

# The Union Inkwell



## Meeting: Sunday February 8, 2009

Georgia Music Hall of Fame

Executive Board 1:00 p.m.

General Meeting 2:00 p.m.

## Macon Local 1340 Minutes

General Meeting: January 11, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

Georgia Music Hall of Fame

President Kim Mallory opened the meeting with the roll call of officers. Secretary Chet Ruble read the minutes for November's 2008 meeting. Harold Tukes made a motion to accept the minutes. Sallie Bush seconded it. Motion passed. Treasurer Chet Ruble read the monthly financial report. Desiree made a motion to accept the financial report. Harold Tukes seconded it. Motion passed.

**New Members in the Month of January:** There were no new members in the month of January. Chet mentioned that we currently have 267 union dues paying members with 13 members who aren't paying dues due to extended illness, or military leave, etc. Chet read a thank you card from Willie Thomas and family.

**Old Business:** Our reports from our officers are as follows: President Ms. Mallory reminded everyone about our Holiday Party on January 24, 2009 at the Lake Tobesofkee Pavilion from *See Page 2*

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to thank everyone that participated in our fabulous Holiday Party, especially to the decorating and food committees. Job well done!!!

For all of the other members that were not able to come, you missed a good one.

In the future, if members would attend the Union meetings, there would be less confusion about who could attend our party.

We have to look out for the best interest and safety of our membership.

At our next meeting, we will be discussing the new FLMA amendment in more details, possibility of going to a 5-day delivery, whether Southeast Area will remain a district and last but not least, attendance.

I hope everyone met the deadline, January 30, 2009 to make changes in your Health Benefits.

I do have the new FMLA forms for employees and family members, if anyone needs them.

To all members that *See Page 3*

### VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our January union meeting got off to a great start. Much attention went to the new FMLA rules, which became effective January 16, 2009. The changes make it harder for those workers covered by the law to use FMLA leave. Our national officers are in the process of working on the APWU FMLA medical certification



forms, which will be distributed as soon as they become available. The Department of Labor FMLA certification forms (WH-380) are available on the Department of Labor website. The WH-380 Forms allow the healthcare provider to state the employee's medical *See Page 3*

**MACON LOCAL 1340 MINUTES**

8:00 pm. until 2:00 am. Non-members cannot attend. DO NOT wear jeans, tee shirts, or tennis shoes. Kim also read a letter of resignation from the Maintenance Craft Director James Mathis. Vice-President Ms. O'Bryant stated there are new FMLA rules, which become effective on Jan. 16, 2009. The changes make it harder for those workers covered by the law to use FMLA leave. Our national officers are in the process of working on the APWU FMLA medical certification forms, which will be distributed as soon as they become available. The Department of Labor FMLA certification forms are available on the Department of Labor website. Desiree also reminded everyone about the extension of FSA (flexible spending account) until 1-13-09. Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Ruble mentioned all W-2 forms would be submitted before the end of January. Chet also mentioned we are still collecting money for the Union tee shirts. All sizes are still available to be sold except for small and 3XL. Chet replied the winner of the \$250.00 scholarship fund was given to member Tony Hughes son, Neanus Anton Hughes. Congratulations Neanus. Remember members to have your child (senior year) submit an application and statement to your Local Union to receive scholarship money for your eligible child graduating from high school and attending college. Editor Ms. Potts mentioned to have all articles in on time so she can mail everyone's Inkwell in a timely

manner. Clerk craft director Mr. Tukes reminded everyone to turn in his or her choice vacation slips for the first six months by 1-15-09. Assistant clerk craft director Ms. Riley spoke about donating money to the COPA fund. By the end of our meeting, she received \$130.00 in donations.

**New Business:** Kim mentioned open season on Health Insurance has been extended until the end of

**February 8th 2009 Meeting Agenda:  
FMLA amendment and possibility of going to a five day delivery.  
Guest Speaker:  
Mrs. Angela Boykin, Manager of Customer Relations**

January. Check out the best policies and rates for you and your families. Kim discussed the future of the USPS, such as bid jobs, downsizing or adding more clerks on all three tours; possible 4 days work week, wages, early retirement, attendance, lay-off clause, the contract, the JCIM, OWCP, and FMLA. Kim stated DO NOT BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR BY WORD OF MOUTH OR THE WEBSITE. Kim brought up that the Dublin Area Local wants to join the Macon Area Local 1340. Dublin area representatives Sheree Branch and Tonya Mosley explained their reasons. There are seven members and two non-members. After all the discussion, Kim decided to postpone the vote until February's meeting. Kim discussed the Tri-State convention coming up March 12-14, 2009 in Augusta, GA. This includes the

states of Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. She mentioned officers, stewards, and members in good standing can attend. Members in good standing need to attend at least five meetings in the last year and be a union dues paying member. Kim stated information on Macon might be under a new district as of January 16, 2009. More information will be given at next month's meeting. Kim stated she is implementing a program to the raffle drawing. If your number is drawn, she will be asking questions from the contract book. If you respond correctly, you will receive your gift card. If you respond incorrectly, you lose and another number is drawn. This is an incentive to know your contract. Thanks to Chet and Kim for providing the refreshments at our January's meeting! Congratulations go to the following door prize winners at our meeting. The lucky winners were Stella Riley, Melinda Jones, Al Bryant, Sheree Branch, and Clarissa Williams. It pays to attend and WIN. Our next meeting will be held on **Sunday, 2-08-09 at 2:00 p.m.** at the **Georgia Music Hall of Fame.** The executive board will convene at 1:00 p.m. Harold made a motion to adjourn. Sallie seconded it. Meeting adjourned. Submitted to Gwen Potts, Editor on Saturday, 1-31-09. Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer.

*RuMe*

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

have upcoming seniors that are about to graduate in 2009, need to make sure they apply for the Georgia Postal Worker's Union scholarship.

The Executive Board will be attending the Tri-State

Conference on March 12-14, 2009, in Augusta, Ga.

I would like to see some of our members in good standing, participate in this conference.

This will be a great opportunity to educate you on the contract.

At our last month's general meeting, a Dublin APWU member made a request to allow their local to merge with Macon APWU.

We will discuss it at our next general meeting. All those

concerned need to attend. Our guest speaker at our February meeting will be, Mrs. Angela Boykin, Mgr. of Customer Relations, former position title was the Mgr. of Marketing.

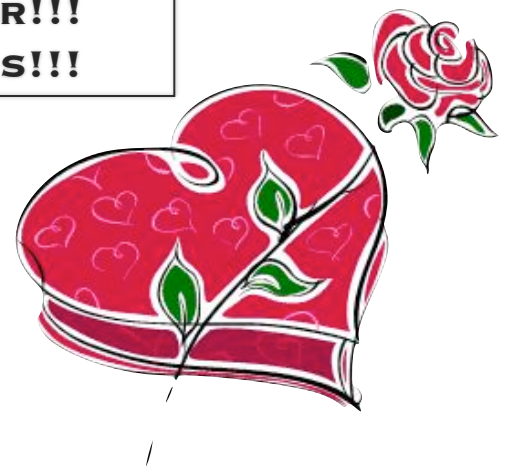
Black History Month.

Respectfully yours,

***Kim Mallory, President.***

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY  
FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD!!  
KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!!!  
COME LEARN WITH US!!!**

She will be discussing issues for small business owners and some ways to improve our revenue with the Postal Service. Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting and remember knowledge is power!! Happy Valentine's to everyone and don't forget February is



**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

diagnosis on the form. APWU states that the employee's medical diagnosis is private health information that need not be stated on the form. So if you choose to use the DOL form, President Burrus states to have your provider only state the basic "medical facts." Keep your medical information as general as possible.

The "Holiday Party" was a great success. All committees worked diligently to get the job done which helped to make it a success. Decorations were awesome and the food was a delight. It seems that everyone that attended had a great time. NEW YEAR—SAME

MESSAGE!!! Members -- COME TO WORK!! Big changes are on the way. President Burrus has sounded an alarm about the financial crisis confronting the Postal Service. As he stated "change" is upon us. So with that in mind, those of you that are FMLA approved please try and do your part concerning your attendance issues and be considerate of your co-workers, because regardless of circumstances surrounding the workplace, the work still must go on. Some of the ways that you can do your part are stated in our JCIM. 1) When the need for leave is foreseeable,

notify management of the need for leave at least thirty (30) days before the absence is to begin, and 2) when the need for leave is not foreseeable, notify management as soon as practicable, i.e., within two (2) business days, after learning of the need for leave. Let's all be thankful we have a job. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting, which will be held on Sunday, February 8. We will have discussion on our Tri-State meeting, which will be held in Augusta, Ga. on the weekend of March 12-14.

***Desiree O 'Bryant.***

**EMPLOYEE FOCUS**

***DON'T FALL FOR A CON GAME. BEWARE OF ADS PROMISING POSTAL JOBS***

If you see an advertisement offering employment with the U.S. Postal Service, chances are it's a scam.

"The U.S. Postal Service is hiring for full-time and part-time employment. Hourly salaries start at \$25 an hour. For employment information, call 800-555-5555."

Look familiar? Don't let your family or friends fall for it. Con artists are placing ads on Craigslist and local newspapers across the nation, misleading job seekers to believe they're talking to someone from USPS. Once the job seeker calls, they're asked to send money — sometimes as much as \$100 — for materials to pass the Postal Service's pre-employment examination. Of course, what they don't tell job seekers is that no jobs are available.

Misleading ads like these are considered mail fraud, a federal felony. Should you see one of these ads, report it to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service by filling out a Mail.Fraud\_CQmB!sint form online.

And if you know a job seeker interested in a postal career, have them call their local Postmaster or access employment information located at [i/sjDs.com](http://i/sjDs.com). Unlike the scammers, our information is free.

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**HOLIDAY PARTY 2009 INFORMATION**

THANKS A MILLION TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO MADE OUR HOLIDAY PARTY A SUCCESS.

FOOD COMMITTEE: KIM MALLORY, STELLA RILEY, DESIREE O'BRYANT, ALISIA DAVIS BURNEY, TAMMY FULLER, BUFFIE BOONE, AND CLARISSA WILLIAMS

DECORATING COMMITTEE: KAREN BRIDGER, CHET RUBLE, WILLIE THOMAS, RANDY WILSON, GWEN POTTS, MELINDA JONES, DEVLIN WILLINGHAM, AND LASONYA BRYANT

JUDGES FOR THE DANCE CONTEST: MELINDA JONES, RANDY WILSON, SALLIE BUSH, HAROLD TUKES, AND LASONYA BRYANT

PLAQUES, TROPHIES, GIFT CARD PURCHASES, AND RAFFLE DRAWINGS: CHET RUBLE

BARTENDER: HAYWARD JONES

DJ: TONY JACKSON

UNION MEMBERS RETIREMENT HONORED: BILL HILL, DENNY DUMAS, ROSA PATTERSON, KIM ENGLISH, RUTH STOKES, JOHN SIMMONS, AND JOHNNY MORRIS

UNION MEMBERS DECEASED HONORED: JULIUS ANDREWS AND MARK TILLEY

10 RAFFLE \$25.00 GIFT CARD WINNERS: SALLIE BUSH, TAMMIE RAY, BEV MORAN, YHACHIA GADSDEN, AL LIGGINS, SHERRYLL YOUNG, DILLON TILLEY, NOELL ANDREWS, ANDREW GRANE, AND JUASIA SWEET

TROPHIES PRESENTED TO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES: BEST DRESS MALE: LONERAL ROBINSON BEST DRESS FEMALE: STELLA RILEY

BEST MALE DANCER: CHET RUBLE, 2ND PLACE: JOE RILEY, BEST FEMALE DANCER: ANGELA SLATON, 2ND PLACE: SHARON WILSON, BEST COUPLE DANCERS: LONERAL ROBINSON AND SANDRA BUSSEY 2ND PLACE: HARRELL AND JANET GRINSTEAD

**MVS Craft**

*PVS Pilot Program to Amend Work Rules at Selected Sites*

The Motor Vehicle Craft is composed of APWU members who transport mail and maintain postal vehicles. Approximately two thirds of MVS members are drivers and one-fifth are mechanics. The Motor Vehicle Craft also includes MVS Clerks, who work in Vehicle Maintenance Facilities and in Transportation Departments in mail processing plants.

(01/29/09) The USPS and the APWU signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Jan. 15, 2009, creating a pilot program that will amend work rules governing Postal Vehicle Service drivers. The pilot program will experiment with alternative scheduling at a limited number of installations, and will continue at each location for a period of six months, unless the union and management at the

national level agree to extend the timeframe.

*Scanning*

It is imperative that you receive credit for all the mail and equipment that you transport, so "scanning" remains a critical issue for the MVS Division. Most of the audits are done electronically, off-site, so it really can be a problem for us when there is no verification on site of our actual loads. We need to make sure that what we move gets entered into the system. The Postal Service has not responded to our inquiries regarding whether everything is actually being scanned.

*Powered Industrial Truck (PIT) Training Is Part of DIE Job Description.*

A July 18, 2003, letter [PDF] from USPS to APWU President William Burrus rescinded a proposed change to the DIE position description that would

have removed PIT training duties. (Includes accompanying documents.) Qualification Standards for DIE Positions

Award dated April 13, 2004, by Arbitrator Shyman Das [PDF], Before being assigned, promoted, or reassigned to a DIE position, candidates must have qualified on all motor vehicles used in the local post office. Award dated Aug. 21, 2000, by Arbitrator Shyman Das [PDF]. Motor Vehicle Craft maintenance employees are not excluded from being selected for Ad Hoc DIE assignments.

This is our union, not theirs!!

**MVS Craft Director**





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