



NORTH DAKOTA

The Fargo Tour Guide

Volume 25, No. 1

Fargo, ND

February 2006

FARGO TOUR GUIDE
APWU AREA LOCAL APWU
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Read
your local
union paper.

Fargo Area Local APWU

Serving members in Fargo, West Fargo and Wahpeton

Editor **Sheila Cogdill**

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Trustee	Dave Hassebrock
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CFS	Sue Carnahan
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West Fargo	Mary Gillespie

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Housekeeping	Jeff Knutson
Social & Rec.	Vicki Nordman & Karen Palloch
RI-399 LDRC	Jeff Knutson and John Durham
Automation	Pam Hansen, Jim Schwartz, Dave Stark & Ginger Hutchison

The "Fargo Tour Guide" is published four to six time a year by the Fargo Area Local APWU. The view and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, local officers or the American Postal Workers Union. Mistakes are intentional for the express purpose of finding out if anyone is reading this paper and to keep those happy who are not happy unless they can find something wrong with everything.

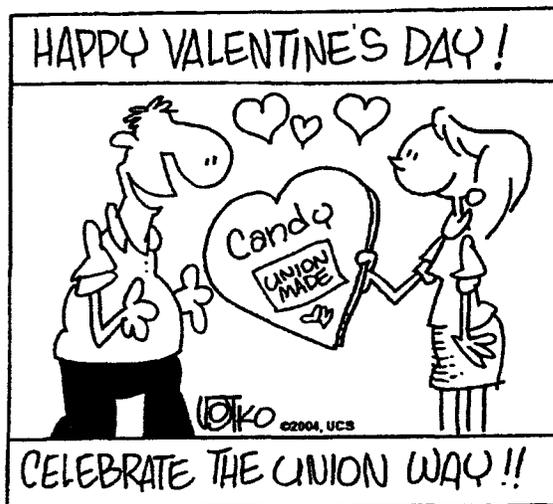
Letters to the editor may be sent to:

Fargo Area Local APWU
 P.O. Box 1874
 Fargo, ND 58107-1874
 Union Office: (701) 241-6163

Upcoming union meetings

Saturday, January 28, 9:00 am
Monday, February 27, 7:00 pm
Saturday, March 25, 9:00 am

All meetings are normally held at the F-M Labor Hall, 3002 1st Ave N, Fargo, but may be moved to Wahpeton, West Fargo or other locations if decided by the membership. Meetings usually don't run over two hours in length, and are required to conduct the business of the local. If you have any financial interest as to how your dues are spent, or how decisions are made at work, you must attend these general membership meetings.



Editorial Policy:

The "Fargo Tour Guide" encourages letters to the editor from the membership. We ask, however, that they be legible. The writer's name, address and telephone number for verification must be included, and must be signed. Names will be withheld upon request. The editor reserves the right to edit letters and articles for length, style, grammar and spelling. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, union officers, or most important the membership of the American Postal Workers Union.

A note from your president

By Mike Wavra

There have been two arbitrations scheduled in Fargo the past two months. The December arbitration had to do with flat prepping for the AFSM, with National Business Agents Lyle Kreuth and Willie Mellen in town to argue our case. Special thanks to John Durham and Jeff Knutson for all the hard work they put into this case, and to Kevin Hutchinson, Mike Glaseman, Kelli Muchow, and Kurt Thompson for providing testimony crucial to our case. Hopefully this work will return to its rightful place in the clerk craft. It is estimated that we'll hear the results of this arbitration sometime this spring

The arbitration scheduled for January 18 was settled in pre-arbitration. This one had to do with grievances advanced by former local presidents John Durham and Amy Tuscherer concerning casuals hired in lieu of career employees. NBA Lyle Krueth negotiated a twenty five thousand dollar award for the career clerks in Fargo. Thank you John, Amy, and Lyle!

The APWU State Convention is scheduled for April 20-22 in Fargo. I hope as many members as possible will attend! Upcoming details will be posted at a later date.



**Look For the
Union Label**

A few words from the vice...

By Sue Carnahan

When I arrived at work this morning I actually heard that some clerks had gotten spot leave. That's music to the ears after another hectic holiday season. I know it had to be hectic everywhere.

I had ordered my Mrs. Santa Bear online this year because she wasn't available at the store when Mr. Santa Bear came to live at my house. I ordered her on a Saturday evening. It's not what you think, I don't always spend my Saturday nights online. I waited a little over a week and thought I'd see if I could check the status of her arrival. She was shipped out the Monday after I ordered her and arrived in Fargo on Tuesday according to their delivery confirmation. I laughed when I was told that and confessed to working at the post office. Mrs. Santa Bear has been in Fargo for a week and still has not made it to my door. I was told if I didn't get her the following day I should call back. I didn't get her the following day and I didn't call back but she was delivered safe and sound the day after that. Yes, it was a Thursday she arrived. Lo and behold, Friday there was a knock on my door. There stood "brown" with a package for me. Another Mrs. Santa Bear was shipped on Wednesday and arrived on Friday. I think that one falls in the 4% not on time composite score.

The long days in CFS have improved some. Unfortunately that's because most of our machinable letter mail is being shipped to Minneapolis and being run on their

A Letter to the editor

An audit of financial status

By Dave Stark and Dave Hassebrock

On September 15, 2005 Dave Hassebrock and I, Dave Stark, conducted an audit of our unions' financial situation. Connie Payne is new to the position of Financial Secretary and is doing a fine job. With help from Jeff Knutson as outgoing financial secretary Connie understands what needs to be done and how to do it. She has a very good attitude about her job and is making every effort to do it right.

We believe all necessary legal and financial requirements are being met and that we are in good hands.

Bullies in the work place

By Mary Gillespie

Are there really bullies in the work place? All you have to do is sit back and watch what really goes on in your work place. The answer to the question is yes without a doubt. After doing a little reading and also talking to a lot of different people you will find the work place bully to be in most work places. As the number of workers increase so does the ratio of bullies. You know if you are a bully or not but the real question is how would you feel if you were on the end of what a bully could and will do to you. I have been on both ends of

the spectrum and really don't like either end. Everyone has a right to be happy and not worry if one of their co-workers will be waiting to make their lives a living nightmare. A lot of workers will blame management but it really starts with each and every one of us. If you don't like someone just leave them alone, be polite if they do talk to you and try to be the best person you can be. If you are having problems at work talk to a steward to see if they can be of any help or use the benefit of the EAP program. The last thing that I would like to say about all of this is to try and think before you say what you were just thinking so what you may have said doesn't hurt someone or even worse gets you in trouble.

FMLA

Just a brief note on how important it is to fill out paperwork for a Family Medical Leave Act condition. You know how management starts breathing down your neck if you call in sick more than a couple of times. For example if you have a back problem that flares up on occasion or you have migraines or whatever the condition you have keeps you away from work think about filling out the paperwork the next time you see your doctor. Management will try to get you to fill out their paperwork which is way too long and doctors never have enough time to do it while you are there and who knows when they will get it done. Just ask a union steward or officer for the Union forms which are short and very simple for the doctor to fill out. Always make a copy for your self and have them make a copy for your file since we all know that management can and will lose our paperwork. If you have any questions ask your steward for more information.

In Memory of Wanda

By Sheila Cogdill

It has now been almost four months to the day that Wanda Ordahl, my fellow co-worker at the window, passed away. It amazes me that the general public still comments on her passing almost daily. They say how they can't believe that she is gone and that they miss her wonderful service she provided to them. Wanda was always very polite and patient with the customers, even though she did have to grit her teeth on occasion. There were a couple times when I quickly took the next male admirer, I mean customer, so she wouldn't have to listen to his *charming* stories for twenty minutes because she was to polite to tell him she needed to take the next customer.

I worked in a station next to Wanda for a good part of four years. In these four years I learned to love, respect, and admire Wanda for all she did and had done in her life. Wanda was a good person, she would do anything for you. Wanda and I shared many stories of our daily lives. Wanda listened to my stories of what my children were up to and told many of her own when her daughters Mary and Vicki were little. It was nice to have someone to share and get advice from.

Wanda passed out one morning while she was waiting on customers at the window. Surely she wasn't feeling well but her dedication to the postal service, fellow co-workers, and the customers brought her to work that day. We were constantly short of clerks so instead of thinking of herself she came back to work after taking a day or two of sick leave. She had been fighting

bronchitis, so the doctors had told her, she just couldn't shake the cough.

I knew she had been feeling tired that spring but she had gone through a lot in her personal life. The year before her parents had been placed in ELIM, her father in assisted living and her mother in the nursing home. One of the highlights of that year for Wanda was the marriage of her daughter Mary. Wanda was so proud that day! I witnessed it as I helped her out with the reception. Next her uncle passed away, followed by her mother all within a very short period of time. Wanda dealt with all of that while keeping a close eye on her father. Last spring Wanda's father almost had to have his leg amputated but thankfully ended up only losing his toe. So the last thing on Wanda's mind was her health. She had just had a physical and everything was fine.

After being taken to the Emergency Room Wanda saw a lot of doctors. It was maybe three weeks or so before she was diagnosed with kidney cancer. In the middle of June she had a kidney removed that was the size of a football. Wanda remained very optimistic through all of this. She had a very strong relationship with God. She said she was lucky to have passed out at the window because if that hadn't happened she would have never been diagnosed so early. The doctors gave her every hope of beating this illness. I visited Wanda a few times in the hospital and at her home. We talked and I helped her with everyday tasks such as grocery shopping. Several of her co-workers did the same.

It wasn't until the middle of July that she had any indication that the cancer was growing back. She was told by her doctors that they would start chemotherapy

immediately. She had a few treatments and things were not going well. Wanda told me she had to cancel her trip to Las Vegas. I knew that was very disappointing to her because she had plans to see her new grandchild. I left her house one day towards the end of August with a terrible feeling. Wanda was not herself. She still had hope but she was very weak and was having trouble eating. Shortly after this Wanda was placed in the Palliative Care unit at Merit Care.

Her daughter Mary visited us at the post office and told us of the terrible news. She said her mother was dying and that it was just so sad. Needless to say the window clerks were shocked. Marlys and I had to ask each other if we had heard Mary correctly. The doctors had told her she had such a good chance, we couldn't believe it. What else could possibly be done?

They tried several days in a row of radiation, but it didn't work. Wanda was told that she was dying, but she still hoped for a miracle. God did grant her enough time to see her new grandson Gregory. Her family came and Wanda held on for a couple of weeks.

On October 3, 2005 Wanda passed away. For days it was hard to believe that she would never be working at my side again. It seemed like she was just on vacation and that she would be back soon. We struggled at the window to keep a smile on for the customers. It was hard. I did not realize until after Wanda's death how many customers also missed her. I did not realize what an impact she or we as postal workers make on the public. It has been four months now since her passing and it is sad to say but there are days that go by when I don't think of her. A couple of days ago I had a

customer that said to me it is so sad that your co-worker, your friend, is gone. It startled me to think that I had not thought of Wanda for a couple of days. It made me realize that she was right it is sad, but more than that she was right she was my friend. I never intended for her to be my friend, I didn't set out to have a relationship with her, but when you work beside someone like Wanda how could you not become friends. I know I am not the only friend Wanda had made over her many years at the post office. But I am truly grateful for her friendship, her kindness, and thoughtfulness. She was a wonderful person and I know I will never forget her.



*He Only
Takes The Best*

*God saw that she was
getting tired
And the cure was
not to be.
So He put His arms
around her
And whispered "Come
with me."*

*With tearful eyes
we watched*

*Her suffer and fade away.
Although we loved her dearly
We could not make her stay.*

*A Golden heart stopped beating.
Hard working hands to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.*

Postal Bowling Tournament

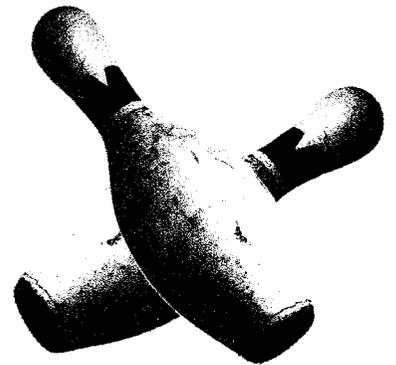
9 Pin- No Tap

OPEN TO POSTAL EMPLOYEES AND FAMILY MEMBERS

- *Sunday, February 19, 2006
- *Two shifts: 11:30 am or 2:00 pm
- *Entry Fee: \$15 for best 3 of 4 games
Optional \$1 for high game

Tournament Info:

- *9 pins= a strike (X)
- *90% handicap tournament
- *Last years average or current average if 10 pins higher as of 12/31/05
- *If you have no established average: Men=150
Women =135
- *All averages subject to discretion of tournament manager
- *"Red" head pin actual strike will get you a free beverage



Sunset Lanes of Moorhead

Hwy 75 just north of Hwy 10
Moorhead, MN

SIGNUP SHEET @ SUPERVISORS DESK MAIN POST OFFICE FARGO OR
CALL 701-241-6181

Please specify early or late shift

Advance signup would be appreciated

Please arrive 30 minutes early for lane assignments

For information contact Burdean Berseth (T1) or Tim Haaland (T3)