



**EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
*National Joint Committee*

March 24, 2020

Present: Patrick Devine, Annette August-Taylor, Manuel Peralta,  
Mary Milner, Eric Leslie

Today's meeting was held by WebEx with all parties following the protocol and guidance of the CDC in this COVID-19 event pandemic. Our thoughts are with everyone that is and will be affected in the future.

This meeting would have been hosted by the NALC.

1. This is our first meeting since the Retirement of Sue Carney, Human Relations Director of the APWU. Sue has served on the National Joint Committee (NJC) since November of 2001. We thank Sue for her years of service and her passion on behalf of EAP Services and the entire program. The NJC unanimously voted her into the EAP Hall of Fame. We wish Sue a long and happy retirement.
2. The NJC also welcomed Annette August-Taylor, Executive Assistant to APWU Executive Vice-President Debby Szeredy. Annette has been employed with the USPS for over 35 years and has served as an APWU representative at various levels throughout her career.
3. Whereas Sue has retired, it was agreed that the minutes of her last meeting in February, would be drafted by others and distributed for review and approval.
4. Eric addressed the Month End Report for February 2020. Activity: My Strength = 185; Talkspace=276; Calls Managed = 7234; Clinical Calls Managed = 7234 and Web Hits= 7854. The ASA for the month was 7 seconds. Eric discussed the cancellation of the conventions and other meetings as mandated and encouraged and we will look at national convention activity when we are able to.
5. Annette suggested that we explore a connection with the Lite Blue pages to further promote EAP services. Patrick will follow up on that suggestion and report back.
6. Eric also shared that New Directions Behavioral Health (NDBH) is encouraging "in the moment" counseling as a response to immediate needs of our employees.
7. Eric reported that the efforts to develop an APP to work on all platforms has been more difficult than expected, and as such it appears that there will be a web based assistance app for smart phones.
8. The NJC letterhead will be updated.
9. Eric briefed the NJC on work being done by NDBH to develop a slide deck and webinar to assist union leadership and anyone else needing a remote service talk in dealing with the current COVID-19 related stress issues.
10. We discussed the process that we will be following to update membership on the District Advisory Committees (DACs) as needed.
11. Discussion on "Spotlight" where the NJC will be highlighting effective activities of DACs throughout the country.
12. The NJC is scheduled to meet in April, May and June.

**Committee Members**

Patrick M. Devine, USPS  
Manager, Contract  
Administration (NPMHU) &  
Employee Workplace  
Programs

Debby P. Szeredy, APWU  
Executive Vice President

Manuel L. Peralta, Jr., NALC  
Director, Safety & Health

**Ad Hoc Member**

Dr. Deborah J. Atkins, USPS  
EAP Administrator

