

COLA Increase Announced

In accordance with the 2018-2021 Collective Bargaining Agreement, career employees represented by the APWU received a 20 cent per hour cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), effective February 27, 2021.

The increase is the result of a rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W). It will appear in paychecks dated March 19, 2021 (Pay Period 06-2021). The value of the cost-of-living adjustment for full-time employees in each step and grade will increase by \$416.00 annually, and the hourly rates for part-time employees will be adjusted accordingly.

The COLAs are in addition to general wage increases. This is the fifth COLA under the 2018 contract. The COLAs received so far during the 2018 CBA will total \$1,414.00 per year.

Postal Support Employees (PSEs) do not receive COLAs, but have several general wage increases under the 2018 contract. The next increase is effective on May 22, 2021, when PSE's will receive another 20-cent raise.

Go to apwu.org/pay-information for updated pay scales.

Biden Nominates Three New Members to Postal Board of Governors Following APWU-led Petition

On February 24, President Biden nominated three people to fill vacant seats on the Postal Board of Governors. The nominees are Ron Stroman, who recently retired as Deputy Postmaster General; Amber McReynolds, the CEO of the National Vote at Home Institute; and Anton Hajjar, former general counsel of the APWU.

All three nominees must be confirmed by the Senate to take their place on the Postal Board of Governors.

“We are encouraged by President Biden nominating three new members to the USPS’ Board of Governors,” said President Dimondstein. “We urge the Senate to quickly confirm these nominees who are committed to universal service and who will defend the vibrancy and sustainability of the public United States Postal Service.”

The nominations followed the delivery of a petition with over 400,000 signatures to the White House on February 23, calling on the administration to swiftly fill the vacant positions on the nine member USPS Board of Governors. The APWU worked with allied organizations including Progress America, Take on Wall Street, Alliance for Retired Americans, Daily Kos, People for the American Way, The 98%, and other organizations of A Grand Alliance to Save Our Postal Service to gather the petition signatures.

The petition urged President Biden to select candidates who will preserve and protect the People’s Post

Office, and who “will support an agenda of expanding the role of the USPS in serving our communities,” such as adding new products that can help the public and at the same time generate revenue, such as paycheck cashing, offering wire transfers and other financial services.

Biden’s nominees have backgrounds that suggest they share our vision for the future of the Postal Service and they sharply contrast with the current makeup of the Board. All of the current board members are Trump appointees. Most have deep ties to Wall Street and corporate interests, and not one has had direct experience with the USPS prior to joining the board.

The new appointments also show a renewed commitment from the White House to support the Postal Service. Whereas the administration run by President Trump, who called the USPS ‘a joke,’ proposed ending the universal service requirement and selling off the USPS, the Biden administration has moved quickly on these nominations and they have expressed other commitments to seeing the Postal Service succeed.

“The USPS is a national treasure. The severe delays affecting the country’s critical postal services are unacceptable,” President Dimondstein said. “Confirming these three nominees is a step towards making the necessary changes to improving service and preserving the people’s Post Office.”

Rank and File Bargaining Advisory Committee Appointed

With national contract negotiations set to begin in June, President Mark Dimondstein has announced the names of union members who will serve on the Rank and File Bargaining Advisory Committee. In accordance with the APWU Constitution, each member of the National Executive Board appoints one person to the committee; a 14th member, appointed by the president, is a member of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Task Force.

The APWU National Negotiations Committee (NNC) has full authority to negotiate the terms of a new collective bargaining agreement. The Rank and File Bargaining Advisory Committee provides input to the NNC. The Rank and File Committee must also approve any tentative agreement before it can be sent to APWU members for a ratification vote.

Contract negotiations are set to tentatively begin mid-June. The current Collective Bargaining Agreement expires on Sept 20, 2021.

The appointees are:

Peggy Whitney – Business Agent, Minneapolis Area Local (appointed by Mark Dimondstein, President)

Sandra Muñoz – Vice President, Broward County Area Local (appointed by Debby Szeredy, Executive Vice President)

Juan Carlos Gonzalez – President, Puerto Rico Area Local (appointed by Elizabeth Powell, Secretary-Treasurer)

James Sizemore – President, Greater Cincinnati OH Area Local (appointed by Vance Zimmerman, Industrial Relations Director)

Sherry McKnight – President, Baltimore Francis Stu Filbey Area Local (appointed by Lamont Brooks, Clerk Division Director)

Yared Wonde – President, Dallas Area Local (appointed by Idowu Balogun, Maintenance Division Director)

Javier Piñeres – MVS Member, San Jose Area Local (appointed by Michael Foster, Motor Vehicle Service Division Director)

Arrion Brown – Legislative Director, Nation's Capital Southern Maryland Area Local (appointed by Steve Brooks, Support Services Division Director)

Gregory Jones – President, Indianapolis Area Local (appointed by Sharyn Stone, Central Region Coordinator)

Nicole Burnett – President, Central New York Area Local (appointed by A.J. Jones, Eastern Region Coordinator)

Scott Hoffman – President, Boston Metro Area Local (appointed by Tiffany Foster, Northeast Region Coordinator)

Stacey Sabir Brown – President, Atlanta Metro Area Local (appointed by Kenneth Beasley, Southern Region Coordinator)

Joseph Cuccinotto – President, Phoenix Metro Area Local (appointed by Omar Gonzalez, Western Region Coordinator)

Christopher Anaya – Deaf/Hard of Hearing Task Force Representative, Western Region, Fresno Area Local (appointed by Mark Dimondstein, President)

The first meeting of the Rank and File Advisory Committee was held March 8, 2021.

Watch the Last “APWU Live with the President” Event!



On Feb. 25, the APWU held its second monthly “APWU Live with the President” livestream. The event is available to view at apwu.org/live.

When the next “APWU Live with the President” event is scheduled, members can also go to apwu.org/live to sign up, get notifications and submit questions for President Dimondstein ahead of time.