

RI-399 Monetary Settlement Distribution

As previously reported, in 2018 the APWU, the National Postal Mail Handlers' Union (NPMHU), and the USPS reached a tripartite agreement updating the RI-399 work jurisdiction process. As part of the agreement on the update to the RI-399 process, all pending RI-399 grievances filed prior to September 1, 2017, were administratively closed with some limited exceptions.

The Postal Service agreed that they would pay \$14.5 million to each union in consideration of the withdrawal of national level disputes. The settlement agreement calls for the unions to each make their own determination on how this money would be distributed.

After consultation, much discussion, and agreement with the Clerk Craft Director, the APWU has decided that the money will be distributed in equal amounts to clerk craft employees who fall into the following two categories:

1. All career clerk craft employees who were on the rolls as of September 1, 2017, in postal

installations that employ both clerk craft employees and mail handlers; and

2. All PSE clerk craft employees who were on the rolls on September 1, 2017, in postal installations that employ both clerk craft employees and mail handlers and who are still on the rolls as of March 1, 2019.

The exact amount of money is yet to be determined as the APWU is still determining exactly who is entitled to payment. We currently estimate this number to be around 85,000 career and non-career clerks (including any eligible career employees who retired after September 1, 2017). The number of eligible clerks is nearly double the number of mail handlers who will receive payment. President Mark Dimondstein and Clerk Craft Director Clint Burelson released a memorandum to national, state, and local officers.

Updates will be provided as the process progresses.

Medicare for All Act of 2019 Introduced

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, Representatives Pramila Jayapal (D-WA-7) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI-12) introduced the *Medicare for All Act of 2019* (H.R. 1384) with support from more than 100 original House co-sponsors.

Unfortunately, over 70 million Americans either have no insurance or are underinsured. Many are our family members. Those of us who do have job-based and union-won health care benefits are forced to pay ever escalating costs. Medicare for All will ensure every person will be guaranteed healthcare under a public system.

"It's time to put people's health over profit," said Rep. Jayapal. "Our bill will cover everyone... Because healthcare is a human right."

Highlights of the bill include:

- Provides comprehensive health care coverage.
- Complete freedom for patients to choose the doctors, hospitals, and other providers they wish to see.

- Patients would not be charged any co-pays or other out-of-pocket costs.
- Medicare will negotiate prices to substantially lower the costs of prescription drugs.
- Leverage the power of single-payer system to eliminate administrative waste.

"The APWU supports Medicare for All," said President Mark Dimondstein. "Our conventions' delegates voted unanimously to support Medicare for All at the 2016 convention and reaffirmed that decision again in 2018."

"Access to quality healthcare should be viewed as a basic human right and it is time to make that the law of the land," said Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard. "I encourage all of our members to contact their representative to tell them to put people before profits."

Dial 844-402-1001 to be connected to your Representative.