



The

Union Mail

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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.

Thank you, Jonathan Smith. Welcome, Joseph Martir.



"So long, it has been good to know you."

Legislative & Political Director Chuck Zlatkin's final Union Mail as Editor

pg. 8

President Martir’s First Letter



Joseph Martir

Brothers and Sisters,
It is both an honor and a profound responsibility to address you for the first time as President of New York Metro Area Local 10. I want

to begin by extending my heartfelt gratitude to our outgoing local President, Jonathan Smith, for his years of tireless service and steadfast leadership. Under his guidance, our local has stood strong in the face of challenges, always meeting the needs of our members and the mission of the American Postal Workers Union first. His commitment to fairness, solidarity, and excellence will continue to inspire us all.

As I step into this role, I am deeply aware that our strength lies in unity. Every Clerk, Motor Vehicle Service, and Maintenance worker is a vital link in the chain that keeps our nation connected. We are more than postal workers; we are the trusted hands that deliver to every home and every business across America. Together, we embody the spirit of public service and the promise of community.

But make no mistake: the challenges before us are real. The future of the Postal Service and the livelihoods of its workers depend on our ability to stand together. We must face the ongoing efforts to privatize, downsize, and weaken the service that belongs to the American people. We must continue to fight for fair

contracts, safe working conditions, and respect for the job. That fight begins and ends with solidarity.

Our power has always come from our unity. When we show up for each other, when we stay informed and get involved, we send a clear message: the members of New York Metro Area Local 10 stand as one. Whether it’s supporting our stewards, attending union meetings, or lending a hand to a co-worker, every act of participation strengthens the whole.

We also must look to the future to the next generation of postal workers who will carry this proud tradition forward. Mentoring new employees, sharing our knowledge, and building a culture of solidarity will ensure that our local remains strong for decades to come. The fight to preserve the Postal Service is not just about us. It’s about protecting a vital institution for our children and communities.

I believe deeply that when we stand together, there is no obstacle we cannot overcome. The Postal Service has survived wars, recessions, and political attacks and it will endure as long as dedicated postal workers like you continue to defend it. Our mission is simple but powerful: to preserve, protect, and strengthen the United States Postal Service for the people it serves.

I want to again thank Jonathan Smith for his years of leadership and dedication. I also want to thank each of you for your continued trust, hard work, and commitment. As your President, I pledge to lead with transparency, fairness, and courage. Together, we will build on the founda-

tion laid before us and ensure that the voice of every member is heard and respected.

As we approach the end of another year, I want to wish each of you and your families a safe and blessed holiday season. Take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the moments that matter most. Please be safe and healthy.

See you on the battlefield.

In Solidarity,

Joseph “Joe” Martir
President, New York Metro Area Local 10

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Chuck Zlatkin, editor
Andrea Adleman, associate editor
Francesca Adams, graphic designer

www.nymetro.org

To contact your officers, call 212.563.7553.

President Joseph Martir	Ext. 110
Dir. Ind Relations Edward Dalton	Ext. 106
Secretary-Treasurer Denisha Dobbins	Ext. 107
Dir. Organization Diane Erlanger	Ext. 105



November/December 2025

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

Steiner Is As Steiner Does

Postmaster General David Steiner said at the Postal Service Board of Governors meeting on November 14, 2025, that financial performance is the most pressing challenge for the Postal Service. It is helpful to remember that the former PMG DeJoy intended for the Postal Service to break even by fiscal year 2023 under his Delivering for America Plan. Prior to PMG Steiner’s starting his administration, many groups involved with the Postal Service advised him to disengage from the Delivering for America plan.

Steiner said that he did not intend to reevaluate former PMG Louis DeJoy’s 10-year plan. “While we may change specific initiatives as we move forward and our execution needs improvement, I do not see the need for a fundamental reassessment of our processing and logistics modernization strategies at this time.”

PMG Steiner commented on the U.S. Postal Service’s financial results for the 2025 fiscal year ending September 30, which showed that the net loss for the year totaled \$9.0 billion, compared to a net loss of \$9.5 billion for the prior year. “In surveying the results of the past year, the occasional appearance of financial progress – such as our profitable first quarter – is far outweighed by the reality of our significant systemic annual revenue and cost imbalance. To correct our financial imbalances, we must explore new revenue opportunities and public policy changes to

improve our business model. Most importantly, we must operate more efficiently and compete more effectively to best perform our public service mission.”

Steiner and members of the board, which includes individuals appointed by both Joe Biden and Donald Trump, contended that putting USPS on firmer financial footing requires legislative and executive actions, including removing restrictions that only allow postal retirement funds to be invested in Treasury securities, adopting private sector best practices in the agency’s workers’ compensation program and raising the \$15 billion statutory debt limit for USPS.

PMG Steiner revealed that the Postal Service “is currently negotiating deals with private parcel delivery service UPS and similar companies to expand its last-mile service for the final leg of delivery. He said USPS also wants to open up that program to large and small retailers, offering same-day and next-day delivery.”

Amber McReynolds Re-upped as Chair of Postal Board of Governors

During the November meeting of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors, Amber F. McReynolds was unanimously re-elected by her fellow governors to serve as chair of the Board for her second term.

McReynolds has served on the Board of Governors since May 2021, when she was confirmed by the Senate

to serve the remainder of a seven-year term that expires on December 8, 2026. Previously, McReynolds was elected to serve as vice chairwoman of the Board. Throughout 2025, she chaired the Board’s Election Mail Committee and served on the Operations Committee.

McReynolds is a member of the National Council on Election Integrity, the National Task Force on Election Crises, and the Board of Directors for Represent Women. McReynolds is the only female Governor of the Postal Service. She is not affiliated with either of the two major political parties.

Letter to PMG Steiner From Congressional Bigwigs

The Congressional Postal Service Caucus sent a letter to PMG Steiner calling for him to reassess previous reform plans. The co-chairs of the caucus include U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski (IL), U.S. Reps. Jack Bergman (MI), Chris Pappas (NH), and Andrew Garbarino (NY).

The letter stated, “While we fully support modernization efforts within the Postal Service, these changes must not come at the expense of postal employees or the millions of Americans who rely on reliable, on-time delivery every day. We respectfully urge you to temporarily pause any implementation of the Delivering For America plan until it can be reworked to ensure that no customers experience slower delivery as a result.”

DeJoy quits; Trump continues to destroy the public postal service

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director
Reprint from the Union Mail March/April 2025 issue

On February 17, 2025, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy sent a letter to the Postal Board of Governors stating, “Today I am requesting that you begin the process of identifying a successor for my position as Postmaster General. While you undertake that process, my commitment is to devote my time and energy and being as helpful as possible in facilitating a transition that is the least impactful to the Postal Service and the American people, and that positions my successor and the Postal Service for long-term success.” This is quite a change for DeJoy from his comments in 2021 when testifying before a House Oversight Committee hearing concerning the financial state of the USPS, DeJoy said that the members of Congress should, “get used to me” because he was planning on staying in his position for “a long time.” But with President Trump being on record saying, that privatizing the Postal Service is “not the worst idea I’ve ever heard,” and then members of Trump’s “Department of Government Efficiency” run by billionaire Elon Musk holding “preliminary conversations about major changes” to USPS, as reported in the Washington Post and with Musk seemingly endorsing privatization of the Postal Service on X, DeJoy found himself in a different world than he first imagined.

This also followed then President-elect Donald Trump’s transition team vetting candidates to replace Postmaster General Louis DeJoy

even though Trump wouldn’t have direct authority to fire him, an early signal of the incoming administration’s plans to exert control over—or privatize—the nation’s mail service.

A stark contrast in the relationship between Trump and DeJoy from the earlier days when DeJoy was a big donor to Trump and Trump was offering DeJoy and DeJoy’s wife Alana DeVos positions in his administration.

Trump gives the Secretary of Commerce authority over the Postal Service, which has been an independent agency for over 50 years. Trump said, “We want to have a post office that works well and doesn’t lose massive amounts of money.” Trump went on to say, “We’re thinking about doing that. And it’ll be a form of a merger, but it’ll remain the Postal Service, and I think it’ll operate a lot better.” Trump made the comments at the swearing in ceremony for Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick. Trump said of Lutnick, “He’s got a great business instinct, which is what we need, and we’re looking at it, and we think we can turn it around.” “It’s been just a tremendous loser for this country, tremendous amounts of money that they’ve lost,” Trump said.

Critics say that making this change could be a first step towards privatization. A plan to privatize the mail would drastically change the way Americans receive their mail service. Currently, the Postal

Service is required to deliver to all addresses as a matter of law. This means the Postal Service delivers to people located in areas that are very costly to reach. A private, profit-making business would not want to do so, while the public Postal Service is required to do so. As a matter of fact, UPS and other companies use the Postal Service to deliver packages to the so-called last-mile, because it is much cheaper for them to use the USPS than deliver the packages themselves.

Trump hoped to privatize the Postal Service during his first term but in 2018 he dropped the idea. A postal reforms task force during the first Trump administration raised the specter that the current day Postal Service is “unsustainable” and suggested that “a private Postal Service with independence from congressional mandates could more flexibly manage the decline of First Class mail while continuing to provide needed services to American communities.” But Trump is back at considering privatization now in his second term.

The American Postal Workers Union says that Trump’s privatization plans for the Postal Service are a direct assault on the public service, “Any attack on the Postal Service would be part of the billionaire oligarch coup, directed not just at the postal workers our union represents, but the millions of Americans who rely on the critical public service our members provide every single day.”

New York Metro Area Postal Workers Urged to Stand Strong

By Joseph Martir, President

Recently, management in the Manhattan Installation issued letters of abolishment to employees and moved them from their normal duty assignments. You play a pivotal role in keeping your job.

In a time of constant change within the Postal Service, New York Metro Area Local leaders are delivering a powerful message to every member: your role matters, your voice matters, and your actions help protect the future of your job.

The Union cannot stress enough that while the challenges facing the Postal Service are real, the strength of the workforce has always been greater. In stations, plants, and admin-

istrative units across the Metro Area, employees are being encouraged to stay engaged, stay informed, and stay united.

Here in the New York Metro Area, we’ve always been known for our resilience, not for our size but for our work. Every employee contributes to the legacy of this union. Every day that you show up, perform with pride, and support your coworkers, you’re strengthening the foundation that protects all our jobs.

The Union has emphasized that job protection isn’t only won at the negotiation table. It’s won through everyday actions. When employees follow procedures, work safely,

maintain professionalism, and deliver exceptional service, they demonstrate why the Postal Service needs a strong, stable workforce in the Metro Area.

But the message goes even deeper: Unity is power.

Members here understand that when we stand together, we cannot be ignored. Every grievance filed, every meeting attended, every voice raised in solidarity shows management that Metro workers refuse to be pushed aside. Protecting our jobs is a collective mission and every one of us plays a vital part.

Remember, all work is APWU work!!!



James A. Farley Post Office

Jonathan Smith Inaugurated As APWU President

The torch was passed as new APWU national officers took the oath of office on November 1, 2025, inaugurating the leadership of former NYMAPU President Jonathan Smith. AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler keyed the installation ceremony, held in Baltimore, Maryland. APWU Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth “Liz” Powell paid tribute to outgoing APWU President Mark Dimondstein. The new National Executive Board was announced, including Northeast Region Coordinator Tiffany Foster from NYMAPU, as well as the APWU Directors and Assistant Directors. Several New York Metro area leaders were installed as National Business Agents, including Peter Coradi of the Clerk Division and Dave Sarnacki of the Maintenance Division. Clerk Craft NBA Elizabeth “Liz” Swigert, new Clerk Craft NBA Clifton

Johnson and Motor Vehicle Service NBA Rick White were also installed. Leona Draper was named Retiree National Convention Delegate for the Northeast.

**JONATHAN SMITH
INSTALLED AS NEW
PRESIDENT OF APWU**

Jonathan Smith, immediate past president of our New York Metro Area Postal Union, was inaugurated as APWU President. At the ceremony itself, President Smith was sworn into office. In the days that followed, he rolled up his sleeves and began the essential duties of his office. Saying he’ll lead with “integrity and dignity,” he pledged an aggressive fight against privatization. He also hinted at a “transformation of organization,” suggesting there

will be changes to enable the Union to better respond to members’ concerns.

“Buckle up because this ride is going to be one of the greatest rides that you have ever gotten on,” Smith said in his first public remarks on his vision for the Union.

“You said you wanted a fighter. Well, I’m here,” he said. “You said you wanted to fight for dignity and respect. Well, I’m here. You said you wanted somebody that’s not afraid. Well, I’m here.”

To move from words to action, President Smith called on members to get involved. “I cannot do this alone,” he said. “This has to be a ‘we’ and not a ‘me.’”

New York Metro is proud and excited to see how President Smith will lead the national Union. We wish him all the luck and strength in his new position. 📧



Jonathan Smith, President of our New York Metro Area Postal Union, was inaugurated as President of the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, on November 1, 2025. New York Metro is proud and excited to see how he will lead us. We wish him all the luck and strength in his new position.

POSTAL PRIDE

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

This column is a personal one. My father was a postal worker for 37 years. He once told me, whatever I do, “Don’t work for the post office!” But life has a way of evolving that we can’t predict, so after the company that I had been working for went out business, I found myself taking the test for the Postal Service in 1979. It was an unusual test because it was for operators of a new machine that the Postal Service would be using, LSM/ZMT. It was also unusual in that 300,000 people signed up to take the test for 3,000 jobs in New York City.

As it turned out, to be considered for a job, you had to score at least 98% on the test and then complete a training program for the machine. If you failed the training, that was it. There would be no access to another postal job, you were done.

I passed the test. After training, I was assigned to JAF, then known as GPO, as one of 350 LSM/ZMT operators reporting at 6 p.m. If you were able to work on the machine, you got paid level 6. If not, all the other work you did was level 5. We were under the supervision of two acting supervisors who would decide who would work on the machine or not each night. They played favorites.

There was movement among the LSM/ZMT operators to have our own shop stewards. There were regular stewards who would be called when one of us needed one, but these stewards related to management more easily than the people they were supposed to be representing. Petitions were signed and grievances were filed. Eventually, we were given a meeting with NY Metro and it was decided that we would get two stewards and two alternates. I was interviewed by Moe Biller, then president of NY Metro, before he went on to be the national president of APWU.

I was selected to be one of the two stewards. Our training left much to be desired. Within a month, the other steward transferred out of GPO and was no longer a steward. The two alternates turned out to be no-shows and so I found myself the lone steward for 350 clerks.

Closed since a fire in 1967, Morgan Station reopened in time and two crews of LSM operators were sent there to work, I among them. Morgan became fully active again. As it turned out, I was the only steward assigned to Morgan on Sunday tour 3. So, not only was I representing LSM/ZMT clerks, but all clerks working in the building. On a few occasions, I even represented postal workers from other crafts.

This experience was a great education for me as a steward. I think I became a really good one. There were times when people from all over the building were asking for me rather than their regularly assigned stewards. This created hostility towards me from other stewards. I was certainly proud when I was selected as a steward initially, and I was proud that the members respected me.

I’m proud of all the years I worked for the Postal Service and now as a postal retiree.

On November 9, 2024, I was honored to receive the Eleanor G. Bailey Award from the membership of the NY Metro Area Postal Union in recognition of my service to the union.

I’m glad I didn’t listen to my father.

Postal News Briefs

Postal worker found dead in Michigan facility

It turns out that a formal grievance had been filed 90 days before postal worker Nicholas John Acker was found dead at the USPS Detroit Network Distribution Center on November 8. The grievance warned that the very machine Acker was using was unsafe. “This tragedy is a reminder that workplace safety must always come first,” said APWU President Jonathan Smith. “We value people over productivity. The APWU will continue the fight to make that a reality across the Postal Service.”

Postal worker found dead in Georgia facility

A United States Postal Service worker died at the Palmetto, GA Processing & Distribution Center, GA mail facility. It’s unclear how the employee died, but USPS said that the person was a mail handler assistant member. “Our sincere condolences and thoughts go out to his family, friends, and co-workers,” a USPS spokesperson said in a statement in part.

Postal worker saves man in Texas

San Antonio letter carrier Ernest Fuentes was delivering mail when he saw a pickup truck crash. Fuentes called 911, then tried to get the driver out of the vehicle. With assistance from a passerby, Fuentes pried open the door and pulled the driver out. Fuentes then removed broken glass from the man’s hands, arms, and head while waiting for paramedics. The man was hospitalized and since recovered.



APWU LOCAL BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance September 2025	___ \$	789,944.96
Total Revenue September 2025	_____ \$	187,406.26
Operating Expenses September 2025	___ \$	168,976.26
Total Net Income September 2025	_____ \$	18,430.00
Ending Balance September 2025	_____ \$	808,374.96

Beginning Balance October 2025	_____ \$	808,374.96
Total Revenue October 2025	_____ \$	186,190.00
Operating Expenses October 2025	___ \$	123,722.78
Total Net Income October 2025	_____ \$	62,467.22
Ending Balance October 2025	_____ \$	870,842.18

CALENDAR

*** * There is no General Membership Meeting in December**

Wednesday, January 21

5:30pm
General Membership Meeting
Via ZOOM

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

Members Only!

- Download Zoom App
- Enter Meeting ID #548-304-2304
- Mute audio
- Video must be on

SISTERS! As an APWU member, you are a member of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. (Post Office Women for Equal Rights).

Prior to the pandemic, all sisters were invited to P.O.W.E.R. meetings at the Union Office on the 4th Thursday of every month at 1:00pm. Because of social distancing concerns, Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization, and Chairperson of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R., told the Union Mail that we would be holding the P.O.W.E.R. meetings on ZOOM at a later time -- 5:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, January 28

ZOOM Meeting ID #239-026-1053

[Follow ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.]

****For news, upcoming events and more, visit our website at nymetro.org**



NEW YORK METRO’S ANNUAL



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025
2PM - 10PM**

**NY Metro Conference Center
350 West 31st Street, 1st Fl
New York, NY 10001**

**FREE RAFFLE TICKETS FOR PRIZES
RAFFLES BEING SOLD FOR GRAND PRIZE**

If you have any questions, please contact your Union Representative or call (212) 563-7553.

❄️ *Our Christmas party is a closed event for NY Metro Union Members ONLY. Membership status WILL BE CHECKED AT THE DOOR to enter.*

❄️ *All New York Metro Moe Biller/Eleanor G Bailey Retiree Chapter members are invited to join the celebration.*

❄️ *This is NOT a +I event. NY Metro Members & Retirees only.*



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

Periodicals class
POSTAGE PAID
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Season's Greetings to all!

In 2024, it was “part of our challenge to make sure that Postmaster General Louis DeJoy either resigned or was removed from office.” This came true with DeJoy stepping down from his position. In 2025, our mission included New York Metro Area Postal Workers Union President Jonathan Smith being elected to become President of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and Joseph “Joe” Martir becoming President of the New York Metro Area Postal Union (NYMAPU).

We are now stronger than ever. Also in 2025, we had to deal with the anti-public Postal Service Donald Trump taking office as President once again. His appointment of FEDEX board member David P. Steiner, beyond being an apparent conflict of interest, became another challenge to be met by postal workers, as Steiner openly embraced the Delivering for America 10-Year Plan to raise prices, cut services, and eliminate postal worker jobs. But through it all, we remain strong with the knowledge that the

American people hold us in such high regard, and that we will fulfill our responsibilities to them regardless of the obstacles presented to us by those in charge. In the coming year, we will continue the fight against postal privatization, and stay committed to protecting a public Postal Service, our jobs, and our retirement. The Postal Service is an essential part of the United States of America and that truth is brought forth every day by the extraordinary work of our members. During this holiday season, we remain committed to doing our work no matter what challenges we may face. Again, we must remember to acknowledge those closest to us and let them know how much they mean to us.

Have a wonderful holiday season.