



"Striving to preserve prosperity, dignity  
and life through united effort."

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January 17, 2021

### 2021 STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS FOR THE APWU-DDAL

Greeting brothers and sisters, it is time for us to discuss the State of our Union. This is my fifth year as president of the Detroit District Area Local and I would like to thank you all for your continued support.

In 2020 we have seen our nation; state and our local communities go through far too much pain. The Coronavirus has been a constant reminder that life is precious and can be short.

We will truly miss four employees that loss their lives to the Coronavirus. The gentlemen are Bobby Wilkerson, Baxter Ingram, Emery Klugh and Larry Trayner. We continue to pray for their families.

### APWU-DDAL FINANCES

Our local finances are not much different than past years. In fact, this year we will endure financial issues because of COVID-19, reduced membership, and the yearly increases in operation cost.

We have managed to balance our annual budget for the last five years. However, this year we must replace the roof. The cost for this repair may be upwards of \$30,000.00 and it is necessary to get the roof done sooner than later.

In the next couple of weeks, we will call on all nonmembers to join us. We can help one another, and the time is now. There are so many reasons to participate in a union. Here are just a few, better wages, protection from management, equality and equal rights, health and safety, annual and sick leave, Workers Compensation, FMLA, weekends off, paid vacation, child labor laws, Health Care, Social Security, 8-hour workday, Dental and Vision, Holiday Pay and breaks and raises. These are some simple reasons why union dues should be paid by all employees. These benefits are not given to us. The APWU negotiates for them. The battles cost and the cost should be shared by every employee.

### BUILDING UPGRADES AND REPAIRS

We have done a couple of things to upgrade the building because we were burglarized in the summer of 2020. When someone broke into our shed and stole a gas grill that the union had purchased. It became apparent that we needed lighting and cameras to help authorities identify possible thefts. The motorized gate had to be repaired as well because it was damaged in the burglary. There is electrical work, more painting, ceiling tile, bathroom work and doors to replace still on our agenda.

—OVER—

## UNION GOALS

I am now seeking to certify new stewards and committee members for the 2021 calendar year. Stewards are the frontline of our Collective Bargaining Agreement. Please submit your letter of interest To the President and your Craft Director. Mail the letter of interest to 20530 Southfield Rd. Detroit, Michigan 48235.

I do not know if our local has ever been a **100%** union organized local, but it would be an awesome accomplishment. It is our policy to pay a \$25.00 fee to any member who signs up a nonmember. The more you sign up the more cash you will receive.

Our local has hosted several events last year in 2020. The last three were the Save the Old Redford Post Office on August 21, 2020. The Day of Action to stop privatization on August 25, 2020 and The Day of Action to Defend Democracy and the USPS on November 17, 2020. It is a goal of mine to get as many members out to these events as possible. We need your support to defeat these attacks on the USPS as well as the employees. We must never stop fighting for what is right, and we are stronger when we fight together.

The APWU Detroit District Area Local has been televised on several different television networks last year. Channels 2, 4, 5, 7, 50, 62 and CNN. Perhaps, you caught us on several radio stations also. The Honorable Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence, Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib and Senator Gary Peters have all attended at least one of our Day of Actions. This is an added benefit for us because, all three are a part of one of the Congressional Committees fighting for a better Postal Service.

## CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

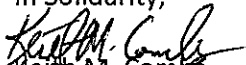
Michigan has entered the 1b phase of the Coronavirus vaccine stage. If you want to receive a vaccine for the virus, you should call the TCF center (formerly Cobo Hall) to schedule your appointment for a first and second vaccine. The phone number is 313 230-0505.

I am not saying that you should or should not be vaccinated. However, I do know that the United States has loss over 400,000 Americans as of today. These numbers must stop growing. We are essential frontline employees and we have been dealing with this virus for over a year. We have seen our co-workers test positive. We have been quarantined and we have loss family members, friends, and co-workers. We must do all that we can to stop this deadly disease including wearing a mask whenever we leave home.

It is always the intentions of the Detroit District Area Local officers and stewards to do our very best in representing you. I want to thank the officers and stewards, but most of all I want to thank our membership for your continued support. It is the hard-working men and women of our membership that encourages us to come to work and battle management daily.

God bless you and God bless our union.

In Solidarity,



Keith M. Combs

President APWU-DDAL/AFL-CIO