



# DISPATCH NEWS FLASH

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Alex Aleman - President  
[alexaleman0195@att.net](mailto:alexaleman0195@att.net)

SAN ANTONIO ALAMO AREA LOCAL

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Sterling Ricks - Vice President  
[sterlingricks0195@att.net](mailto:sterlingricks0195@att.net)

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ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR

Anna Smith

## Benefits of Being Union

*(This article first appeared in the May-June 2017 issue of The American Postal Worker magazine.)*

Sometimes, we forget why we are union members. We may fall into a trap of feeling as if we solely pay dues.

Too often, I hear members say, "I just pay my dues, and the union never does anything for me." I recently spoke to a member who was employed for 30 years and is now nearing retirement. She said, "I have never used the union."

Is that really true? Let's be honest with ourselves.

We do not have to work where we do. Some people are forced to have a job that pays minimum wage, with no vacation time, no holidays and no protections against the employer. Many work for an "at will" employer, meaning the employer could fire us for any reason, without cause and without warning. I do not think most of us would choose to have one of those jobs, if offered.

The reality is, we all benefit every day from being union.

USPS employees enjoy union representation for your needs, including in contract negotiations and the grievance process. Other benefits include an effective grievance procedure to adjudicate disputes with management; protections against unjust discipline, including termination; prohibitions against unilateral actions by our employer, and provisions for safe working conditions (with union safety representatives to enforce them).

Below are some other examples of what APWU members have achieved by working together.

To review the complete article including all those benefits that APWU Members enjoy please go to the APWU Website at:

<http://www.apwu.org/news/deptdiv-news-article/benefits-being-union>