



The

# Union Mail

Vol. 58 No. 2 | February 2015

Published by the NY Metro Area Postal Union

*"The Labor Movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress."—Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## ***Mobilizing to Build Power!***



### **APWU CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS 2015**

*Story on page 4*

# Enforce our contract to save Maintenance jobs



**Jonathan Smith**

I read today that the Postal Service signed a \$450 million contract with a private company to do maintenance work –minor repairs, custodial work, landscaping, etc. A \$450 million contract!

Privatization is already at our doorstep. But it's not too late.

The only way we're going to save our jobs is to enforce our Contract.

NDC management is arbitrarily abolishing 130 maintenance jobs and newly creating 80 jobs. But unlike the Clerk and Motor Vehicle crafts, there is no such word as "abolishment" in Maintenance Article 38 of the Contract, under 38.4.A.3 and 4, management can determine to change rest days or hours on a job, but they have a contractual responsibility to explain to the Union why it is necessary -- (an obligation they've refused to meet). Management must also give the incumbent the opportunity to follow the new Rest Days or hours if they are the senior person on the PAR with those hours and R/Ds. Instead, they are blatantly violating this contractual "reposting" process.

Also, by "abolishing" jobs illegally to force people to work weekends, USPS is violating Article 12. Senior employees are being impacted and the regular workforce needlessly inconvenienced.

## Excessing to lower level

We must ensure that custodial staffing is based on the square

footage rules in the MS-47. To excess maintenance workers into lower level positions, there must be residual vacancies. Just because management wants to reduce ETs, MPEs, and BEMs, they can't expand the custodial numbers by some miracle math to "create" landing spots. Even when management uses eWHEP to "justify" excessing to a lower level, they still need the higher level work. Once excessing has been done, they're depending on pride and ego to control you. They want to use the former ETs as ETs, or BEMs as BEMs even though they were excessed into custodial jobs. The former skilled employees have save grade pay. So they don't have the jobs officially and don't get more money. The bribe is pride and ego. That's what they're depending on to destroy the maintenance craft.

Don't fall for it. Management cannot give you an order to perform work for which you are not *contractually* qualified. Even if you've had the training, you are no longer contractually qualified because they made you a lower level.

We also have an MOU in Maintenance that protects the Occupational Code. Management can't detail anyone into an Occ Code until they have maxed out the OT in that Occ Code. Grieve any violations.

Protect BEMs and MPE 9s excessed into lower levels. We have a lot of 7s doing Level 9 work and logging Level 7 hours. A simple rule of thumb is "If you've got to think, that's Level 9 work." A 7 can't offer a diagnosis or prognosis. So if the supervisor wants someone to see

what's wrong, it requires a 9 or a 10. If he tells you what to do, it's a 7. A 7 is supposed to assist the 9, but at facilities like DVD and the NDC, there's Area Assurance. When they get a call, they're asked to figure out what is wrong. That's 9 work all day long, but look who's working there – Level 7s!

We need to put in grievances on this or we're cutting our own throats.

Pay attention. Management's goal is to cut maintenance staffing. But this is the only craft where you can protect your own work. Everything they use that goes into the staffing Work Hour Estimator in maintenance comes from the employee.

We have to use our contractual weapons to fight back. Because if we don't, the maintenance craft will be extinct. ☒

Official publication of the New York Metro Area Postal Union.

*The Union Mail* (ISSN 0049-5298) is published monthly except combined in March/April, May/June, July/August, November/December by the New York Metro Area Postal Union at 350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10001.

Periodical postage paid at New York, NY.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

*The Union Mail*, New York Metro Area Postal Union, 350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10001.

**Flo Summergrad**, editor  
**Nora Mendez**, managing editor

To contact your officers, call 212.563.7553.

[www.nymetro.org](http://www.nymetro.org)

<b>President</b>	
Jonathan Smith	Ext. 108
<b>Executive Vice President</b>	
Tiffany Foster.	Ext. 110
<b>Dir. Ind Relations</b>	
Daniel Zachman, Jr.	Ext. 106
<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b>	
Sharon Tyrrell	Ext. 107
<b>Dir. Organization</b>	
Kevin Walsh	Ext. 105



# Black history in the Post Office

By Flo Summergrad

*The highest concentration of African Americans in federal employment is in the USPS; these postal jobs were the product of struggle.*

In the late 1890s and early 1900s, mail was moved primarily on the rails. The Railway Mail Service was a critical part of the Post Office Department (POD). Train lines that passed through large towns or cities had a mail car with a clerk responsible for receiving and dispatching mail.

The Post Office Department employed a high percentage of blacks as railway clerks because it was a dangerous job. The wooden mail cars often broke apart in transit, causing severe injuries and fatalities to the clerks working in them. White workers were willing to leave these hazardous jobs for blacks.

However, in 1913, things began to change. The railroads began to change over to steel cars, which made the job less dangerous. At the same time, President Woodrow Wilson appointed a Postmaster General, Albert B. Burleson, who instituted a program to make railroad jobs, including mail cars, exclusively white.

Since the existing union, the Railway Mail Association, did not admit blacks, POD railway clerks from 13 states met in Chattanooga, TN, in October 1913 and formed the National Alliance of Postal Employees (NAPE) to organize black railway clerks to defend their jobs. In 1923, the NAPE constituted itself an industrial labor union when it opened up membership to all postal workers, regardless of race, sex, creed, or religion. This differentiated their union from the craft unions in the POD at that time.

The National Alliance of Postal



**Female African American Postmaster handing out mail**

Employees had a proud history of fighting injustice in various key struggles over the ensuing decades.

In 1914, when President Wilson instituted a system of photos for civil service exams, which was used as a tactic to screen out black applicants. NAPE recognized that this was part of a system of racial barriers to federal employment, including hiring for the Post Office Department. The National Alliance protested this practice for 26 years until it was finally dropped in 1940.

In the McCarthy era of the 1950s, NAPE members were among the labor leaders who were targeted and fired for being communists. During this “Red Scare” period, many AFL-CIO unions caved in to right wing forces and abandoned their militant leaders, weakening the power of the labor movement. The National Alliance, however, defended its fighters and continued the struggle against racial discrimination in the Post Office.

By the 1960s, they had broadened to include all federal workers, thus becoming the National Alliance for Postal and Federal Employees. In the Post Office, while their shop floor stewards stood up against management abuses, they also fought racism in the work place—something NAPFE criticized other unions for

ignoring.

In the great Postal strike of 1970, which forever bettered the wages, hours, and working conditions of U.S. postal workers, members of the Alliance were active participants. The three key areas where mail movement was critical to the economy—New York City, Chicago, and Washington, DC—had the greatest concentration of black postal workers and, therefore, a high membership in the NAPFE. National Alliance members were important cogs in the week long strike that so crippled the Post Office and threatened the U.S. economy that President Nixon himself was forced to the table.

The resulting Postal Reorganization Act that won bargaining rights for postal workers was in part the fruit of the struggles begun by the black railway clerks in 1913. However, the NAPFE itself as an organization was not included in the exclusive representation given to four major postal unions, including the APWU. As a labor union, NAPFE’s power was essentially over. The organization changed its nature by opening its doors to black federal workers from management as well as craft. It continued to grow through institutions like its Federal Credit Union, but not as a militant trade union.

Still, the legacy of the struggles of the National Alliance fed into the ongoing development of African American leadership in the postal unions—particularly the APWU. Many officers of our local and national unions who are African American, have some part of their roots in the black railway clerks who defied white exclusion and formed a labor organization to fight for their postal jobs. ☐



## CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS 2015

# Building a new future through Collective Bargaining

By Nora Mendez

**T**he Collective Bargaining Agreement, the union contract between the American Postal Workers Union and the United States Postal Service, expires in May 2015. The negotiations for a new contract are set to begin on February 19, 2015. Training for the union's campaign to win a good contract is underway and is an important part of the preparation for the battle to win, not only a good contract, but to ensure a vibrant Postal Service for all Americans.

The national union will be well prepared for this critical battle but they cannot win a good contract solely by making persuasive arguments at the bargaining table. The level of membership involvement as well as our relationship to the public will have a direct impact on how well we do in negotiations.

### The Postal Service's Union-Busting Law Firm

On top of Postal management using a manufactured financial crisis to justify its disastrous "cut to survive" strategy, the USPS uses the anti-union law firm Morgan, Lewis & Bockius to represent them when talks have ended in arbitration. The firm, with over 1,400 attorneys, is considered one of the leading union-busting law firms in the country. When former President Ronald Reagan fired striking Air Traffic Controllers in 1981, Morgan Lewis served as the FAA's attorneys. The strike was a major defeat for labor.

---

***"Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups. They have raised wages, shortened hours, and provided supplemental benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor."***

—JOHN F. KENNEDY

---

The Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) strike became a pivotal event in almost everyone's understanding of the massive realignment of class power in this country. It began another era of unprecedented greed for Corporate America at the expense of U.S. workers.

Morgan Lewis provides lobbying, consulting, public relations and legal advice to large corporations that are behind the efforts to privatize the Postal Service and/or hold lucrative contracts with the USPS, while at the same time representing the Postal Service. This is a blatant conflict of interest. The firm is in good position to facilitate the transfer of work and money from government agencies to large corporations owned by the 1%.

### Don't be the missing link!

APWU does not have the unlimited financial resources the USPS has.

APWU does not have the funds to compete with corporations in buying politicians nor does it control the media. But we have postal workers in every city and state. The only way to fight organized money is to organize people. As postal workers we are uniquely positioned to fight for good jobs and service for our communities.

"Despite the obstacles, I believe we can win a good contract," said APWU President Mark Dimondstein.

"To be victorious, we will have to conduct our fight for a good contract very differently than we have in the past. Negotiations will still go on at the bargaining table, but to be successful we must win support from the people of the country. We must make sure the people of the country realize that dismantling the nation's postal system doesn't only harm postal workers," Dimondstein said. "It also robs the people of speedy delivery of their medicine, their online purchases, local newspapers, bill payments, letters and invitations. And it robs communities of a vital public service, secure jobs, a strong tax base, and important infrastructure."

Don't stand on the sidelines. Future generations will judge how we act in the next few months. ☐



# Open season for Maintenance Craft PER update

By Bill Kreutter, Coordinator, Maintenance Division

In the Maintenance Craft there are two types of in-craft registers, they are the Preferred Assignment Register (PAR) and the Promotion Eligibility Register (PER), both of these registers must be posted in accordance with Article 38.4.B of the CBA.

Installations having more than one duty assignment for a particular occupational group must develop a PAR for each of these groups within the installation. PARs are established by the employee's selection and by seniority. Employees fill out a PAR selection form (ABID form PAR01) which lists all the duty assignments within his or her's occupational group, starting with his/her most preferred job. (The employee will put #1, #2 in their second choice and so on until they list all the positions they prefer over their present job assignment.)

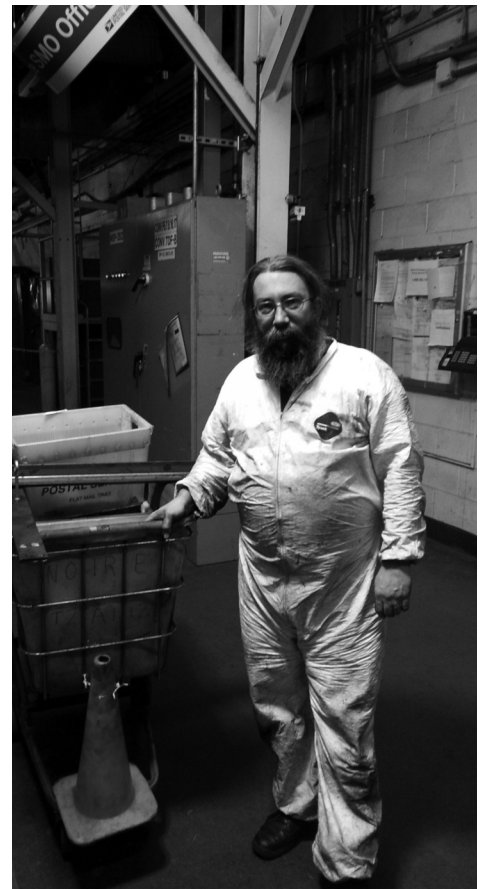
The Maintenance seniority list (ABID form EMP8) is broken down into two parts: List A "The Grandfather Clause" for those employees who entered into the occupational group prior to June 25, 1992 and List B for those who entered into the occupational group on or after June 25, 1992. The employees on List A are listed in order by the date they entered into the occupational group known as the "occ. date"; employees on list B are listed in order by the date they entered into the Maintenance Craft and installation known as the "installation date". Service seniority is based on total part-time or full time service in the Maintenance

Craft regardless of occupational group, level or installation. (Article 38.3.J deals with Seniority for breaking ties.)

The bidding process begins when a vacancy or newly established duty assignment exists. Management posts a Notice of Intent (NOI). During a seven (7) day posting period employees have the opportunity to submit or withdraw their PARs. Within eight (8) days the Notice of Awards (NOA) are to be posted and within fourteen (14) days the successful applicants shall be placed in their new assignments. The initial vacancy, along with all subsequent vacancies is filled by a single NOI. The computer automatically awards based on the PAR unless the employee with draws it.

Once the PAR is exhausted and all unassigned regulars are assigned a duty assignment and consideration is given to employees requesting an assignment to a lower level and a vacancy still exists, the Promotion Eligibility Register (PER) comes into effect, the PER has a dual purpose, for lateral changes (same level pay but to another occ group) and for promotions. Employees may also withdraw their PER during the seven day posting period. The PER cannot be updated during the period of time a vacant position is in the process of being filled. Employees shall be listed on the PER in order of qualifications, and all promotions shall awarded to the best qualified applicants with the exceptions listed in Article 38.5.B.2 ☐

During the month of March 2015, Maintenance Craft employees who are not on a PER may apply for inclusion on the appropriate PER(s). Notification will be posted on the bulletin board(s) on or before March 1, 2015 of the open season. Employees who apply will receive their results of their application(s) no later than one hundred fifty (150) days from March 31, provided the applications have been properly completed by the applicants. The next open season is March 2018. ☐



**Frederick Notre, general mechanic at NJI-NDC**

# Lessons from Europe: the winners and losers of postal privatization

By Nora Mendez

**A**s of 2013, the European Union has a fully liberalized-privatized postal market. This means that the European countries opened up their monopolist national postal markets to full competition from private businesses, removed price controls and converted government-run service entities into for-profit companies. Supporters of the liberalization promised better services at lower prices. This is hardly the case. Liberalization and privatization in the mail market has had no positive effect whatsoever.

The new private competitors do not bother creating country-wide infrastructure, nor are they interested in providing universal service. Instead they focus on large business customers whose mail can be picked up at the company premises and delivered in highly populated areas 2 or 3 times a week. Large mail customers including banks and major e-commerce retailers are able to negotiate down the cost of bulk mail. Management offers them rebates while raising the prices of single-piece mail.

The big losers are private households—especially those in rural areas, small businesses, and postal sector workers, who have experienced a massive deterioration of employment and working conditions.

Take for example the Netherlands. Since privatization, Dutch households and businesses are visited by carriers of different companies.

“Today’s Wednesday, yeah? On

Wednesday, we have at least six people coming to the door, all bringing some mail. First was the local paper. Then the other local paper. Then the postman comes. Three more come later. I think that’s the basic defect of post office privatization. What used to be done by one man is now done by six. They’re all underpaid and the delivery hasn’t improved. It used to come in the morning, and now I’m still waiting,” said Michel Van Hulten, former Dutch Minister for Postal Services.

You see, in the Netherlands, crates of mail are delivered to casual workers’ houses. These workers earn about five euros an hour (about \$5.80 U.S. Dollars), although the minimum wage in the Netherlands is between eight and nine euros an hour. The workers have no contract. They get no sick pay, no pension and no health insurance. The workers sort the mail, on whatever flat surface they can find in their homes, then deliver it on set days at a time of their choosing. Besides slashing the mail companies’ overhead, the

system has the advantage, from management’s point of view, that there is little danger of these carriers meeting each other to swap grievances or talk about joining a union.

Most European countries no longer operate post offices. Instead, they contract postal agencies to provide some of the former post office services. The contractors include shops, supermarkets and gas stations.

## Impact on labor

The European Commission predicted that eliminating the postal monopoly would result in net job gains. That is not the case. The liberalization of the postal markets resulted in the replacement of good civil service jobs by atypical jobs that do not pay a living wage. These consist of part-time, self-employment, temporary contracts and mini jobs. (Mini jobs are those that pay under \$400 a month.) Some European countries saw cuts in full-time jobs reach 40% to 50%!

Following the example of UPS and FedEx, which mainly use subcontractors and self-employed deliverers in Europe, European providers also started outsourcing services. This included hiring taxi drivers to empty letterboxes and drive the mail to the next regional sorting facilities. This type of outsourcing of postal work is eroding the very foundations of labor regulations.

## Wages and working conditions deteriorate

Postal sector wages have deteriorated. Because the private, for-profit

*continued on page 8*





## LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

# New faces on Capitol Hill

By Nora Mendez

**T**he 114th US Congress was sworn in on January 6, 2015. For the first time in eight years Republicans took complete control of Congress. New faces will take the gavels of the Senate and House Committees that oversee the Postal Service. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), who is replacing Tom Carper as chairman, has called for forcing the Postal Service into bankruptcy and has called for significant reductions in federal and postal employee health and retirement benefits.

Johnson has promised to work closely with Democrats on the committee. Although that might sound like good news, the reality is that Sen. Tom Carper, the Democrat that previously chaired the committee and who remains in the committee, is no friend of postal workers. His postal reform bills were as bad as Rep. Issa's.

Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), who has replaced Rep. Darrel Issa, has said postal reform will be a major focus but did not provide details. His relationship with the committee's top Democrat, Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) took a turn for the better last year when both representatives began building political bridges because "people want to see us work together," Cummings said. This could be positive for postal workers.

Chaffetz also replaced Issa's portrait with photos of American history and life that the committee oversees, including the U.S. Postal Service and civil rights. He felt strongly that in the committee room they should be



inspired by those they serve, not by past chairmen.

Meanwhile, Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), and Sam Graves (R-MO), have introduced a resolution calling on the Postal Service to "take all appropriate measures" to continue to deliver mail six days each week. Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA), introduced a separate measure calling on USPS to ensure the "continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers."

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), also introduced legislation to stop the postal service from planned cuts to 82 mail sorting facilities by using the Keystone Pipeline bill as a vehicle to impose a two-year moratorium on U.S. Postal Service cuts. Sanders said postal service revenue is increasing thanks to a demand for online shopping package deliveries. Sanders blamed the agency's deficit on a pension health fund payment the postal service is required to make. And without congressional action, the postal service could eliminate up to 15,000 postal jobs in 37 states.

Sanders "At a time when Postal Service revenue is increasing, it makes no sense to eliminate thousands of jobs and slow down the mail service that millions of

Americans rely on," Sanders said. "We should be working to strengthen the Postal Service," he added, "not send it into a death spiral."

Sanders' proposal was cosponsored by Sens. Jon Tester (D-MT), Edward Markey (D-MA), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Al Franken (D-MN), Tom Udall (D-NM), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Chris Murphy (D-CT), and Jeff Merkley (D-OR).

It will be up to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), to decide whether to allow a vote on the measure when lawmakers resume debate on the Keystone bill.

### USPS: Congress' Favorite Cash Cow

California Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein's husband, Rich Blum, is poised to earn as much as \$1 billion in commissions from selling 56 U.S. Postal Service buildings across the country. Blum's company CBRE Group, a giant real estate firm, obtained an exclusive no-bid contract to market USPS facilities.

Investigative reporters found that CBRE was selling properties below market value to Blum's business partners. Not only that but by CBRE representing both the seller and the buyer in many negotiations, there are serious concerns as to whether CBRE was doing its best to obtain the highest price possible for the Postal Service.

This corrupt deal is a classic example of why Congress refuses to "save" America's Postal Service. ☐

# Campaign for Postal Banking: A win/win

By Nora Mendez

**O**n January 19, 2015, the American Postal Workers Union, other postal unions and various partner organizations announced the creation of a national campaign that is calling for the United States Postal Service to expand access to affordable banking services through its 31,000 post offices nationwide.

The Campaign for Postal Banking which is a coalition of consumer, worker, financial reform, economic justice, community, civic, and faith-based organizations, launched the campaign to coincide with the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the release of a report titled *State of the Dream 2015: Underbanked and Overcharged*. This report states that millions of working people—disproportionately people of color—lack access to quality, affordable banking services and makes the case for how postal bank-

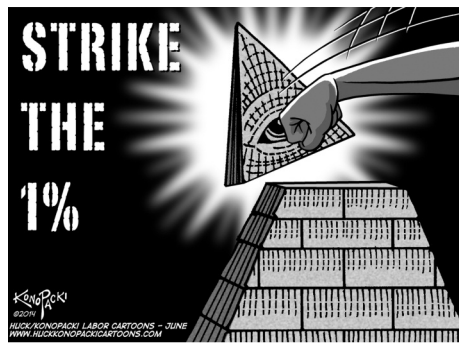
ing will benefit the poor and low-wage workers.

Around 93 million adults do not have access to affordable financial products such as the ability to cash a check, transfer money or pay a bill at a reasonable fee. Americans who lack these services, what some call the “unbanked” or the “underbanked,” find that traditional banks are out of reach due to geography or because of high fees and other obstacles. Limited access drives millions to rely on costly, predatory services such as check cashing

stores and payday lenders, trapping many in a cycle of debt. Some payday lenders charge as much as 400 percent in annual interest.

“The USPS is in a unique position to provide basic, affordable, consumer-driven financial services to underserved individuals and communities in neighborhoods that are often called “bank deserts,” APWU President Mark Dimondstein pointed out. One-third of the nation’s zip codes have a post office but lack a traditional bank. And it’s not like this is a new concept. From 1911 to 1967, the U.S. Post Office offered savings deposit accounts and the USPS currently sells more money orders than any other institution.

Postal banking can be a win/win for everyone. The poor and the financially underserved would gain more financial stability and the US Postal Service could generate some \$8.9 billion in new revenue. ☐



## Lessons from Europe: the winners and losers of postal privatization

*continued from page 6*

it companies pay such low wages, former monopolists use this to reduce wages of its workforces, some as much as 30%. While workers suffered wage cuts, management profited from higher wages and additional benefits, such as stock options.

The combination of wage cuts and deteriorating working conditions has made the job increasingly unattractive and has already led to problems finding new workers. Older workers are also suffering

from the loss of positive identification with their job. Before privatization, postal jobs were held in high esteem by local populations. Privatization and work intensification have left little to no contact between the workers and the residents.

Due to the increase in part-time and self-employment, trade unions have had a hard time trying to organize the workers. Many of the new workers see their jobs as a temporary commitment; many are

reluctant to struggle for long-term improvements.

### Conclusion

The biggest winners of the liberalization and privatization of the European postal market are bulk mailers, multi-national corporations like FedEx, UPS, DHL, TNT, and their shareholders, and Wall Street.

The biggest losers are the workers and the European public—the public that now has to pay a lot more for less service! ☐



# "Don't Buy Staples" Campaign having impact: actions speak louder than words

By Nora Mendez

In New York City, as in other cities around the country, postal workers, retirees and supporters continue to bring the "Don't Buy Staples" message to the public. As the campaign to get Staples out of the postal business progresses into the new year, we have already won a partial victory. During his farewell speech at the National Press Club, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe admitted that the protests were having an impact.

"Just last year the American Postal Workers Union mounted a protest campaign and disrupted

our partnership with Staples," the Postmaster General said.

"Unfortunately, it's now tougher

for us to find retail partners," he added.

Staples also announced their sales fell for the seventh straight period. In light of falling sales, Staples has decided to accelerate plans to close stores, increasing the total closed in 2014 to 170.

NY Metro is urging all postal workers to help build support for Staples boycott. The survival of the public Postal Service and our jobs is at stake. Our success rests with *you!*

For more information, please contact Kevin Walsh at 212-563-7553 ext 105. ☐



**NY Metro members and retirees along with community activists protest several times a week throughout the city. Some of the regulars pictured above include John Dennie, Nora Mendez, Roberto Rodriguez, Dennis O'Neil, Kevin Walsh, Shirley Dunaway, Ernest Collington Jacquelyn Owens, Mike Suchomel, Sharon Suchomel, Diane Erlanger, Tammie Rampart, Daniel Vila, Johnnie Stevens, and Marty Goodman.**

Photos by Dennis O'Neil

---

# We are the 99%

By Flo Summergrad

U.S.  
Wealth  
Is Now  
the Most  
Concentrated  
at the  
Top  
Since  
1916



The slogan from the “Occupy Wall Street” movement: “We are the 99%!” got new life January 19, 2015, when a report from the anti-poverty charity Oxfam was released at the start of the World Economic Forum, in Davos, Switzerland. According to the New York Times, the Oxfam study warned that “the richest 1%” are likely to control more than half of the globe’s total wealth by next year.”

The Davos Conference is a meeting of the international business elite, who are unconcerned with the impoverishment of the vast majority of the world’s people. In fact, the

capitalist mouthpieces like Forbes Magazine scoff at the Oxfam Report as being poorly researched and presented. They would rather pick holes in the study’s methodology than discuss the fact that 80 wealthy individuals altogether own \$1.9 trillion, the same amount shared by 3.5 billion at the bottom half of income. Winnie Bayanyima, Oxfam’s executive director, raises the question, “Do we really want to live in a world where the 1% own more than the rest of us combined?”

Of the 80 richest individuals, 35 are in the US. The top ten of the world’s wealthiest includes two of the Waltons (owners of Walmart) and the two Koch brothers. It starts to make sense that the downward push against American labor is being orchestrated by the power of these mega-billionaires. This is the basis of the downgrading and

“Walmartization,” of workplaces, with cuts and slashes in pensions and benefits, people working for less than the lowest minimum wage. The Koch brothers “have worked for the shadows for decades to bend government to do their bidding or to destroy it, becoming richer while attacking the social safety nets in many areas—environment, education, voting rights, and union organizing.” (The Blog, Robert Greenwald, 05/20/2014)

This has reached a point where workers are losing the gains of an entire century. In his State of the Union speech, President Obama stressed the issues of paid leave (FMLA), raising the minimum wage, and pay equity. This did not come out of nowhere. It is a response to the two years of the Fast Food Struggles, the Organize Walmart, the people in the streets. ☐

---

## Donahoe shows contempt for America’s Postal Service

By Flo Summergrad

In validation of the APWU Convention’s unanimous resolution to brand him a criminal for sabotaging the mission of the Postal Service he was appointed to lead, retiring Postmaster General (PMG) Donahoe made a farewell speech that showed his desire to destroy our public service.

For postal workers who have been forced to sit through years of Donahoe’s smiling “updates,” the

January 6 speech revealed how hypocritical those taped pep talks had been. “He would always tell us how great the Postal Service was doing, how much his cuts and changes were improving the work. Now that he’s kicked out, Donahoe is saying the Postal Service is lousy and blaming the mailers and the unions,” said a clerk at the NDC. The PMG is openly calling for converting public service into a profit

machine.

“In today’s world, does it really make sense to offer the promise of a pension to a 22-year-old who is just entering the workforce? And how reliable is that promise?” Said Donahoe as he showed his contempt for the young people coming into the USPS.

For a 59-year-old, leaving with a multimillion dollar golden parachute, that’s a lot of nerve! ☐

## CALENDAR

**Tuesday, February 10, 6:00 pm**

**Wednesday, February 11, 12 noon**

**Thursday, February 12, 10:00 am**

*Retirement and Federal Benefits Seminar*

55 Broadway, 27th floor, NYC

See your shop steward for registration form.

**Wednesday, February 18**

5:30 pm

*General Membership Meeting*

Hotel Pennsylvania

401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)

Check hotel monitor for room location

### **Agenda:**

*Nominations for the 2015 New York Metro*

*Area Postal Union APWU, AFL-CIO Election of*

*Officers and Trustees*

**Tuesday, February 24**

11:00 am – 12 noon

*Home Buying Seminar*

Wells Fargo Mortgage Program through Union

Plus (includes refinancing options and credit repair assistance)

Union Office, 3rd floor

350 West 31st Street, 6th floor

## APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of 12/01/2014	\$426,551.48
TOTAL REVENUE 12/2014	\$ 132,779.55
Total Operating Expenses 12/2014	\$259,271.64
*Capital Improvement Cash Acct. Funding	\$250,000.00
Deferred Leasing Commissions	\$ 28,556.38
TOTAL NET INCOME 12/2014 (LOSS)	\$ 126,492.09
Closing Balance as of 12/30/2014	\$ 50,059.39

\*Transferred from Operating Account to Capital Improvement Cash Account Funding

## February

### **Don't Buy Staples! Rallies**

will be scheduled throughout our area in New York and New Jersey.

Keep your eyes out for emails, Flashes, or call the Union office for times and locations.

Call Kevin Walsh 212-563-7553 ext.105 with any ideas for a rally at a Staples near you.

## NY Metro Area Local Introduces Wells Fargo Home Buyer's Seminar

**When:** Tuesday, February 24, 2015 @ 11 am – Noon

**Where:** NY Metro APWU, 350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10001

New York Metro Area Postal Union is proud to arrange this extremely informative, **hands-on, no-cost 1st time, home buyers and refinancing seminar** for our members and their spouses only. The seminar will educate you on the following:

- Benefits of Union Plus Loan
- Credit Repair
- Low Down Pay
- Renovation Financing
- 1st Time Home Buyer Program

*Food and Drinks will be provided for members and their spouses.*

### **REGISTER EARLY, SEATING WILL BE LIMITED**

Please fill out the registration form below and submit a **\$10 commitment fee** (check or money order made out to NY Metro) per person to your Union Representative. You can also bring the form in person to NY Metro's office at 350 W 31st Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10001 or my mail. Upon attending the seminar, your \$10 will be refunded. However, if you do not show, your commitment fee will not be returned. **Please be advised that this form must be received by Friday, February 20, 2015.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Partner's Name (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_





New York Metro Area Local, APWU  
350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
BUG

Periodicals class  
POSTAGE PAID  
at New York, NY

**ALL MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEES:** *See page 5 for  
Open Season PER Update Info*

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR UNION:

*Sign up for Metro email blasts. Get the latest information including regular reports  
from NY Metro leadership.*

----- ✂  
Fill in below and give to any NY Metro officer or steward or mail to NY Metro Area Postal Union,  
350 West 31st Street, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10001.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FACILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_