



The

Union Mail

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

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's Privatization Bucket List

- Slower Delivery of Mail
- Higher Prices for Postal Products
- Closing of Processing Plants
- Shorter Hours at Post Offices
- Mail No Longer Transported by Airplanes
- COVID Nightmare for Postal Workers
- Postal Inspectors to Spy on American Protestors

See pages 3, 4, & 6



BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2022 See pages 8 & 9

State of the Union: Part 2



Jonathan Smith will briefly talk about the state of the Union but, if you are really concerned about your jobs and the future of the post office, you would attend Union meetings, especially since they are currently on Zoom because of the COVID pandemic. Many members don't attend unless there is something directly impacting them personally. I hope one day we will realize in the words of Benjamin Franklin: "Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."

COVID is getting worse, ravaging our workforce. While the omicron variant seems to be more contagious, it seems to be a lot less deadly, and the symptoms seem to be a lot less severe especially if you are vaccinated. I'm talking from experience since I just had an opportunity to battle this beast. (I thank you for your well wishes and especially your prayers.)

Dealing with the everyday issues in the postal crafts is very difficult because everything seems to revolve around COVID. But let's talk briefly about the Crafts.

Motor Vehicle Craft

We have had to file grievances to get management to do the once-a-year bid without eliminating jobs at the NDC and DVD installation. Right now, the bids are delayed in the NY District due to the Union's fight to capture all the STC work and keep management from contracting out

this work. I'm trying to expedite these cases to arbitration but COVID is delaying everything. Please know that the Union has not forgotten about you. We will keep you posted when something breaks.

Maintenance Craft

Management is attacking maintenance staffing—reverting jobs like crazy. You must realize by now that when someone leaves, management is not replacing them. We are grieving these reversions which make little sense in the middle of this pandemic. We need people to do the cleaning and repairs on the mail processing equipment more desperately now than we ever have. So far, we have been successful in keeping contract cleaners out of our facilities, but maintenance employees must help us to protect your work by filling out your paperwork correctly.

Management has maintenance workers voluntarily violating the contract by working more than 60 hrs. in a work week. The only message that you are sending to management is they can get the work done with less employees. This will equal short term gain for long term pain. This is a warning!

Clerk Craft

The Union has had many successes in protecting our work, not only from contracting it out but also from other non-APWU crafts trying to steal clerk work. We got back the TACS work and we also won a major grievance about management placing light duty Mail Handlers and Carriers in the Clerk Craft. We continue to convert more PSEs to fulltime regular than any other Local

in the country.

We have had other victories. We led the fight to oust Postal Board of Governors Chair Ron Bloom. The Postal Service signed a contract with the federal Government to deliver free home COVID test kits, which we are working in the NDC Lyndhurst, NJ Annex, bringing in revenue and job security, while delivering a vital service for the American people. We must now turn our attention to protect voter rights so we can also protect vote by mail which makes our existence essential.

So, I am optimistic about where we are at and where we are going but there is still so much to do....

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LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT

Postal Service Reform Act could be passed soon

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

While we are still waiting for Congress to pass Postal Reform legislation, HR 3076, there is renewed hope that, by the time you are reading this, the bipartisan supported legislation will indeed pass both houses of Congress and be in the process of being signed into law by President Biden. That is the hope.

This legislation is essential to the financial well-being of the USPS, providing financial stability while enabling the Postal Service to provide enhanced services to the American people for generations to come. The importance of the passage of this legislation has provided for some the rationale not to challenge the sitting Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy. Since DeJoy is a Trump-appointed Republican, the sentiment is that if his job is threatened, Republicans might remove their support for this legislation. This kind of thinking is enhanced by the fact that since the 1990s, multi-millionaire DeJoy and his wife Adona Wos, have given over \$3 million to federal Republican candidates. When people say that DeJoy's help is needed in securing passage for Postal Reform Legislation, it is clear what they mean.

It is a sad day for American politics that an essential service to all Americans can be so threatened by such partisan political jockeying. The Postal Service and postal workers serve everyone, regardless of where they live, how much money they have or whether they vote

Democrat, Republican, Independent, or not at all. On the same tack, some experts say that the passage of the bill is enhanced by having a noted DeJoy ally, who is also a Republican, as the Chair of the Postal Board of Governors is a plus for the passage of the bill.

When the legislation is eventually passed, it will become evident rather quickly as DeJoy and his allies continue to steamroll through the Delivering For America plan, if people will then feel free to articulate opposition to his ten-year plan. Now that the Rural Letter Carriers Association has successfully negotiated their contract with the PMG, joining the NALC and the APWU, it will be interesting to see what the national unions do publicly in response to DeJoy's actions. As of now, despite the growing number of elected officials, civic organizations and journalists who have called for Postmaster General Louis DeJoy to be fired – removed from office - the leadership of each of the national unions has been silent on the subject of removing DeJoy.

You have to hand it to PMG DeJoy. With his questionable history

of being anti-union, his companies being accused of racism, sexism, and treating workers unsafely and with disrespect, DeJoy has managed to stay in power. DeJoy, despite his arrogance and boorish behavior, continues to carry on. Somehow, DeJoy gets people to look beyond his murky history and bad behavior, allowing him to charm them, whether they be the Chair of the Postal Board of Governors, a national union president, a government investigator, or member of the media.

Somehow, the Federal Election Commission voted to dismiss two complaints filed against DeJoy that alleged the horrendous straw donor scheme at his former company. Despite the claims of former workers at DeJoy's company, who stated that they were pressured into donating to Republican candidates and were then repaid with raises or bonuses, the Commission said that the complaints lacked corroboration and might have taken place outside the statute of limitations.

Another area where DeJoy has overcome whatever scrutiny he fell under was the matter of iCOP, the Internet Covert Operations

Program. When DeJoy became PMG in 2020, he personally directed the Postal Inspection Service to shift toward the media surveillance of American protestors. This is more evidence of DeJoy doing what he wants to do, and somehow getting away with it.

[More on DeJoy and iCOP next time.] ☰



Is the Postal Board of Governors in DeJoy's pocket?

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

This is how the Postal Service defines the Postal Board of Governors: "The Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service is comparable to a board of directors of a publicly held corporation. The Board normally consists of up to nine governors appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the Senate. . . The Board directs the exercise of the powers of the Postal Service, directs and controls its expenditures, reviews its practices, conducts long-range planning, approves officer compensation and sets policies on all postal matters. The Board takes up matters such as service standards and capital investments."

But what is the reality of the Postal Boards of Governors (PBOG) and how will it function under the reign of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, now that Ramon Martinez IV has been elected Chair of the PBOG? On January 12, 2022, the PBOG held a meeting at Postal Headquarters in Washington, DC. The entire meeting took 23 minutes and 27 seconds.

It was obvious that much was pre-arranged before the meeting when the nominations were opened for the two positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the Postal Board of Governors. Ramon Martinez IV was the one nomination for Chair and Anton Hajjar was the only one nominated for Vice Chair. There was no debate and both were voted in unanimously.

Ramon Martinez IV is a

Republican who was first appointed to the PBOG by then President Trump. He had served as the Vice Chair under Ron A. Bloom.

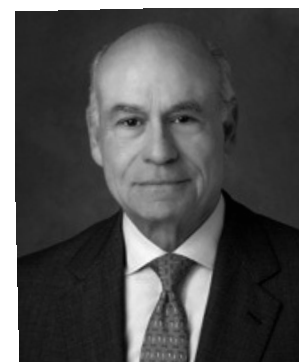
Martinez IV, like Bloom, had a long career as an investment banker. Martinez IV was a partner and a managing director in investment with Lehman Bros. Martinez IV continued in finance during his time with the PBOG. He is currently on the board of directors of the Cigna Corporation, GreenPoint Financial Group and Northrop Grumman Innovation Systems, among others.

Martinez IV has been a major advocate for Delivering for America (DFA), the ten-year plan produced by PMG DeJoy and trumpeted by Ron A. Bloom which institutionalizes slower mail delivery, twice yearly rises in prices, shorter hours at post offices, the closing of processing plants and the eventual loss of jobs in mail processing and transportation.

At the meeting, PMG DeJoy gave a mostly self-congratulatory speech on the status of the Postal Service, taking credit for the rapidity with which the Postal Service corrected and repaired the problems of 2020. Martinez IV followed with his remarks which were most revealing, heaping praise upon the Postmaster General. While Martinez IV briefly commented on the other members of the PBOG, he recounted the bio of DeJoy from his days as a 25 year-old helping his father's small business to the giant who built it into a successful national corporation which he eventually sold for millions.

Martinez IV raved about the work that DeJoy's company did for one of its clients, the Postal Service, for 20 years. Martinez saved his greatest praise for DeJoy's work as PMG for his success in implementing the DFA in such a short time, in reorganizing management, and the fact that "99% of mail was delivered on time," and how well the 2021 peak season was handled. He went on to say that DeJoy was "changing the culture" of the Postal Service, that he "reenergized the workforce" and now "we have an upbeat outlook." He concluded that DeJoy is the perfect person for the job and is a "transformational leader."

With the makeup of the current PBOG being pro-DeJoy and with the DeJoy sycophant Martinez IV as Chair, postal workers who are having to deal with issues of too much overtime, unsafe working conditions, abusive supervisors, and the fear of job loss, shouldn't look to the PBOG for understanding and relief. We will have to continue to educate, organize and agitate to protect our jobs so we can continue to serve the American public. ☒



Ramon Martinez IV

National Labor Relations Board opens crack in Amazon wall

In a step forward for organized labor, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) signed an agreement with Amazon by which the mega-corporation agreed to allow union organizing without interference or reprisal. This was a settlement of six pending cases in which Amazon violated U.S. labor law through obstructing unionizing efforts. The company must send out a million emails to employees notifying them about their organizing rights.

Efforts by the UFCW, IAM, RWDSU, and the Teamsters have been pushed back through Amazon's unfair labor practices. As of December 23, 2021, restrictions on being on site before and after work have been lessened. The company has promised not to threaten discipline or call police against pro-union workers. The Settlement will be posted and Amazon will be sued for breaches.

Amazon's anti-union history

Amazon, a \$1.5 trillion giant, is America's second largest private employer. The company has been described as the "world's most powerful anti-union company."

Amazon spokespeople say "We are not anti-union, but we are not neutral. While unions work in some companies, they conflict with our culture, with customer obsession, and with our direct working relationship." "Customer obsession" is a core catchphrase that says each worker is personally responsible for focusing on what the customer wants. This means speed, efficiency,



and hard work—all of which are worthy requirements until they conflict with human needs like having to pee on a delivery route or take a break to stretch your legs.

The intense work pace is monitored by computer and artificial intelligence and there is no protection against arbitrary termination for failure to keep up. A safety study covering accidents from 2017 to 2020 showed that serious injuries at Amazon warehouses were 80% higher than the rest of the industry.

Why the settlement?

What were the pressures on Amazon that made for this about-face from a company that has been consistently anti-union from its inception? While online shopping during COVID-19 was enormously profitable for Amazon, its publicized success has highlighted the inequity of corporate greed vs. worker exploitation. The company has seen a 220% increase in its already booming profits, while there was no comparable boost in employee paychecks. In fact, the extra \$2/hour "COVID-era" pay is now being taken away. This has led to heightened labor unrest and employee turnover.

Since the start of the pandemic, there have been over 75 complaints about Amazon to the Labor Board from around the country. Workers in Staten Island, NYC, were fired for demanding better health and safety

practices during COVID-19. OSHA is investigating the deaths of 6 workers killed in a warehouse collapse during the recent tornadoes in Illinois. So far, testimony shows that there were no drills or preparation for natural disasters. National news captured the story of one Amazon driver whose supervisor threatened her with termination if she stopped delivering during the tornado. She can be seen driving an Amazon truck as sirens wailed warning behind her.

The company also suffered a defeat in Bessemer, Alabama, where the NLRB overturned the results of the union election loss. Amazon's blatant interference with union organizing led to a forced rerun of the balloting. There have been exposes of company spies (including ex-FBI agents) and computer surveillance. In September, Amazon posted job listings for intelligence analysts to monitor sensitive topics, "including labor organizing threats against the company." After a public outcry, the corporation removed the posts, apologizing for this "error."

For the second largest private employer in the United States, these public revelations of shoddy practices have been a huge embarrassment. This and pending legal issues seem to have pushed Amazon's hand.

The Settlement with the NLRB is a boost to union organizing at Amazon. While workers should not trust the company's promises, they are feeling empowered to stand up and fight back. ☑

Positive for COVID-19: You have the right to file an OWCP claim

Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 signed into law on March 11, 2021:

Section 4016 of the law provides that a federal employee who is diagnosed with COVID-19 and carried out duties that required contact with patients, members of the public, or co-workers, or included a risk of exposure to the novel coronavirus during a covered period of exposure prior to the diagnosis, is deemed to have an injury that is proximately caused by employment.


If you are diagnosed with COVID (have a positive test), you can file a workers' compensation claim with OWCP.

Register online with e-COMP [You can register even before you have a claim]. . . .

To file a claim and to receive COP [Continuation of Pay]

- Notify your supervisor that you are sick with COVID
- Submit a PS Form 3971 and check COP as the reason
- Register on e-Comp if you have not done so at <https://www.ecomp.dol.gov>
- Once registered on e-Comp, log into your account
- Click on new claim on top right of page
- On next screen, make sure

“Federal Employee” is selected

- Make sure to select “Postal Service” as the agency
 - Click “File Claim”
 - Click “Next”
 - Select the COVID-19 Claim and enter information requested in the online form
 - Once requested information is entered, upload a copy of the positive laboratory COVID-19 results or other relevant medical information
 - After uploading, make sure you select “Continuation of Pay”
 - It is recommended that you save a copy of your claim or at least write down the ECN number.
- [Full article at [NYMetro.org](https://www.nymetro.org)] 

POSTAL BANKING UPDATE

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

On January 14, 2021, Eric Katz reported in Government Executive on the Postal Service's response to the four-page Information Request from the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) due that day. The PRC wanted to know why the Postal Service launched this expansion of financial services at post offices without first going to the commission with the proposal? According to Katz, “postal management is denying it has even entered the financial services world, telling the Postal Regulatory Commission it instead simply began accepting a new form of payment for an existing product. It launched the pilot at APWU's request, it said, and did not seek prior approval from the commission due to the limited nature of


the program.”

It is helpful to understand that the Postal Service is only required to receive the PRC's opinion and consider it. It does not have to follow the PRC. When the Postal Service submitted plans for slowing mail delivery standards, the PRC recommended against the Postal Service implementing the new standards. The USPS rejected the PRC's opinion and went ahead and did what it wanted to do.

The implementation of cashing business or payroll checks at post offices utilizing the purchase of a \$5.95 Postal Gift Card began in four post offices on September 13, 2021. New York Metro Area Postal Union knew, because of the selection of Baychester station as one of the

sites, that this program was doomed to failure. There was absolutely no demographic evidence that Baychester was a good location for this test. In the response to the PRC, the Postal Service admitted that from the start of the test through January 12, 2022, there had been only six uses of the service total in the four stations! \$35.70! A total disaster!

The big commercial banks are opposed to postal banking. Did PMG DeJoy plan to “use” the PRC to sandbag postal banking? Should we be surprised that a multi-millionaire investment banker serving as PMG is more loyal to his banker friends and family's business interests than the interests of the members of APWU?

Not anymore. 



Postal COVID absences: Concern should be our SAFETY, not money

Thousands of postal workers are being sickened by COVID, causing absenteeism and misery for the entire Postal Service. At the end of 2021, reports already showed 8,000 postal workers in quarantine. In the stations covered by the NY Metro Area Postal Union, many people are out due to exposure and illness.

It is impossible to state how many workers in our area are affected, because our stewards on both sides of the water say that management is under-reporting the numbers. The statistics sent to the Union seem way short.

At the same time, the USPS has complicated the problem by its “Updated Guidance for Return to Work . . . after an absence related to COVID 19” issued on 1/5/22. The policy demands that anyone with a confirmed case of the illness be cleared “by the postal doctor or nurse” before returning. The Occupational Health Nurse Administrator (OHNA) is severely backlogged, so clearance and return to duty are delayed.

The system is not prepared for the overwhelming number of cases. OHNAs can’t clear employees timely. Worse yet, they can’t trace close contacts.

Matthew Lebron, NY Metro’s Assistant Director of the Union in the Bronx expresses the frustration we are all feeling: “They don’t report close contacts because they aren’t even calling the employees to do the tracing within an amount of time that would warrant them to give close contacts. By the time



OHNA calls the employees who are positive, it’s been well over 7 days since they’ve been out of work. They don’t want to pay any of the close contacts admin leave so they are following the ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ policy. That’s what it looks like to me. And in the interim of management trying to hold off on paying admin leave, they’re compromising each and every one of our health! Wake up. It’s all about money and nothing about our safety.”

Many workers don’t have sufficient leave to cover the COVID absence. The APWU filed a class grievance that the USPS “decision tree” wrongly limits administrative leave. (Meanwhile, people can file individual grievances and file for Workers’ Compensation through ECOMP.)

One bright spot is a successful arbitration case for administrative leave won in Florida. In January, the clerk told his supervisor he was experiencing symptoms and was advised to get tested. When the test

was positive for COVID, the boss said he could not return without a negative test result.

The Broward County APWU Local 1201 filed a grievance which was arbitrated in July. In a decision on September 17, 2021, Arbitrator Miles awarded Administrative Leave, stating that “The Postal Service was arbitrary and capricious and violated the provisions of the Agreement when it denied the Grievant’s request for Administrative Leave after he tested positive for the COVID-19 virus . . . and had an insufficient leave balance to cover his absence.” (Case # 4G 18C-4G-C21111301)

Arbitrator Miles overruled the Postal Service blanket denial and made them pay. He agreed with the APWU argument that Subchapter 389 of the USPS F-21 Handbook provides for “Other Paid Leave,” which in this COVID case, would be administrative leave.

The Union had stressed that “he was told not to report back to work until he could provide a negative test result,” which is not the norm. Usually people return from an absence when they feel well enough to work. USPS management treated a COVID illness as something different from regular Sick Leave.

While this case was a victory for paid time, the post office should be all about our SAFETY, not money. Paying for more medical staff, more masks, more gloves, more time for handwashing, more sanitizing, and more COVID leave, can improve health and morale. A safe workforce can move more mail! ☑

FILM REVIEW

"Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America"

Review by Chuck Zlatkin

I was fortunate to be invited to attend the opening of a remarkable documentary film *Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America*. The film centers around a talk given by Jeffrey Robinson, the former Deputy Legal Director at New York's ACLU at The Town Hall in 2018. The talk is on the history of anti-black racism in the United States, while the film artfully combines Robinson's words with dramatic historical and current day footage, and compelling interviews.

Robinson recounts his motivation for getting involved in this project. When his sister died, he and his wife gained custody of their 13-year old nephew, who moved from New York City to live with them in Seattle.

Understanding that he was now responsible for an African-American young man's well-being in current day America was something not to be taken lightly. Robinson wanted to be able to give good answers, so he decided that he needed to learn as much as he could about racism in America. What Robinson makes crystal clear in this film, is that while he received one of the best educations possible in this nation, he was woefully undereducated on the subject of anti-black racism. For any of us who feel that we have good understanding of the subject, the film exposes that we all have a lot to learn and can be grateful that Jeffrey Robinson is sharing what he



Jeffrey Robinson at the historic Hanging Tree in Charleston, South Carolina where slaves were put to death and blacks were lynched post-slavery

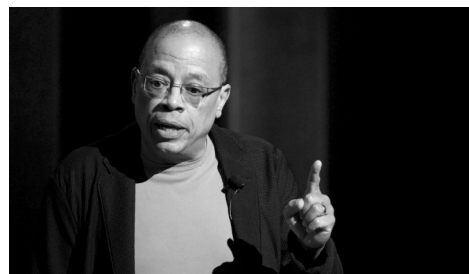
has learned with us.

Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America confronts head-on the history of slavery and white supremacy in this country. The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis in 1968 had a major impact on the 11-year-old Robinson, who had marched with his father and brother in support of the sanitation workers strike in Memphis and feeling that he had that the movement died with Dr. King.

As he explores the history of anti-black racism in America, Robinson began to speak to groups on the topic, becoming a sought-after speaker for over ten years. We are fortunate

to get the flavor of Robinson's brilliance in The Town Hall presentation as it is intercut skillfully with news footage, Robinson's interviews with eyewitnesses to history and visits to historic sites from the hanging tree in Charleston, South Carolina, to the site of a lynching in Alabama in 1947, and to a tour of the origins of slavery in colonial New York City. We are presented with the legacy of white supremacy in America and confronted with what we can do about it.

Jeffrey Robinson is a producer and writer, working with Producer/Director/Editor Emily Kunstler and Producer/Director Sarah Kunstler, who actually had come to him with the idea to film his story. I had seen an earlier award-winning documentary by the Kunstler sisters about their radical lawyer father, *William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe* which is truly remarkable and worth seeing. 📺



Jeffrey Robinson



Emily Kunstler



Sarah Kunstler

Today's battle for voting rights

By Flo Summergrad

There is no way to write about Black history without addressing the long and bloody battle for voting rights. It is a national disgrace that this struggle must happen again in the 21st century.

One hundred years after the 15th Amendment was passed to allow Black men to vote, there were still states where racist tactics and outright terror were used to disenfranchise Black citizens. The poll tax, phony “literacy” tests, and unreasonable requirements were used to keep the vote white. Registering to vote while Black was met with arrests, beatings, and lynching.

The Civil Rights movement took on the issue of voter registration. This was not a bloodless fight. On March 7, 1965, John R. Lewis, Chairman of SNCC, was at the head of a peaceful march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge demanding to end the disenfranchisement of Black voters. At the end of the bridge, unarmed marchers were met by violent police who beat and gassed them, sending Lewis and others to the hospital. That night a special newscast showed the attack to the nation. Viewers were outraged by “Bloody Sunday” and there were mass protests. Public pressure resulted in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which established federal control over discrimination in voting, initially in the 6 “Jim Crow” states in the South.

Congress continually renewed the VRA, which was expanded to stop discrimination in other states and counties that disenfranchised voters on the basis of race, language, or national origin.

Just before he died, Civil Rights activist and Georgia Congressman John R. Lewis wrote, “The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.”

Indeed we have lost it. The Supreme Court undid what Congress had endorsed. In 2013, the



infamous case of *Shelby County vs. Holder* was decided in a 5-4 vote. Using the pretext that the VRA had already eliminated discrimination in voting, the Court gutted the section of the Act that provided federal review of potentially discriminatory local voting rules.

Before the ink was dry on the *Shelby* decision, white supremacists in government began to enact laws that blatantly disenfranchised citizens on the basis of age, race, and national origin. “Voter suppression” spread like a poison, slowly but surely killing our democracy. By May 2021, legislators had introduced 389 bills with restrictive provisions.

This is the unchecked will of the minority being imposed on the majority. The antidote is the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement

Act (VRAA) and the Freedom to Vote Act. This federal legislation would curb the spate of discriminatory local laws to exclude voters. These Acts have already been passed by the House but stalled in the Senate.

This year, the family of Martin Luther King, Jr., decided there could be no celebration of his holiday without voting rights legislation. In remembrance of the 1965 march across the Edmund Pettus bridge, a march across the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge in Washington, DC, will demand voting rights.

The message to Biden and Congress is that there must be the same pressure that passed the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill. Martin Luther King III said the demand is absolute; “[we] will not accept empty promises in pursuit of my father’s dream for a more equal and just America.”

The APWU, along with all U.S. labor unions, support this dream of social justice. APWU President Mark Dimondstein and Legislative Director Judy Beard put out a call for all union members to stand up for voting rights. If we back down, democracy is doomed. The vital fight against voter suppression is in our hands. In the words of John Lewis, “Together we can redeem the soul of our nation.”

W.E.B. Du Bois, the eloquent voice of U.S. Black protest in the early 20th century, summed it up this way:

“The power of the ballot we need in sheer defense, else what shall save us from a second slavery?” ☐

POSTAL PRIDE

Neither rain nor snow nor tornadoes shall stop these postal workers

On December 10, 2021, tornadoes ripped a 200 mile swath through 6 states: Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Illinois. Fortunately, no postal workers were injured or killed but postal vehicles and buildings suffered.

In Kentucky, the APWU assisted members impacted by the storm. But they did not forget that postal employees have the ultimate responsibility for people's mail.

Steve Tabor, President of the Peducah, KY, APWU Local, got a call Friday night from the Plant Manager, asking him to bring generators to some of the post offices that had lost power. Steve, a maintenance worker himself, brought his own generator and organized maintenance workers to bring generators to other post offices so they had electricity until power was restored. The also helped reconnect equipment so the stations could handle mail.

Early on Sunday, December 12, four maintenance workers from Peducah loaded up tools and drove to Mayfield, KY, where the post office had been completely leveled by the tornado. (Mayfield is also part of the Peducah Local). They aided in rescuing mail from the wreckage – which workers had already begun on Saturday. They managed to get letter cases out and loaded them into a truck. Everything salvageable was brought to Peducah so mail could be routed through there.

The Mayfield Post Office was originally a bomb shelter, so there is hope that the structure is strong enough to be rebuilt. In the meantime, the Mayfield workers are able to work out of Peducah.

Steve's Local focused on retrieving the mail and enabling post offices to function. Serving the community as a postal worker is more than just a job. It is a public trust. 🇺🇸

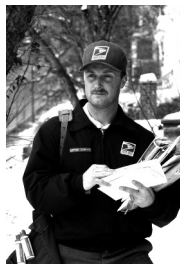
Postal News Briefs

RURAL CARRIERS REACH TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

On the heels of the APWU negotiated contract, the National Rural Carriers Association has reached a tentative agreement with the USPS. This Agreement covers the time between May 20, 2021 to May 20, 2024. Like the APWU contract, it must be ratified by a majority of the voting membership to become effective. Unlike APWU, which will mail ballots with copies of the Tentative Agreement, the NRLCA will publish the changes in a special edition of their magazine and hold ratification meetings via Zoom in every state in accordance with their Constitution.



PLANS FOR COVID TEST KITS IN THE MAIL



The White House and the Postal Service are finalizing plans to deliver 500 million coronavirus test kits to U.S. households. There will be a website to request the rapid tests, which will hopefully be in the mail by mid-January 2022. This is part of the administration's attempt to deal with the raging spread of the omicron variant of COVID 19.

USPS KEEPS "EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES" FOR MAIL-IN BALLOTS THROUGH 2028

January 7, 2022 -- The USPS settled a lawsuit, promising measures to ensure mail-in ballots through 2028. Last year, Public Citizen, the NAACP and its Legal Defense Fund filed suit to keep USPS operational changes from delaying critical election mail. Under the settlement, the Postal Service will post written guidance on its website about mail-in ballots for the upcoming national elections in 2022, 2024, 2026, and 2028. Legal pressure helped in this settlement, which should keep the issue of vote-by-mail from being politicized.



USPS UNVEILS NEXT GENERATION DELIVERY VEHICLE

The Postal Service is displaying a Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV) at the Las Vegas Convention Center. The vehicle will be larger, with a side door so carriers don't have to work out of the back. It incorporates safety features like collision avoidance, 360 degree cameras, backup sensors, and a feature that puts on the parking brake when the driver leaves the seat. Four variants of the new mail truck will be rolled out at the end of 2023 – two with internal combustion engines and 2 with battery electric options. 🇺🇸



CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 16

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Via Zoom

Wednesday, March 16

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

via Zoom

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

Members Only!

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

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of December 1, 2021	\$ 1,274,387.69
Total Revenue December 2021	\$ 368,236.81
Operating Expenses December 2021	\$ 288,584.82
Total Net Income December 2021	\$ 79,651.99
Ending Balance December 31, 2021	\$ 1,354,039.68

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 at 1:00 pm, the 4th Wednesday of every month. Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization and Chairperson of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R., told *The Union Mail*: Moving forward, the NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. meeting will resume at 1:00 pm via Zoom. Next meetings will be February 23, and March 23, at 1:00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID# 239-026-1053 [Follow Zoom instructions outlined for the Membership meetings on this page.]



Postal Employees' Relief Fund

The Postal Employees' Relief Fund (PERF) assists postal workers and postal retirees, whose homes have been destroyed by natural disaster or fire. In the last year, they have helped victims of wildfires, hurricanes, and severe floods.

Most recently, on December 10-11, 2021, powerful tornados swept through several states in the South and Midwest, wreaking unprecedented destruction. The USPS reported that post offices in Mayfield, KY, and Samburg, TN, were leveled, while power outages and flooding disabled at least 45 offices.

Six workers were killed in an Amazon warehouse in Edwardsville,

IL, but the Postal Service reported that, "All postal employees have been accounted for and none are known to be injured." But some postal workers lost their houses and many were displaced by tornado damage. Short term relief grants are made available through PERF to assist these families to replenish basic necessities and re-establish residence.

PERF is administered jointly by the USPS, all postal unions and postal management associations. Their website states: "Postal employees and retirees are strong in numbers and strong in their desire to be there for each other. Mother Nature's not going away, and with your help –

neither will PERF! We will remain steadfast in our efforts – to aid, serve, and support postal families in crisis."



Postal Employees' Relief Fund
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Fredericksburg, VA 22404-1220
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perf10268@aol.com



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New York, NY 10001
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POSTAGE PAID
at New York, NY

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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: _____

unionmail@nymetro.org