reminded of our loss in a very public way every time one of these come up and we have yet to really be able to do this in private.

I will say when all these stories come out I will get a call from my Union brothers and sisters. A card may just show up at of the

blue letting me know that they are thinking of me. Still after all this time I still have not heard from my employer.

My point that must be clear to everyone is that in this work environment we are faced with today at this post office, if you are not with your Union you are alone. When the worst mass shooting in American history takes place just miles from our Main office and one of its employees in right in the middle of it and is effected by it and loses a child our employer can't see the human side to their employees and act in a humane and civil way.

I saw first hand how people and employers/companies/governments can act in times of great suffering. The way I was treated by my local employer was, to put it mildly, disgusting. I should have been treated better as we all should in our daily dealings with local management. I, though, did have a chance to voice my concerns when I received a call from PGM Donahoe

and after he expressed his condolences for the loss of Alex I told him what a disease I thought his management team in Aurora was to the efforts he was making in DC to keep the PO relevant in today's business world. Change takes time and effort so we will have to continue to fight the fight.

Thanks again for all your help and support not only through the difficult times this past summer but also during my entire time here at the Aurora PO. Our loss will continue to be posted by the local and national media so you should be able to keep track of me. I have also been asked to be on an advisory board by COVA for a memorial to be built in the future plus I have talked with the governor several times and I've asked him if he ever needed my help to just ask. He said he may take me up on that someday. Stay strong.

*Tom Sullivan*

# Proposed APWU Local 6315 Constitution Changes

In accordance with Article 12 "Amendments to the Constitution" the Executive Board of the Aurora Local 6315, American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO submits the following changes to amend the Constitution and Bylaws of APWU Local 6315, The Aurora Local, Aurora, CO as was last amended on January 11, 2010.

The following lists the current language with replaced or otherwise added wording as identified in the following text format: **BOLD**, *ITALICS*, and UNDERLINED. All changes to go into effect next election cycle.

## Under Article 4, sec. 1 "Officers of the Local"

### Current Language:

1. President/Delegate to National and State Conventions.
2. Vice President/Legislative Aide/Delegate to National and State Conventions.
3. Secretary/Treasurer/Delegate to National and State Conventions.
4. Chief Steward (if one is appointed)
5. Board of Trustees (3)

### New Language:

1. President/Delegate to National and State Conventions, APWU Assemblies and Conferences.
2. Secretary/Treasurer/Delegate to National and State Conventions, APWU Assemblies and Conferences.
3. Head Trustee
4. Chief Steward (if one is appointed)
5. Board of Trustees (3)

## Under Article 4, sec. 2 "Officers of the Local"

### Current Language:

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, and the Secretary/Treasurer.

### New Language:

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Secretary Treasurer and the Head Trustee.

## Under Article 5, sec. 1e "Duties and Salaries of the Officers"

### Current Language:

The salary to the President shall be \$150.00 per month, paid on a quarterly basis.

### New Language:

The salary to the President shall be \$250.00 per month, paid on a quarterly basis.

## Under Article 5, sec. 2 "Duties and Salaries of the Officers"

### Current Language:

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President or the Secretary/Treasurer in the event of their temporary absence or inability to attend to their office.

### New Language:

In the event of a temporary absence or inability of either the President or the Secretary/ Treasurer to attend to their respective office than either officer shall have the authority to attend to the duties of the unattended office.

## Under Article 5, sec. 2a "Duties and Salaries of the Officers"

### Current Language:

The Vice President shall be the Chairperson of the annual audit, consisting of the Board of Trustees which will audit all the books, accounts, records, and financial transactions of the Local. A report of the audit will be made to the membership and the Executive Board at the regular February meeting.

### New Language:

The Head Trustee shall be the Chairperson of the annual audit, consisting of the Board of Trustees which will audit all the books, accounts, records, and financial transactions of the Local. A report of the audit will be made to the membership and the Executive Board at the regular March meeting.

## Under Article 5, sec. 2b "Duties and Salaries of the Officers"

### Current Language:

The Vice President will be authorized 80 hours of substitution pay for Union activities that would otherwise require the use of his annual leave or leave without pay.

### New Language:

The Head Trustee shall be a member of the Executive Board and have the duty of being the Chairperson of the annual audit.

## Under Article 5, sec. 2c "Duties and Salaries of the Officers"

### Current Language:

The salary to the Vice President shall be \$75.00 per month, paid on a quarterly basis.

### New Language:

The Salary to the Head Trustee shall be \$25.00 per month, paid on a quarterly basis.

## Under Article 5, sec. 3c "Duties and Salaries of the Officers"

### Current Language:

The salary to the Secretary/Treasurer shall be \$150.00 per month, paid on a quarterly basis.

### New Language:

The salary to the Secretary/Treasurer shall be \$250.00 per month, paid on a quarterly basis.

## Under Article 6, sec. 2 "Stewards, Board of Trustees, and Editor"

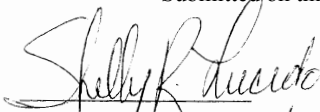
### Current Language:

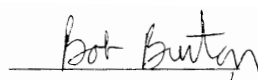
The Board of Trustees shall be elected, consisting of three members, excluding the President and the Secretary/Treasurer. The Trustees shall make up the audit committee, chaired by the Vice President.

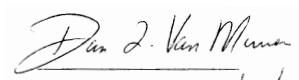
### New Language:

The Board of Trustees shall be elected, consisting of three members, excluding the President and the Secretary/Treasurer. The Trustees shall make up the audit committee, chaired by the Head Trustee.

Submitted on this date November 19, 2012 by the following members of the Aurora Local 6315 the Executive Board.

  
President 01/08/13

  
Vice President 1/8/13

  
Secretary/Treasurer 01/08/13

*It's easy to forget that the benefits labor enjoys today have been hard earned over the course of many decades. When we can look back we catch a glimpse of the "bad old days" and see how far we have come - and how dangerous it is to be complacent about the future.*

*The following is from a 1907 issue of The Elevator Constructor, - a union publication. If you find this interesting, check our local website for more "blast from the past" articles:  
[unionperson.auroralocalapwu.org](http://unionperson.auroralocalapwu.org)*

## **Why I Am a Union Person – 1907**

***Because I propose to protest** against any man or set of men stealing my right to health, home and happiness.*

***Because I want** plenty of good grub in my craw and I want to see my fellow men enjoy the same blessing.*

***Because I am not afraid** to line up with my fellow workers and make an honest demand for that which is ours by heritage.*

***Because I want to see** every man, woman and child have plenty to eat, plenty to wear and plenty of time to enjoy it.*

***Because I am opposed** to filth and ignorance and in favor of health and knowledge.*

***Because I think** more of an honest heart under a ragged shirt than I do of a block-headed bloat with a bank account.*

***Because a union man is never disrespected** by any one except a lot of red eyed rounders with more money than kindness.*

***Because when I pay my dues** into the union I realize that I am stirring some thickening into a bowl of soup for some poor hungry woman or child.*

***Because I would rather be unpopular** with a lot of double chinned doughheads than to show the white feather to my fellow workers.*

***Because I believe** it is better to give than to receive and by being a union man I am giving my influence and money to those who deserve and should receive it.*

***Because I am in favor of** more bread and less brutishness; more pie and less pomp; more cozy cottages and less cowards and criminals; more soup and less superstition; more health and happiness and less hell and hellishness; more honest women neatly dressed and less foolish women overdressed; more live loving husbands and less dirty drunken drones.*

***Because in union there is strength**, and in strength there is knowledge, and in knowledge there is health, and in health there is happiness and all sensible people want to be happy.*

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# Aurora News

Aurora Local APWU

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[www.auroralocalapwu.org](http://www.auroralocalapwu.org)

PO Box 471234

Aurora CO 80047-1234

**Attention**  
APWU Members  
The next APWU Aurora CO Local  
General Membership Meeting  
will be held on  
Sunday March 10, 2013 8:30 am  
at the Golden Corral Steakhouse  
at Parker and Arapahoe Roads