

APWU reaches out to Vets to fill new USPS jobs

The American Postal Workers Union is reaching out to military veterans in an effort to fill thousands of newly-created jobs in the Postal Service.

Under the terms of APWU's recently-concluded collective bargaining agreement with the Postal Service, veterans with at least a 30 percent service-related disability would go to the top of the list for openings for Postal Support Employees (PSE), a newly created title, provided they score 70 percent or better on their job applications. Other veterans who served in certain locations would

also qualify for extra points to qualify for the jobs. The Postal Service has not yet announced the openings and interested individuals are encouraged to conduct frequent searches on the USPS jobs website (www.usps.com/employment). Under the terms of the contract, USPS is required to give absolute preference to qualifying veterans before hiring others as long as there are veterans on the list. More information on job openings and the hiring process is also available on the APWU website (www.apwu.org).

Clearing away the smoke on the U.S. Deficit Issue

When House Republicans talk about the federal deficit, they infer that the problem is wild federal spending, "maxing out the U.S. credit card" and sending as yet unborn generations into impossible debt. The facts are far different.

The debt—about \$15 trillion—is real enough, but it's not as if there are no assets to pay back the folks who have lent that money to the U.S. The U.S. government does exactly the same thing that big corporations do when they need ready cash. Uncle Sam issues bonds and notes to financial markets and investors stand in line to buy them, just as they do for corporate stocks and bonds. Economists worry that too much government debt will tend to crowd out private investment, and that can be a legitimate problem—but only when there are too few investors with too little money to buy from both sources.

Despite all the talk about the U.S. being broke, there are still lots of willing investors out there eager to invest in the U.S. as a sound buy.

If and when Congress eventually acts to lift the debt limit, the U.S. Treasury Dept. will have the authority to issue about \$1 trillion in bonds to sell to investors to cover a wide range of the nation's obligations—to pay Social Security recipients, U.S. military personnel, to run various government agencies, to generally keep the government running.

If August 2nd comes and goes without Congress authorizing the additional debt, all bets are off. Worldwide, financial markets would collapse, signaling the start of an all new worldwide recession, or worse.

Furthermore, if the Republicans succeed in demanding trillions in budget cuts without any tax increases the problems involved in funding the government will continue.

Cooler heads say the only long-term solution is vigorous economic recovery combined with a mix of tax increases and carefully selected cuts in federal spending.

REMINDER **UNION MEETING**



The next membership meeting is
Sunday, Sept. 11
at 2:30 p.m.

REMINDER **RETIREE MEETING**

The next meeting is
Thursday, Oct. 6
at 10 a.m. at UAW Local 2000

