

# ABA News Digest

Vol. 35, No. 1

*Postal Workers Serving Postal Workers Since 1891*

March, 2020

National Director

Wayne Maurer

## Another Year Upon Us



I hope this issue of our News Digest finds all APWU and APW-ABA members healthy and doing well. This issue is our most important issue of the year as we have several notifications included for you to consider. First off it is time to announce our yearly APW-ABA Scholarship. Each year the APW-ABA awards two \$1000 scholarships to eligible children (son, daughter or legal ward) of an APWU and APW-ABA member. The scholarship guidelines and application are contained in this issue of the News Digest. The important date to remember is May 15, 2020 as this is the deadline for mailing in your scholarship applications.

The second item is our Convention Call. This year our convention will be held on Monday evening, August 17, 2020 at 6 pm in Los An-

geles, California. Our convention coincides with the APWU National Convention's first day activities. It is my hope that your Local or State organization considers attending our convention. In addition to any office elections should there be any contested offices, this is the chance for APW-ABA members from around the country to gather and discuss the association, our performance since the last convention and our vision for the future. I know that the first day of the APWU convention is filled with a full day of activities, but I strongly ask you to make some time to attend our convention as well. In recent years the convention has ended by 8 pm allowing delegates time to spend the remainder of their evening catching up with both old and new friends within our great union.

As I write this article, we are still waiting on the decision regarding the APWU-USPS Collective Bargaining Agreement. Regardless of the terms of our new agreement, we face sev-

eral challenges ahead. The Presidential Task Force on the Postal Service is NOT in our best interest. I've heard the privatization talk for decades but now more than ever the threat of dismantling the Post Office as we know it seems greater each day. This administration is not on the side of organized labor nor the APWU.

On a side note that really hits home is the recently published article about OPM's plan to make available voluntary benefits to all federal workers. Not many details are out about this request but OPM would need the approval of Congress to start such an endeavor. Their plan is to use the entire federal workforce as leverage to work with insurers and "appropriate vendors" to offer instruments such as short term disability insurance, accidental death and dismemberment benefits, group legal plans and short term child care coverage to federal employees and annuitants. They say their premiums would be low due to the number of people eligible to pur-

chase these benefits from OPM. This news just broke on February 18. I think about where that would leave companies like the Voluntary Benefits Plan and our own APW-Accident Benefit Association if Congress gave the OPM a green light. The backbone of VBP and the APW-ABA is required membership in the APWU. If OPM were given permission to offer these products at a low cost to ANY federal employee, it could severely affect our organizations.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the *APW-ABA News Digest* and don't forget about our Scholarship Program and the upcoming APW-ABA Convention in August in Los Angeles. Thank you for all your support of our non-profit association. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at upcoming state and regional events. If you would like an APW-ABA representative at any of your events, please contact our home office.

Until next time. In Union solidarity.

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PRESORT INC

American Postal Workers  
Accident Benefit Association  
P.O. Box 120  
Rochester, NH 03866-0120



## Convention Call

### 2020 ABA CONVENTION

The ABA National Convention  
will convene on

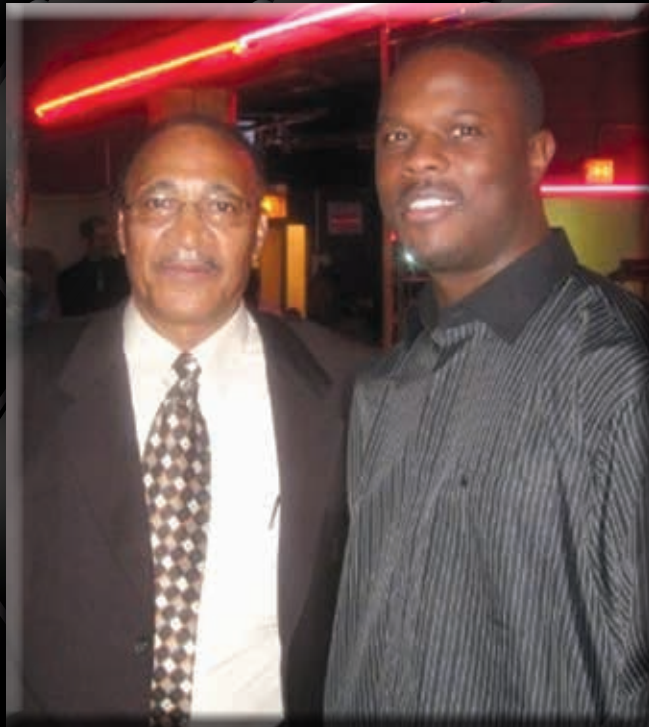
Monday, August 17, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

in Room 515A at the  
Los Angeles Convention Center  
Los Angeles, California

Registration will begin on Friday August 14, 2020 at the ABA Registration Booth, where credentials must be presented no later than two hours prior to the start of the APW-ABA National Convention.

*continued on page 4*

# In Memoriam: Sam Anderson



Sam Anderson with ABA Central Region Director and Vice President Keith Richardson.

This issue of the *APW-ABA News Digest* is dedicated to Samuel "Sam" Anderson.

It is with much sadness that I announce the passing of Sam Anderson. Sam passed away on February 19th, 2020.

Sam spent much of his life as an advocate for the APWU and the APW-ABA. Sam served the Chicago Area Local as both Executive Vice President and President. During his career he served the National APWU as Special Delivery Messenger Director. During his career he served our APW-ABA as Director At Large from 1996-2012 and as Central Region Director from 2012-2014. Sam was passionate about both the APWU and the APW-ABA and will be missed by all who knew him. Sam is the father of Denika Caldwell.

I hope everyone will keep Sam, his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers.

Thank you, Wayne



Sam Anderson

**AMERICAN  
POSTAL  
WORKERS**



**ACCIDENT  
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ASSOCIATION**

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**www.apw-aba.org**

or call us  
Toll Free  
at



**(800) 526-2890**

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The editors of the ABA News Digest reserve the exclusive right to edit, amend or delete any article considered to be destructive to its goals of unity and union spirit.



**PROUD MEMBER**



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\*Proud members of OPEIU Local 6

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National Director  
Emeritus (2004)

**Michael B. Ganino, Jr.**  
National Director  
Emeritus (2012)

**David E. Daniel**  
National Director  
Emeritus (2016)

President

Richard Phillips

# Timelines For Scheduled Events In 2020



Brothers and Sisters.

As I write this article the upcoming 2020 ABA National Convention and other scheduled events are quickly approaching. Here are some relevant provisions of the ABA Constitution that establish these important dates and ABA events:

## CONVENTION NOTICE

(Ref: Article 8, Section 1.a)

The ABA Constitution states that the National Convention shall convene in the same month and years as the American Postal Workers Union Convention, which means that this year the APW-ABA Convention will be held in Los Angeles, CA, during the evening of **Monday, August 17th**.

At least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the biennial session of the National ABA Convention this association shall publish in the Official Publication of the ABA, a notice stating the time and place of the National Convention. This information shall be sent to every ABA Local and

State Association, not later than April 10th of the Convention year. This edition of the ABA tabloid satisfies that requirement.

## NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE

(Ref: Article 7, Section 3)

**After March 1, but no later than close of business on April 15** — All nominations for office by members must be in writing and sent via U.S. Postal Service mail

to the National Director's office at APW-ABA, P.O. Box 120, Rochester, New Hampshire 03866. All nomination letters of intent must be signed and state the office the member wishes to be a candidate for. There will be no nominations accepted after 4:00 p.m. EST, April 15 and he/she must be a member in good standing on the date the letter of intent is received by the APW-ABA home office.

The National Officers of the ABA consist of the Board of Directors, and is comprised of the following:

- Resident full-time National Director
- President
- Ten (10) Regional Directors, with Two (2) Regional Directors elected from each of the five ABA Regions. NOTE: A candidate for the office of Regional Director must be a member in good standing in the Association within the Area he or she seeks to represent and shall be elected by the delegates representing that Area.

1. **Northeast Region:** Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts,

Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York.

2. **Eastern Region:** Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

3. **Southern Region:** North Carolina, South Carolina Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, Arkansas, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands.

4. **Central Region:** Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska.

5. **Western Region:** Montana Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, California, Hawaii, Pacific Islands.

These Officers shall be elected for a term consistent with the schedule of the American Postal Workers Union National Convention and shall be elected by the delegates present and voting at the ABA National Convention.

## DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

(Ref: Article 7, Section 1)

**Not later than June 1st** — The members of the respective Locals or State ABA organizations shall use procedure that is consistent with Roberts Rules of Order to elect delegates to the ABA Convention. It shall be the duty of the Local or State President or Secretary to furnish a certified list to the ABA Home Office **prior to June 1st**, showing the names of the delegates and alternates to the ABA National Convention. These credentials will be used to entitle delegates to be seated as a delegate at the National ABA Convention.

**IMPORTANT:** Please note that credentials for each Delegate must be presented at the ABA Registration Booth at the National Convention no later than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled start of the ABA National Convention. In past years Delegates to the ABA National Convention have shown up with their credentials in hand just prior to the beginning of the Convention and have been denied admittance.

## RESOLUTIONS

(Ref: Article 8, Section 1.d)

Resolutions must be submitted for the ABA Convention **prior to June 1** of the convention year. The author of the resolution is required to send these resolutions to the office of the National Director in duplicate.

Resolutions may also be submitted by delegates at convention as long as a copy is available for each delegate in attendance. Resolutions submitted after the report of the Constitution Committee will not be considered nor acted upon.

## ELECTIONS

(Ref: Article 7, Section 3.a and 3.b)

Election of Officers takes place by the delegates in attendance at the ABA Convention

- Candidates for the positions of **President** or **National Director** shall be elected among all delegates present and voting at the Convention.

- Candidates for the offices of **Regional Director** shall be elected by the delegates representing that Area.

Here's hoping that by printing the above guidelines we will see a large turnout, resulting in a positive and productive ABA Convention.

Northeastern Region Director

Scott Hoffman

# Stop Asking Why And Make It Stop

Dear Sisters and Brothers.

Hello from here in the Northeast. Fortunately we have had a mild winter and have been spared from non-stop shoveling and shivering. Too bad we have had no such relief from the Postal Service's blizzard of job cuts and frigid attitudes towards their employees. I don't believe that this is a revelation, but we are at war with our employer. If you didn't know this, then I congratulate you on your recent recovery from the coma you must have been suffering from.

The Service is in full slash and burn mode. They are indiscriminately chopping positions. Logic, common sense, statutory requirements, the contract, are not even a flashing thought or consideration. We have to stop commiserating and attempting to figure out why. "Why" doesn't matter. The fact that they are doing it, is all that matters. I know if someone is punching me in the face, I'm not thinking "why" they are punching me in the face. My thoughts are how to

make it stop. Pondering why should take place after you make it stop. So stop questioning why. Make it stop!

We can theorize why over drinks after the onslaught is abated. We make it stop by action. We make it stop by reporting violations. We make it stop by grievances. Grievances are documents that establish proof. In this world, only proof wins the day. Breakroom talk without action just plays into their hands. Stop thinking the actions you see are that of an idiot. Their plan is being executed brilliantly. The local idiot is just following orders. You have to give the Postal Service this much credit. They follow the game plan.

Our problem is we do not follow the union game plan. Our members do not follow the APWU game plan. We are too busy commenting on the obvious. It is obvious they do not care about customer service. It is obvious they have no interest in complying with our contract. It is obvious that they want to obfuscate the truth through false statements and actions

like bogus scans and volume counts.

When they cut staffing to a level that does not even cover the hours of operation, or the realistic workload, do you really think it is merely the decision of an idiot? That is convenient logic. We have to stick together. If anyone other than a clerk touches clerk work, grieve it. The mountain of grievances on cross-craft and bargaining unit violations will be the proof needed to get the job restored. Grieve the false "all up" scans. Grieve the leave denials due to short staffing.

Another piece of the restoration process. Grieve the harassment tactics involving sick leave, the made-up concept of "Deems Desirable" documentation requests, and the fact you need a note from the Surgeon General for a one day sick call, all brought on due to short staffing.

Grieve every position, every time. Don't fall for the "It will

be worse if you grieve it" malarkey they spout to you when you inquire about the lost position. I speak from experience. Our Local has the highest staffing percentages in the country; bar none! It didn't happen by luck. It didn't happen by bitching in the breakroom. It happened through action and engagement. Engagement from the membership with the union, and the Local's constant engagement with management.

We stopped talking about "why"! We talk about how. How do we stop it, how do we attack, how do we win. Mercy is not in their vocabulary. We need to remove it from ours. Sisters and brothers, we grieve the color of paint here. We are at war; we need to act like it.

Oh, I forgot. This article is supposed to contain an element of safety. Look both ways when crossing the street.

In Union Unity.



**AMERICAN  
POSTAL  
WORKERS**



**ACCIDENT  
BENEFIT  
ASSOCIATION**

# 2020 ABA National Convention

*continued from page 1*

## ARTICLE 7 ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND OFFICERS

### Section 1.

(a) The members of the respective Locals or State ABA organizations shall use procedure that is consistent with ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER to elect delegates to the ABA Convention. The names of delegates should be received by the home office in New Hampshire prior to June 1st of the Convention year.

(b) Delegate's credentials must be presented at the ABA Registration Booth no later than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled start of the ABA National Convention.

### Section 2.

(a) The membership of the National Convention shall be composed of the Board of Directors and registered delegates. An eligible MAL may petition their state organization to gain delegate status to the National ABA Convention.

(b) Each Local or State shall be entitled to representation at the National Convention on the following basis:

3 to 75 members 1 delegate  
76 to 150 members 2 delegates  
151 to 300 members 3 delegates  
301 to 500 members 4 delegates  
501 to 750 members 5 delegates  
751 to 1000 members 6 delegates

and for each additional 250 members or major fraction thereof in any Local or State, one additional delegate is authorized, with a maximum of twenty delegates for any single Local or State. **For the purpose of calculating the number of delegates a Local or State shall be entitled to at the APW-ABA National Convention, the date of March 1st of each convention year shall be used for membership numbers to determine the number of delegates entitled each Local or State organization.**

### Section 3.

The President, National Director, and Regional Directors shall be elected for a term consistent with the schedule of the American Postal Workers Union National Convention. All nominations for office by members must be in writing and sent via U.S. Postal Service mail to the National Director's office at APW-ABA, P.O. Box 120, Rochester, New

Hampshire 03866 and must be received after March 1, but no later than close of business on April 15 of the election year. All nomination letters of intent must be signed and state the office the member wishes to be a candidate for. There will be no nominations accepted after 4:00 p.m., April 15 and he/she must be a member in good standing on the date the letter of intent is received by the APW-ABA home office. Any candidate who wishes to withdraw from consideration for office must follow the same procedures used for nominations, and said withdraw must be received by May 15th of the election year. As the first order of business, the National Director will read all the names and offices of the candidates seeking elective office. The election of officers shall be the last order of business of the Convention prior to the Installation of Officers.

(a) A candidate for the office of President or National Director, must be a member in good standing in the Association and shall be elected by delegates present and voting.

(b) A candidate for the office of Regional Director shall be a member in good standing in the Association within the Area he or she seeks to represent and shall be elected by the delegates representing that Area.

### Section 4: Regional Directors

Two (2) Regional Directors shall be elected from each of the five ABA Regions:

#### 1. Northeast Region:

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York.

#### 2. Eastern Region:

Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

#### 3. Southern Region:

North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, Arkansas, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands.

#### 4. Central Region:

Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska.

#### 5. Western Region:

Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, California, Hawaii, Pacific Islands.

### Section 5.

Any candidate for National Office who receives a majority of votes cast at the Convention for said office shall be declared elected. No write in votes will be valid.

### Section 6.

When there are two or more candidates for National Office and the two candidates receiving a majority of the votes cast for such offices result in a tie on the first ballot another election shall be held immediately. These two candidates engaged in a tie shall be voted upon as candidates for such office in the second election, and the candidate with the majority of the votes shall be declared elected.

### Section 7.

All National ABA officers will be installed following the completion of the election by the President of the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, or his/her designee.

### Section 8.

The members, officers, representatives or delegates of this Association will not be permitted to vote by proxy.

### Section 9.

Each delegate and each member of the Board of Directors shall receive one vote. Members of the Board shall be allowed to vote for the Director of their respective Region.

### Section 10.

The President of the Accident Benefit Association shall establish an Election Committee, no member of which shall be a candidate for election while serving on such committee. The Election Committee shall be responsible for conducting the election. Prior to the acceptance of the Election Committee report any candidate who feels aggrieved in connection with the election shall file an appeal with the Election Committee at the ABA Convention. Where the Committee finds merit in an appeal, it shall report its findings to the President who will report to the delegates. The delegates shall act on the findings of the Committee. (For the purpose of this Article the term "election" shall include nominating procedures.)

## ARTICLE 8 NATIONAL AND LOCAL MEETINGS

### Section 1.

The National Convention shall convene in the same month and years as the American Postal Workers Union Convention, at a time and place to be named by the Board of Directors, provided a National Convention is held at least once every four (4) years. Special sessions of the ABA National Convention may be convened upon call of the President, subject to the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors.

(a) At least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the biennial session of the National ABA Convention this association shall publish in the Official Publication of the ABA, a notice stating the time and place of the National Convention. This information shall be sent to every ABA Local and State Association, not later than April 10th of the Convention year.

(b) At least sixty (60) days prior to any special session of a National ABA Convention, the National Director will notify all ABA affiliated locals and State Organizations of the time, place, and purpose of the special session.

(c) It shall be the duty of the Local or State President or Secretary to furnish a certified list showing the names of the delegates and alternates. These certified credentials shall be furnished to the ABA Home Office no later than June 1 of the Convention year and it is to be used to entitle them to be seated as a delegate at the National ABA Convention.

Resolutions must be submitted for the ABA Convention prior to June 1 of the convention year. The author of the resolution is required to send these resolutions to the office of the National Director in duplicate. This shall not prevent the submission of resolutions by delegates at convention as long as a copy is available for each delegate in attendance. Resolutions submitted after the report of the Constitution Committee will not be considered nor acted upon.

### Section 2.

The Board of Directors meeting shall take place each non-convention year in conjunction with the spring or fall audit, telephonically with the National Director. In addition, the Constitution Committee shall review the Constitution and make recommendations to the next convention to conform with such state and federal regulations as required by law.

Vice President &amp; Central Region Director

Keith M. Richardson

# Shocking Statistics That Will Make You Think Twice About Grabbing Your Phone

The numbers illustrating the dangers of cell phone use while driving are downright startling. In fact, at any given time throughout the day, approximately **660,000** drivers are attempting to use their phones while behind the wheel of an automobile.

Smartphones have made it easy for us to stay connected at all times. But that can pose serious safety risks if someone decides to check his or her text messages, emails, phone calls, or any other mobile applications while driving.

Cell phone distraction rates are alarmingly high. We hope with a little information, you'll make the right decision when you're on the road. The following figures were the most up-to-date statistics at the time of our latest research. If you have any questions, or require more recent information, please refer to our sources at the bottom of this page for more information.

## GENERAL CELL PHONE STATISTICS

- The National Safety Council reports that cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year.
- Nearly 390,000 injuries occur each year from accidents caused by texting while driving.
- 1 out of every 4 car accidents in the United States is caused by texting and driving.
- Texting while driving is 6x more likely to cause an accident than driving drunk
- Answering a text takes away your attention for about five seconds. Traveling at 55 mph, that's enough time to travel the length of a football field.
- Texting while driving causes a 400 percent increase in time spent with eyes off the road.
- Of all cell phone related tasks, texting is by far the most dangerous activity.
- 94 percent of drivers support a ban on texting while driving.

- 74 percent of drivers support a ban on hand-held cell phone use.

## TEEN DRIVER CELL PHONE STATISTICS

- According to a AAA poll, 94 percent of teen drivers acknowledge



the dangers of texting and driving, but 35% admitted to doing it anyway.

- 21 percent of teen drivers involved in fatal accidents were distracted by their cell phones.
- Teen drivers are 4x more likely than adults to get into car crashes or near-crashes when talking or texting on a cell phone.
- A teen driver with only one additional passenger doubles the risk of getting into a fatal car accident. With two or more passengers, they are 5x as likely.

## 2017 U.S. CELL PHONE AND DRIVING STATISTICS

- Parents with young children were more 13 percent likely to be distracted while driving than adults with no small children.
- 3,166 people were killed by distracted driving in 2017.
- In 2017, there were 34,247 distracted driving accidents.
- 15,341 drivers aged 15-29 were involved in fatal crashes due to distraction or cell phone use.

## 2016 U.S. CELL PHONE AND DRIVING STATISTICS

- Fatalities in distraction-affected crashes decreased from 3,526 in 2015 to 3,450 in 2016, or a decrease of 2.2 percent.
- 263 teens (age 15 to 19) were

## 2012 U.S. CELL PHONE AND DRIVING STATISTICS

- In 2012, 3,328 people were killed in distraction-related crashes.
- About 421,000 people were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver.

In 2012, 11 % of drivers under age 20 involved in fatal accidents were reported to be distracted at the time of the crash.

One-fourth of teenagers respond to at least one text message every time they drive and 20% of teens and 10% of parents report having multi-text message conversations while driving.

## 2012 NATIONAL SURVEY ON DISTRACTED DRIVING ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS

- Nearly half (48%) of drivers admit to answering their cell phones while driving.
- Of those who answered their phones while driving, 58% of drivers continued to drive while talking on the phone.
- In the survey, 24% of drivers reported that they are willing to make a phone call while driving.
- One in 10 drivers surveyed said that, at least sometimes, they send text messages or emails while driving.
- Of the drivers surveyed, 14% said they read text messages or emails while driving.
- A majority of respondents supported laws that banned talking on cell phones, texting, or emailing while driving.

## 2012 TEXTING PEDESTRIAN STUDY

Researchers from the University of Washington monitored 20 of Seattle's busiest intersections and observed the following:

- Pedestrians who text are 4x less likely to look before crossing the street, cross in crosswalks, or obey traffic signals.
- They also found that texting pedestrians take an average of two seconds longer to cross the street.

Northeastern Region Director

Dana Coletti

# Safety And Defensive Driving Techniques

Brothers and Sisters,

We are in the heart of winter here in the Northeast. I thought I would focus my article on safety and defensive driving techniques. This knowledge is essential for those of us that travel throughout the region for work. I believe the following pointers are invaluable:

Prepare for travel. Having a plan and a specific route can minimize driving through areas that are more affected by bad weather. Knowing the route you are taking is always advantageous.

Ensure that your car is properly outfitted for winter weather. Tires

should always have sufficient tread as this is a necessity for winter driving. Cars should also have adequate washer fluid at all times as winter roads can get wet and messy quick.

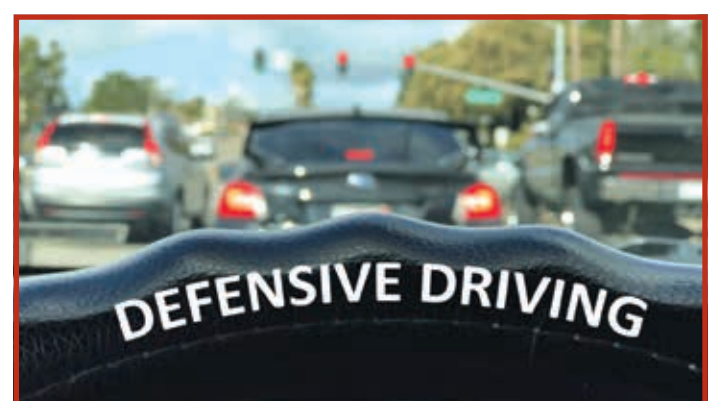
Buckle your safety belts. Always be sure you and your loved ones wear seatbelts. Seatbelts have been proven to save lives, especially when driving in inclement weather.

Be sure to leave plenty of room between your vehicle and the one in front of you. Braking distances are greatly increased in bad weather and drivers should be prepared for such. Allowing more room between you

and the vehicle in front of you is always a good idea.

Drive slowly when the weather conditions are bad. This decreases the chance of an accident and increases controlled driving. Slower speeds also increase time for reacting to your surroundings and other vehicles.

These tips are just a few of the ways to make sure that you and your fam-



ily are safe in this winter season. Take care and be safe on the roads this winter and throughout the year.

In Unity.

# 2020 APW-ABA Scholarship Program

## Honoring Thomas Hartos, Michael Tosches & Eugene Johnson

### APW-ABA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

honoring

**THOMAS HARTOS, MICHAEL TOSCHES & EUGENE JOHNSON**

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

### MAY 15, 2020

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILLED OUT IN THEIR ENTIRETY**

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

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE#: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I will graduate from \_\_\_\_\_ High School, which is located

in \_\_\_\_\_, in \_\_\_\_\_  
(City – State) (Month – Year)

I will be enrolled for the \_\_\_\_\_ term of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Year) (School)

in \_\_\_\_\_. My father, mother or legal guardian is a member  
(City – State)

in good standing in the ABA and the \_\_\_\_\_ Local APWU.  
(Local name)

ABA Member's EID#: \_\_\_\_\_

ABA Member's email address: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
(printed name & signature)

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_  
(printed name & signature)

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SENT TO:**

**ABA Scholarship Program  
PO Box 120, Rochester, NH 03866-0120**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(This section to be completed by ABA National Director)*

**This application has been reviewed and certifies that the above member is a member in good standing of the Accident Benefit Association.**

Local Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Local #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Recv'd: \_\_\_\_\_

ABA Nat'l Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
MAY 15, 2020**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,  
Below are the guidelines and application form for the APW-ABA Scholarship Program which is named in honor of long time union activists, Thomas Hartos, Michael Tosches and Eugene Johnson.

Feel free to make copies as well as insert into your local publication or on your local website.

We ask that you insure all applications are filled out completely, paying special attention to the member's postal employee identification number (EID) or social security number, so that we may verify ABA membership. Incomplete applications will be returned.

Please contact our office if you have any questions. Our normal business hours are, Monday thru Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm EST.

Web Page: <http://www.apw-aba.org>  
Telephone: 603-330-0282  
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In Union Solidarity,  
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**2020 APW-ABA SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES**

1). The scholarship announcement, application and guidelines will be mailed each year to all Local and State Presidents and ABA Board of Directors, no later than March of each year. The announcement and application will also be printed in the *ABA News Digest* as well as posted on the official ABA website. The deadline for returning the scholarship application will be set forth by the ABA.

2). All entrants must submit a completed application which will be verified by their local or state president or by the ABA home office. Properly completed applications will be entered into a drawing for a one thousand dollar (\$1,000) scholarship. Entrants must be a graduating high school senior who is the son, daughter or legal ward of a member of the ABA.

3). The scholarship award is limited to a one time amount of one thousand dollars, (\$1,000). Two scholarships will be awarded per calendar year.

4). The scholarship drawings will be held at the ABA home office no later than June of each year. These drawings will be strict "luck of the draw", meaning the entrants pulled are the winners. No preferential treatment will be given to any entrant. All applicants will be assigned a random number for drawing. The winners will be drawn from amongst all applicants and notified by certified mail.

5). Scholarships will be paid directly to the school that has been designated on each winner's application. Each winner will also be required to submit an acceptance letter and photograph accompanied by a biography which will appear in an issue of the *ABA News Digest*.

6). The National Director will coordinate the scholarship program with the authority to settle any or all eligibility requirements or disputes that may arise.

Eastern Region Director

David Dunkle

# Love For The APW-ABA

This article dedicated to our deceased brother Sam Anderson.

Hello Brothers and Sisters.

I want to take this opportunity to remember our fallen Brother, Sam Anderson, who served as the APW-ABA Central Region Director for many years along with all the many other positions he held within the American Postal Workers Union. I only knew Sam a short while, but I quickly realized he cared about everyone and treated you like he had known you for years. Anyway, when I started as an ABA Director Sam believed we should try and include in our articles not only support for this great APW-ABA organization that has made it through depressions and recessions since 1891, but as Directors we should endeavor to provide information to members that could potentially prevent accidental injuries or any other information related to accidental injuries such as Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) or Rehabilitation Act or even the Americans with Disabilities Act. Sam is sorely missed, but we must carry on the good fight.

Before I start my article, I want to say I love the ABA because it has helped so



many across our great land since 1891. I believe in helping my own, before helping others. So, if your local is not a 100% APW-ABA local I urge you to make a motion at your local meeting to join and get all the benefits at a reduced price. Plus, 100% APW-ABA organizations pay their member's APW-ABA premiums should their member find themselves in a low pay or no pay situation.

## RECENT MAINTENANCE SETTLEMENT RELATED TO (POVS) AND HOW IT MAY RELATE TO THE FECA-OWCP

On 2-10-20 a settlement was reached that affects only those post plan offices with an APO-RMPO relationship. The agreement has a lot of good pluses where it secures more craft maintenance custodial jobs and gets rid of contracting out cleaning. I applaud the settlement because sometimes you go for the larger prize first and try to take care of the smaller things later.

The Agreement ensured mileage to those using their Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) and gets them higher level pay while driving. It also protects those who do not want to use their POV, but

if the employee didn't agree to use their POV it was subtracted from the Line H of PS form 4852 custodial staffing and the custodial work could be assigned to other APWU crafts.

Where I believe the settlement was lacking is, it failed to provide exit language should the employee want out of the POV deal. It also did not address the Insurance aspect where an employee could lose their personal insurance or have premiums raised due to the employee using the POV for "BUSINESS PURPOSES". It also did not contemplate whether the employee would have to provide another POV, if suddenly the employee was involved in an auto accident.

I guess because these are situations that will be different for every employee the parties decided to remain silent, but they did not say that the employee was restricted from adding things to the agreement to use their POV. I believe the silence leaves the door open for employees to allow or indicate they will allow USPS to use their POV with additional stipulations in the agreement to cover employee additional costs, exist language, etc.

In my opinion, what all maintenance employees need to do in order to keep the Line H staffing numbers and work for the maintenance craft, is to write the employer saying they agree to use their

POV for business purposes provided the USPS agrees to additional employee demands for Insurance costs and rental car costs should the employees POV be in an accident or break down. And, also add an ending date to the agreement of 1-3 years. These are reasonable concerns which I believe any arbitrator would agree were properly requested, if USPS turned the agreement down.

There is possibly one other silver lining for employees who agree to use their POV, should that employee be in an accident while driving to and from work, as it relates to the FECA and OWCP. Normally, most USPS employees are not covered by OWCP if they have an auto accident between their home and work. However, the Rural Route Carriers are the exception because they have an agreement with the USPS to use their POV for hauling things for the USPS as clerks would be subject to under this 2-10-20 agreement, thus these clerks should be eligible for workers comp benefits should they have a wreck between home and work in their POV.



Sam Anderson

Eastern Region Director

Sherry C. McKnight

# Be Aware Of Your Surroundings

Greetings APW-ABA Sisters and Brothers.

Hope this article finds you in good health. This article is to bring awareness to Human Trafficking. This may come as a surprise, chances are there is going to be nothing visible, nothing that you can see from across the room or even from up close that should alert you that a stranger is a victim of human trafficking. Since human trafficking is often a crime that is hidden in plain sight, it is important to be aware of its warning signs. Human Trafficking is considered modern day Slavery.

**Here are 7 facts about human trafficking you may not know:**

**1. The real definition of human trafficking.**

Human trafficking is the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud or coercion. It's important to note, though, that human trafficking can include, but does not require movement. You can be a victim of human trafficking in your hometown. At the heart of human trafficking is the traffickers' goal of exploitation and enslavement.

**2. Types of human trafficking.**

Sexual exploitation and forced labor are the most commonly identified forms of human trafficking. More than half of the victims are female. Many other



forms of exploitation are often thought to be under-reported. These include domestic servitude and forced marriage; organ removal; and the exploitation of children in begging, the sex trade and warfare.

**3. Causes of human trafficking: It's complicated.**

The causes of human trafficking are complex and interlinked, and include economic, social and political factors. Poverty alone does not necessarily create vulnerability to trafficking, but when combined with other factors, these can lead to a higher risk for being trafficked. Some of those other factors include: corruption, civil unrest, a weak government, lack of access to education or jobs, family disruption or dysfunction, lack of human rights, or economic disruptions.

**4. It's a lucrative industry.**

Along with illegal arms and drug trafficking, human trafficking is one of the largest international crime industries in the world. A report from the Internet says forced labor generates \$150 billion in illegal profits per year. Two-thirds of that money came from commercial sexual exploitation, while the rest is from forced economic exploitation, including domestic work, agriculture, child labor and related activities.

**5. Believe it. Human trafficking is everywhere.**

Every continent in the world has been involved in human trafficking. In the United States, it is most prevalent in Texas, Florida, New York and California. Human trafficking is both a domestic and global crime, with victims trafficked within their own country, to neighboring countries and between continents. Victims of trafficking can be of any age and any gender. Women and children are often used for sexual exploitation, while men are more likely to be used for forced labor. Globally, about one in five victims of human trafficking are children. Children are also exploited for the purposes of forced begging, child pornography or child labor. Their smaller hands may also be used in tasks like sewing or untangling fishing wire

**6. How to stop human trafficking: The three P's, plus a little more.**

The U.S. government is at the forefront of efforts to address human trafficking. Its policy surrounds the three P's: prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers. The number of convictions for human trafficking is increasing, but unfortunately not proportionately to the growing awareness and extent of the problem. There are several reasons for that. There is an absence of anti-trafficking legislation in some countries. Sometimes the legislation exists, but law enforcement officials and prosecutors may not know how to use it. In some instances, victims may not cooperate with the criminal justice system because they have been threatened by a trafficker.

**Some indications that a person may be a victim of human trafficking include (especially in the case of women and children):**

- Appearing malnourished
- Showing signs of physical injuries and abuse
- Avoiding eye contact, social interaction, and authority figures/law enforcement
- Seeming to adhere to scripted or rehearsed responses in social interaction
- Lacking official identification documents
- Appearing destitute/lacking personal possessions
- Working excessively long hours
- Living at place of employment
- Checking into hotels/motels with older males, and referring to those males as boyfriend or "daddy," which is often street slang for pimp
- Poor physical or dental health
- Tattoos/branding on the neck and/or lower back
- Untreated sexually transmitted diseases
- Small children serving in a family restaurant
- Security measures that appear to keep people inside an establishment - barbed wire inside of a fence, bars covering the insides of windows
- Not allowing people to go into public alone, or speak for themselves

*\*Information provided by the Polaris Project and its National Human Trafficking Resource Center and Innocents at Risk.*

Southern Region Director

Kenyon Beasley

## Your Safety First

As Postal workers, many of us come into direct contact with the public on a daily basis. Mail and packages from around the entire globe are either delivered, received, or scanned by our co-workers. Although the Postal Service has issued some guidelines as to how to stay safe, it is imperative that we as Postal workers, especially now,

take our personal safety into our own hands. Below are a few precautionary practices we should employ while at the workplace.

- Wash your hands thoroughly, for at least 15 seconds, with soap and warm water after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing, and before and after eating.

- Use ethanol alcohol-based hand sanitizer frequently.

- Sneeze and cough into the bend of your arm and encourage your co-workers to do likewise.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

- If sick due to a potentially contagious illness, use sick leave/annual leave.

- Avoid those who don't practice safety.

The Coronavirus is relatively new, and scientists and researchers are still trying to pin down the character and traits of the disease.

Southern Region Director

Larry Sorrells

## Cover Up And Protect Your Skin

This may seem to be a bit too early for an article dealing with the summer heat and protecting your skin from the sun, but it is never too early to be thinking about it. Thousands of people each year are being diagnosed with some type of skin cancer. There are those who deny climate change and do not want to recognize that this is a real problem. I think that they "need to get their head out of the sand". I say this because the science and the facts thereof, clearly establish climate change is happening. With this change, the rays of the sun have become more intense and hotter in the process.

Many of us are involved in outdoor activities such as gardening, fishing, boating, hiking, and sunbathing. I urge you to wear headgear that will protect your face and neck along with clothing that will protect uncovered skin on your arms, legs, feet, and back. When you're outside on sunny days wearing shorts and tank tops, use a good sunscreen. If you are near the water or on sand, the sun's rays are more intense, so you need to be cognizant of this and keep the sunscreen on. Sunscreen effectiveness is rated on the tube or bottle that it comes in. If you are fair skinned, you will need more protection. Be sure to use sunscreen on your ears, neck

and the tops of your feet, "It's cloudy today, I won't get a sunburn". NOT! You can get a sunburn on a cloudy day, especially again if you are close to the water. Water or sand reflect the rays back in your face. If you are in and out of the water, make sure you reapply your sunscreen.

Also, make sure that you are not allergic to the sunscreen you are going to use. Allergies to sunscreen have ruined many a vacation. Always read the ingredients and go for another brand if it contains something that makes you break out. Sunburns are painful and need to be avoided, so always try to limit your time in

the sun. Pay special attention to kids and grandkids. They may be enjoying themselves so much that they do not want to get out of the water, but it is for their own wellbeing. Get yourself and them into the shade if any is available. If not, take beach umbrellas to provide yourself some shade. Drink lots of water also to avoid dehydration. As stated above, sunburns are painful, but the worst complication is skin cancer. Remember the cowboy movies you used to watch when you were younger? There was a reason why they wore ten-gallon hats and sombreros. PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE SUN.

Central Region Director

Edward J. Brennan

## Now Is The Time

Greetings all. Now that the new year has begun its time for all State and Local Officers to begin planning for upcoming meetings and conventions, seeking ideas and suggestions for resolutions and constitutional changes that will benefit our organizations and members for the coming years. How much mon-

ey do we have and how can we best use it for the benefit of ALL our members? Does having a summer picnic or Christmas party benefit everyone? What else do we do to benefit our members besides grievance representation?

Now is the time to consider giving your members coverage in the APW

Accident Benefit Association. It is the time to protect them with accidental death, dismemberment and disability coverage for any accident suffered either on or off the job. It is the time for your local to enroll in the ABA Group Discount Plan and give your members the security of knowing they are cov-

ered 24/7, 365 days a year. For information on how to cover your members 100% under the ABA Value Plan, Advantage Plan or ABA Plus Plan, just call the ABA office at 1-800-526-2890 and one of the ladies in the office can answer any questions you may have. Remember, Now Is The Time.

West Region Director

Marty Schneider

## Protect Yourself From Illness

Whether you believe the coronavirus is just the common cold or you fear it is the next pandemic there are things to know about it and steps you can take to care for yourself and your family regarding the disease.

I am NOT in the health care field. Please do not mistake my article as medical advice. What I would like to offer in this article is a commonsense approach to this or any virus.

First be aware of the symptoms: according to the Center for Disease Control "symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath"

The next thing to look at is how the disease is transmitted and that is respiratory droplets in the immediate area of an infected person's cough or sneeze.

And finally, what can I personally do to keep from getting ill? That's the real nuts and bolts in my words today! One thing I have done recently is to stop shaking hands. I have substituted the "Fist Bump" or make a simple slight bow.

I try to keep my hands away from my face; which is way harder than it seems.

I wash my hands more frequently. 20 seconds of washing minimum and all for good reasons. I'm about to eat. I have been working. I coughed or sneezed. I used the restroom.

I use paper tissues to cough or sneeze into and immediately throw each tissue into the trash.

I have become a cleaning fool lately. The CDC states: "clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces." Things like door handles,

telephones, computer keyboards and mouse(s). But don't ignore the refrigerator handle & water faucet - oh my, you get the picture!

I have lengthened my shopping list in order to make fewer trips to the store. When I do go to the store, I not only wipe the handle of the cart or carry basket; I wipe down whatever areas other hands could have touched.

If I am ill - I stay home. No sense in making others ill. And I try to keep my distance from others who appear to be ill.

There are a few more points to make about being prepared for even the normal "winter-season" viruses. Lay in a two-week supply of "staples" for the household. Things like canned meat and tuna, powdered milk, extra paper towels and tissues. I went a step further and stocked up

on hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and disinfecting spray. I purchased nitrile gloves and dollar store dust masks. But I have a serious reason for those last two. A member of the family has a seriously compromised immune system and I would rather be on the safe side.

And the last two things:

1. Be certain you have a 30-day supply of both prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs and supplements on hand.

2. Familiarize yourself with the website cdc.gov and your local health department website so you have a reliable news source.

I am not going to pretend this is nothing but if I am prepared and it turns into something perhaps my family will be better off.

In Solidarity.