

Briefs



THE OAKLAND POSTAL WORKER

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HER ODYSSEY

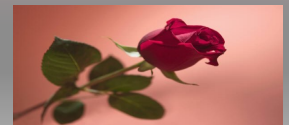
ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY—THERE IS LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL. A little over a year ago, an Oakland P&DC employee and APWU member filed both an EEO complaint, alleging that she was sexually harassed by her supervisor, and an injury claim with OWCP. Her doctor took her off duty because the Agency would not reassign her to another Oakland Post Office location. Her doctor had requested that she work at another location due to her fear of working near her supervisor at the P&DC. Instead, the Agency insisted that she be reassigned to a Post Office in another city, further away from her home than the Oakland P&DC, for no reason other than reprisal against her for filing an EEO complaint and injury claim. At that time, before the nonsensical reversions and abolishments, there were numerous vacant duty assignments at the Oakland Installation's stations and branches. Her doctor also informed the Agency that it would be harmful for her to have to travel a longer distance from her home to work, under her present mental condition.



The Agency would not budge, nor would her doctor or the Oakland Local APWU. Thus, the odyssey began. This standoff lasted for approximately one year. In the interim, this created an economical hardship on the employee and her family. However, because of the employee's perseverance, her doctor's unwavering commitment to her health and well-being, and the APWU constantly providing assistance to her and her doctor in applying her contractual rights and the Agency's obligation to her under federal law, her extended fight and suffering finally ended on the "light" side. Although she had no witnesses to her sexual harassment allegation, her injury claim was approved retroactively to 2/5/17, which makes her eligible for lost wages for almost one year; her EEO complaint was settled by reassigning her to an Oakland station and restoring her seniority and benefits. Moreover, she received her end of 360-day appointment leave pay—**the employee is a PSE!**

IN MEMORY OF

Don Cote
Cheryl Jones
Joe Rubin
Milton Mapp
Nelson Burns
Clifford Weaver



It's A DATE

General Meeting
April 11, 2018
Earth Day
April 22, 2018
APWU National
Negotiation opens
June 2018
APWU National
Convention
August 20-23, 2018

The Postal Service's policy on workplace harassment can be found on the Oakland Local's website at: www.oakapwu78.org. Click Resources, then click Library, then click Rules and Regulations.

Prescription Drugs: The New Workplace Safety Hazard



The abuse of prescription drugs in the workplace can be an expensive, serious and dangerous problem, with issues ranging from lost productivity, absenteeism, injuries, fatalities, theft, and low employee morale, to an increase in health care, legal liabilities and workers compensation cost. Prescription drug abuse is steadily increasing in the workplace. Almost 70% of Americans take at least one prescription medication. The most common prescriptions are antibiotics, antidepressants and opioid painkillers. The "pill for every ill" mentality appears to be painfully true.

To effectively deal with this new workplace safety hazard, the Postal Service will have to redefine the concept of its EAP.



Dream Land

Sleep is essential for a person's good health and well being. Most healthy adults need an average of eight hours sleep a night. Lack of sleep can lead to obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and even early mortality. It can also put workers at risk of having serious accidents at work. Adequate sleep can make your work experience and trips to "Dream Land" quite pleasurable. ■

Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city. (Proverbs 16.32)

CORRECTION OF UNSAFE CONDITION MOU



In June 1999, the APWU and the USPS effectuated the Correction of Unsafe Conditions MOU, pursuant to the September 29, 1998 Postal Employee Safety Enhancement Act (PESEA).

The MOU encourages the resolution of unsafe conditions at the lowest

level in USPS facilities. To accomplish this, the local parties are to designate an APWU and management representative at the district main post office and its station and branches and at its vehicle maintenance facilities. The representatives will have sufficient authority to resolve safety issues in an expeditious manner.

For almost 20 years, the MOU has not been used to address safety issues. Recently, President Jacobs reactivated the MOU by appointing **John Braford** as the P&DC representative and **Viktor Uvarov** as the vehicle maintenance facilities representative. Presently, Karandeep Singh is management's representative.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

On Saturday, March 24, 2018, the Oakland Local hosted the APWU's inaugural Legislative Summit.

APWU officers in attendance were: APWU National Legislative Director Judy Beard, Western Regional Coordinator Omar Gonzalez, California State APWU President Michael Evans, National Business Agents Shirley Taylor and Chuck Locke, APWU California State Legislative Director Phil Warlick, Oakland Local President Fredric Jacobs, Motor Vehicle Craft Division Director and Legislative Committee Chairman, James Perry, Records Secretary Derrick Lee, Trustee Kenneth Mitchell, Sergeant-At-Arms Gilbert Johnson, Oakland APWU Retirees Chapter President Ernest Johnson, Oakland Retirees Chapter Legislative Director Juanita Boles, Acting Oakland Retirees Chapter Officer and Assistant Editor of the Oakland Postal Worker and Briefs Susan Robison. Also in attendance were East Bay Area Local Officers Lisa Herrera, President and Susan Hammer, Chief Steward, Berkeley Post Office, and special guests.



Director Beard gave a presentation on the APWU legislative priorities. Coordinator Gonzalez discussed the Hatch Act. Director Warlick gave a presentation on the Mailer Technical Adviser Committee. Special guest Harvey L. Smith, President of the National New Deal Preservation Association, spoke on the sales of post offices.

The Oakland Motor Vehicle Department will be receiving new spotters and cargo trucks to replace the ones presently being used.

