



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.



## APWU 2016 BIENNIAL CONVENTION

*August 22 – August 25*

Story page 6-7

# Building for a postal future



**Jonathan Smith**

**T**he arbitrated contract was surprisingly good. All the remaining custodial and motor vehicle PSEs are converted to career. The temporary MOU on Clerk Residual Vacancies which

provides for PSE conversion to career is now incorporated into permanent contract language.

Conversion is a life-changing event for PSEs. Career employees have job security, the right to bid, annual and sick leave, and ten holidays a year. Regular full time workers have a guaranteed 40-hour week. All career employees get a higher salary and a COLA. It is good news for all postal workers because it means that we can look to a future for the United States Postal Service.

A few years ago, we had an aging work force. Today there's a big difference on the work floor and in our membership. Youth involvement is important – it's our hope for the future. This was solidified at the APWU National Convention where we created a Young Members Committee to represent the state of the youth in each region, Eastern, Northeast, Southern, Central and Western. The PSEs are the lifeline—the new blood—that will become the USPS of the future.

The sad part is that some of these newly converted employees are not members of the union. We have to remind them that the path to career opened because the Union fought

for it. The Postal Service was content to evolve into an all-PSE work force. It was the efforts of the Union that pushed the Service to honor its promise of real jobs and a real opportunity to change their lives, not just lip service.

Management is enticing these young people to be supervisors. We have to fight for their hearts and minds. Educate the PSEs and new regulars about the benefits of the union. One of our stewards said, "From the day I got in the Post Office I wanted to be a union rep." Let's cultivate that spirit and energy.

Educate co-workers. Get them involved. Senior workers have to set an example. Active membership wins respect for our Local. That respect carries over onto the work floor.

### **Build that respect through simple things:**

Visit the [www.nymetro.org](http://www.nymetro.org) website and NY Metro Face Book page to see what's going on. **VOTE!** The election of National officers is critical to our future. The ballot comes in the mail with a return envelope. Just fill it out and drop it in the mail. Your VOTE counts!

Check out the NY Metro endorsements. All crafts elect President, Vice-President, Director of Industrial Relations, Political & Legislative Director, Research & Education Director, and Health Plan Director. There are two opposed positions in the Clerk Craft and three in the Maintenance Craft. Our clerks and maintenance members can have a lot of clout. If we can get our maintenance members to vote, we can influence the vote for NE

Regional Maintenance NBA.

Mail your ballot as soon as you get it! Regardless of who you vote for, the fact that you VOTE gets our Local respect with the National Union. We're the largest local in the APWU. But if we don't use our votes, we lose that power. **VOTE!** Your help is needed for me to get the leverage I need to get things addressed that directly affect NY Metro.

As an incentive, the ballot envelopes will be used to have a cash prize raffle for NY Metro members. First prize—\$1000. 2nd prize—\$500. 3rd prize—\$100. The **SECRET BALLOT** is your private vote. Only the return envelope with your name and address will be used for the drawing.

Together, we make our Union strong! 📧

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# Tell your union!

By Tiffany Foster, Executive Vice-President



**Tiffany Foster**

The union has a right to conduct an investigation at any of the plants and stations we represent. Our administration has been randomly showing up and observing what violations of the contract are happening on a regular basis. On August 30, I had made arrangements with management to visit Ft. George Station in the Manhattan Installation.

I watched a carrier doing clerk work while acting as a 204B! While I talked to him, I made sure I told the clerks to just keep doing their jobs, not watch me, because I am careful not to disrupt the operation.

The supervisor came onto the work floor. She immediately started justifying the crossing crafts by explaining that they were short staffed and did not have enough clerks. This is exactly the problem! If the clerk work gets done without clerks doing it, we lose jobs.

I asked the carrier/204B what operation he was working on. He was on a carrier code even though he was performing clerk duties. So the clerk work is getting done without it showing up on a clerk operation. When I mentioned this to the NALC shop steward, she told the carrier that he should do what he's told, but make sure he's on the clerk operation number. Otherwise management can cross crafts at will which jeopardizes the

jobs in both crafts.

The Supervisor must have gotten upset that I was educating the employees and asking the NALC representative to educate their members about the proper operations because it protects them as well. Although she had previously been pleasant, now she got very aggressive and told me to get off her work floor! She said I hadn't notified them that I was coming. I told her that I follow the contract; why does she think I didn't notify management? Her answer was that she didn't get an email. She then told me "I am giving you a direct order to leave my work and I am a supervisor and you have to respect me." Respect works both ways. All employees are to respect each other and management is considered an employee. I never raised my voice. I remained professional but I never left the work floor, because I know my rights.

## **Postal Inspectors and Police used as tools of intimidation**

As I was conducting my scheduled interview with a clerk about falsification of the PO Box Uptime at Washington Bridge Station, the work floor supervisor interrupts to pass me her phone. She tells me "Inspector Marsh wants to speak with you."

The inspector wanted to speak with me and get the spelling of my name. Why? "For his records and to make sure no altercation takes place." Huh? I told him if there was a problem, he should come to Fort George Station. He then said

that the situation didn't warrant him coming because he knew I was on official union business but that management had called the Postal Police about me; and they had called him.

I told the Inspector I would gladly speak with him about what I was investigating—falsification of Washington Bridge Finance Station PO-Box uptime. Washington Bridge Finance Station uptime is apparently being scanned at Fort George Station! This is a matter that the Union is pursuing. (Needless to say, when there was a real issue, the Inspector lost interest in coming to speak with me.)

There are a couple of important lessons to be learned from this:

First, although you do have to follow instructions, make sure you notify the union if something is being done wrong. Don't assist management in procedures that can take away your work. Protect your work and also protect your own job. If there is falsification going on, you will surely be blamed – even though you were just following orders.

Second, remember that Postal Police and Postal Inspectors are not there to be a management enforcement team. Some supervisors are quick to threaten that they will "call the Postal Police" or "have you taken out of here," during a routine labor/management dispute. In the case of my presence at Fort George Station, the supervisor apparently called the PPOs out of frustration that she couldn't violate the union's

*continued on page 9*

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

# Fighting for justice at the ballot box

By Nora Taggart, Legislative and Political Director

The 2016 General Elections is less than two months away. Never in polling history have two presidential candidates had such low numbers in favorability with the American public. Seventy percent of Americans say they feel frustrated about this year's presidential election, including roughly equal proportions of Democrats and Republicans, according to a recent national poll conducted by The Associated Press.

This has caused a noticeable jump in support for third-party candidates, adding a new element of unpredictability into the presidential race. Libertarian nominee Gary Johnson and Green Party candidate Jill Stein have seen an uptick in supporters.

### APWU advocates for bipartisan support

The APWU worked tirelessly this election season to get both parties to adopt pro-postal and pro-worker planks. APWU President Mark Dimondstein not only addressed the Democratic National Committee but he also met with Hillary Clinton's staff prior to the APWU's endorsement of Clinton last July.

On August 17, 2016, Hillary Clinton sent Dimondstein a letter which expresses appreciation for the union's endorsement. "I will work to relieve the pre-funding mandate for retiree health costs; restore overnight mail service standards for local mail; appoint postal leaders who champion a strong public Postal

Service," wrote Clinton. Her positions are very similar to those adopted by the DNC Platform, except she didn't mention expanding postal banking.

The Republican Party agreed to take privatizing the US Postal Service off their platform after meeting with President Dimondstein and Legislative Director Judy Beard. However, their platform called federal employees "overpaid" and "over-protected." The party said federal workers' compensation was "wildly out of line with the private sector," a common right-wing myth to demonize our government.

The GOP said the practice known as official time -- which allows federal union representatives to conduct union activity while on the clock and on the work floor -- should be outlawed. This is part of their anti-labor and union-busting agenda.

As for the future of the public Postal Service, Donald Trump never returned the AFL-CIO's questionnaire for candidates which included many questions about the USPS. Therefore, organized labor could not even consider an endorsement.

### The Struggle is real

Former Ohio Senator Nina Turner gave an impassioned speech at the 2016 APWU National Convention. She spoke about the importance of voting and holding elected officials accountable.

"Brothers and sisters, our job is to

make sure we are voting every single election cycle. That electing mayors and city council folks and state senators and state reps and governors is just as important as electing the president."

Repeating over and over, "the struggle is real," Turner spoke on how in this moment there are folks using their political clout and political might to deny people access to the ballot box. She encouraged us to fight, not just for the Postal Service, but for justice, as human beings, both collectively and as individuals. This is a work worth doing.

"The greatest equalizer that we have, it does not matter who you are or who you are not, is the ballot box. One woman. One man. One vote."

### Don't underestimate your vote

More than half of Americans feel helpless and angry. We know many workers might be mulling whether to skip voting this year. They believe most politicians are the same and that their vote won't make a difference. However, when American workers stay home and don't exercise their civic duty of voting, anti-worker politicians get elected into office who pass legislation detrimental to all working families.

In an election, every voice is equally powerful--don't underestimate your vote. Voting is the great equalizer. VOTE!. ☑

# Secret trade deals only benefit the rich

By Nora Taggart

**A**round 1 billion people in the world live with less than \$1 a day. More than half of the world's population lives on less than \$10 a day. Their wealth combined equals that of the richest 62 people in the world. How outrageous is it that a group of people so small you can fit them all in one bus owns as much as 3.5 billion people!

Unsurprisingly, most of the billionaires in the world live in the United States, where they hire armies of lobbyists to influence the passage of government policies that help them keep their vast wealth and keep it growing.

One of the factors that drives income inequality and poverty is privatization of public services. Historically, federal, state, and local governments have managed certain businesses and industries which the American public thought best kept in public hands: prisons, schools, forests, parks, retirement funds, post offices, utilities, etc. However, public assets such as energy production plants, water resources, prisons, and many others, have already been seized by the one percent.

Another vital contributing factor in pay stagnation and pay decline is the shrinking number of private-sector unions. Union decline means that many workers today do not enjoy the wage premium attached to membership that they would have when organized labor remained strong. The union membership rate for public-sector workers (35.2 percent) was substantially higher than



the rate for private-sector workers (6.7 percent).

That's where the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) comes in. TiSA is a massive trade deal that is being negotiated in secret to make it easier for big multinational companies (owned by billionaires) to take over the vital public services while destroying the public sector unions. TiSA is one of three secret trade deals. The other two are the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

## **TiSA targets Postal Service and postal unions**

The secret documents about TiSA were revealed by Wikileaks. According to an assessment by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), TiSA not only seeks to privatize the US Postal Service but also to break the postal unions.

"The overall long-term game would appear to be to break the relationships between the state, post delivery and the unions that can hold the state to its greater social responsibilities within and through this sector. The market expansion of the major private operators depends

entirely on breaking open this relationship in the developing world, as the mature, developed world markets do not offer significant longer-term growth opportunities. It goes without saying that it also depends on breaking the unions that exercise power in the sector and maintain the social and economic floor."

FedEx's lobbyists are among the 500 negotiators in this secret triple threat which includes TPP, TiSA and the TTIP. Greedy Fred Smith, the owner and CEO of FedEx is one of the richest people on the planet, with a net worth of \$3.8 billion.

## **We must fight back!**

We must realize that our economic situation at present—a very few obscenely rich people owning companies and corporations and having illegally seized state and federal political power—is one which we can and must change. The political system and the economic situation should be directed toward the welfare of all people, not just a few. We can bring about these changes; it is not impossible.

Call your Congressman at 202-224-3121 and tell them to oppose the TPP and TiSA. ☑

# APWU 2016 BIENNIAL CONVENTION: *Fighting for justice!*

By Flo Summergrad

**D**elegates from NY Metro Area Postal Union proudly joined over 2000 delegates from four crafts, 327 Locals, 50 states, as well as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. There were also 76 national officers and a large contingent of retirees.

The APWU is a democratic union. Delegates are elected from all over the country to be the highest

important issues.

## Historic Constitutional change

Changing the APWU Constitution is serious business requiring a 2/3 vote. In 2016, a critical change was made in the structure of Article 19, the Officers Benefits and Retirement Plan (ORP). This made the plan's expense financially feasible into the future with safeguards if the cost rises too much.

As head of a Committee assigned in 2014 to study the fiscal underpinnings of the ORP, NYMA-PU President Jonathan Smith played a key role in this historic change to the APWU Constitution.

## Empowering young workers

Due to the influx of PSEs and thousands of workers converted to career, the USPS has started to look like an industry that has a real future. The APWU is encouraging young workers to develop as leaders. This Convention took a big step in that direction by establishing the first ever National Young Members Committee.

Our delegation included two PSE stewards from FDR Station. Ciera Davis said the Convention was "an inspirational and educating experience." It gave her a better understanding of the contract and the issues so she can come back and help the members better. Our other young delegate, Quanisha McNeal,

felt that attending with other PSEs gave her "great confidence and hope that our union will get stronger with the young workers. It was a great experience to be with a young group going in the right direction." In fact, it was "awesome."

Diane Erlanger, Clerk Craft Director, who works with these new stewards in NYC, called the National Convention "phenomenal." Both the older and the young workers were able to network with people from around the country.

## Postal Union solidarity

Despite craft and jurisdictional differences, the four major postal unions have much more that unites us than divides us. The National Postal Mail Handlers Union held its convention the same week that the APWU was convening, so solidarity greetings were shared by video.

The President of the National Association of Letter Carriers, Fred Rolando, made an in-person fiery speech to the APWU delegates. He stressed that "We are at war with an ideology in this country that wants to destroy our public Postal Service as we know it." The crisis manufac-



body of the union—the biennial National Convention. Convention decisions guide the direction of the Executive Board for the entire American Postal Workers Union. This includes voting on resolutions that come from the craft conventions as well as resolutions on labor/management, legislative, and constitutional issues. Formal Resolutions address issues of the labor and civil rights movements and the fight for economic and social justice.

NY Metro delegates did a great job. We were not just passive participants. Some served on national committees; all joined in the demonstration against the TPP; and many -- including our PSE delegates -- went to the microphones to address



**NY Metro PSE delegates from FDR Station: Ciera Davis/Quanisha McNeal**

tured through the unreasonable pre-funding mandate was designed to push the USPS toward privatization.

The answer is through unity of the postal unions as well as a Grand Alliance with the American people. We have to come together for legislative pressure.

### **A Grand Alliance grows stronger**

Speakers from organizations like the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the NAACP, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and elected officials like former Ohio State Senator Nina Turner and Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) spoke against privatization and for the need for expanded services like postal banking. Danny Glover's video about the importance of postal work and a video of the five Grand Alliance Field Hearings showed the growing public support for saving the US Postal Service.

President Dimondstein brought the organizers of those field hearings onto the stage. NY Metro was proud that this included our delegates Nora Taggart and Kevin Walsh.

### **Boycott Nabisco Mexico**

After a Verizon striker brought an upbeat message of how workers, united in struggle, can win, the delegates learned of an ongoing fight. Members of the BCTGM (Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union) are fighting unbridled corporate greed. Mondelez International, the company that owns Nabisco, outsourced 600 union jobs from the Chicago plant to Mexico. Depriving the Chicago community of jobs that have been there for 40 years, the

company will make super-profits by paying the Mexican minimum wage—measured not by the hour but by the day.

Laid off workers are asking for support from APWU. We were given leaflets and signs to identify the Mexican-made billion dollar cookie. We pledged that where it is sold, we will boycott and ask store owners to buy only Nabisco-USA.

### **Black Lives Matter**

NY Metro's resolution to support the popular upsurge for justice under the slogan, "Black Lives Matter," was passed by the APWU Convention without opposition. Our Union stands for racial and economic justice and encourages our

including Broadcaster Ed Schultz who gave a pep talk. "You cannot lose. We have the power. 200,000 workers in your union can make it happen. We can do it!"

### **International Solidarity**

The Convention received stirring messages of solidarity from Canada, England, Uruguay, and Spain. Workers around the world are fighting for justice against the same enemy.

The final guest at the Convention was Jose "Pepe" Sayagues, General Secretary, Postal Sector FSP-UGT, Spain. Brother Pepe has been attending APWU national conventions for 22 years. Through a Spanish translator, he spoke movingly about his

respect for our great union and its leadership. He expressed his deep admiration for our late President, Moe Biller, with a personal story. Shortly before Moe died, Pepe visited him in the hospital in NY. Barely able to

speaking, Biller was able to whisper: "The struggle continues!"

The current APWU leadership is continuing the fight for justice. Pepe praised President Mark Dimondstein for asking questions to learn from other struggles. "Many union officials act like they know it all, but this man asked questions, wanted to learn."

President Dimondstein's Convention message is that we are living in a time of intense war on workers. Our rights to a decent standard of living, our right to vote, our public sector jobs, are all under attack. Together, we can forge ahead, build power, and win! We are fighting for justice! ☐



**Postal Field Hearing organizers: Courtney Jenkins, Sherry McKnight, Nora Taggart, and Kevin Walsh**

members to participate in these struggles.

### **Delegates oppose TPP**

On Tuesday, business ended early so that the 2000 delegates could rally in opposition to the hated Trans Pacific Partnership—the TPP. Chanting, "We don't want no TPP!" and waving signs, the delegates protested a deal (known as "NAFTA on steroids") that would gut American jobs and bring an end to the Postal Service as we know it. The TPP allows multinational corporations to put their interests before our labor and safety laws. It is about profit and super-profit.

We were joined by supporters

# Flint water crisis exposed

By Flo Summergrad

**O**n the shores of Lake Michigan, one of the largest fresh water sources in the world, corrupt officials (including an undemocratically appointed “Emergency Manager”) flipped the source of the city’s water to the Flint River without treating the water to ensure that it did not cause corrosion to the pipes. This horror was brought to light by the work of a brave and dedicated scientist, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attish.

Dr. Hanna-Attish (“Dr. Mona”) is now revered as the pediatrician who exposed that lead in the water was poisoning the children of Flint. She stood strong in the face of insults that mocked her as “an unfortunate researcher who is causing near hysteria.”

Speaking at the 2016 APWU Convention, Dr. Mona explained the glorious labor history of Flint, Michigan. This was a birthplace of fighting unions – the famous 1937 victory of the sit-down strike against General Motors brought good union jobs to the auto plants. For many years, the UAW was strong there until the ‘80s when GM began to abandon its plants. The passage of NAFTA in 1994 accelerated the loss of American manufacturing. Companies like GM could maximize profits by super-exploiting Mexican labor. By 2010, unemployment in Flint was about 50% and today the city is one of the poorest in the nation.

Money was saved by using untreated Flint River water – water that General Motors had stopped using because it feared corrosion to



**Flint Pediatrician Dr. Mona Hanna-Attish is cheered at the Convention**

its machinery. Instead, high levels of lead were piped into people’s homes. At least 12,000 children were exposed to lead poisoning.

For 17 months, Governor Rick Snyder and his corrupt cronies rigged the water tests, slandered Dr. Hanna-Attish, and conducted a shameful cover-up of their criminal mistreatment of the citizens of Flint.

Dr. Mona brought herself and the delegates to tears as she explained that the neurological and behavioral damage of lead in the brains of children is believed to be irreversible. The harm includes permanently reduced intelligence and educational attainment. The Michigan Postal Workers Union quotes medical sources as stating that “Lead exposure causes anemia, hypertension, renal impairment, and toxicity to the reproductive organs.”

That responsible officials betrayed the public trust has been proved beyond a doubt. The water coming out of the taps in Flint is still not potable. Lives have been tragically damaged. This crime cannot go unpunished.

At its 23rd Biennial National Convention, the APWU has resolved to “Hold Those Responsible for the Flint Water Crisis Accountable” and to “Call for the Resignation of Michigan Governor Snyder.” These resolves included rendering all possible assistance to the residents of Flint. Financial support began immediately as the APWU gave Dr. Mona a \$10,000 contribution to the Flint

Child and Health Development Fund. Delegates were so inspired that they passed the bucket for an additional \$12,600 which was matched by the Mott Foundation, based in Flint, bringing the total to \$50,000. This is funding work to save the children through intensive medical and educational therapy.

Dr. Hanna-Attish credits the people of Flint for their determination to fight for justice. Dr. Mona, who immigrated from Iraq as a child, is the product of strong union parents. “Being in a union family can buffer children from any adversity,” she told us. Our delegates confirmed her faith in unions by a heartfelt standing ovation and a unanimous vote to induct her into the APWU as an Honorary Member. The Flint struggle embodies “Fighting for Justice.” ☐

# Next Up! Empowering young workers

By Flo Summergrad

In a pre-Convention presentation, Clerk Courtney Jenkins told the delegates about the 2015 “Next Up,” summit, a way the AFL-CIO is seeking to get young workers involved with unions and union organizing. Under the slogan, “Educate, Aspire, Organize!” the AFL-CIO is looking to tap the energy of the millennials (“NOT a bad word!” jokes Courtney) – those workers born between the late 1970s and 2000.

The AFL-CIO reports that this large generation “make[s] up the most diverse and technologically savvy generation in America’s history.” Yet “they suffer the nation’s highest unemployment --- about twice the national average—and the fewest job opportunities in today’s economy. And this isn’t just a U.S. problem—it’s global.”

Next Up was a way to channel the spirit of these young workers



**Clerk Courtney Jenkins, APWU rep on the AFL-CIO Young Workers Advisory Committee.**

the Young Workers Advisory Council. This bright and energetic group includes APWU’s Courtney Jenkins, a mail processing clerk with the United States Postal Service, who is the youngest elected officer to the Executive Board of the Francis Stu Filbey Area Local (Local 181) in Baltimore, MD. He is Recording Secretary, Editor, and



**NY Metro PSE delegates Quanisha McNeal and Ciera Davis flank the young speaker at the mic**

into activity that will reverse the economic and social injustice that they face. 27 of them from numerous unions all over the country make up

Shop Steward in his Local. At the recent 2016 APWU National Convention, Courtney was kept busy chairing the Formal Resolutions Committee, co-chairing the workshop on Empowering Young Workers, and chairing meetings of the “under 35” delegates to the Convention.

Through the Formal Resolutions Committee, Courtney assisted in getting progressive resolutions passed, including unanimous agreement that “the APWU shall create and support a National Young Members Committee.” This Committee will consist of a representative aged 18-35 from each of the five regions of the American Postal Union (Eastern, Northeastern, Southern, Western, and Central) to act as liaison between the youth membership and the regional coordinators within each respective region. They will meet together at least once a year and give a report on the state of the youth membership to each biennial convention.

The APWU Young Members Committee will be a way for our union to link up with the AFL-CIO Young Workers Advisory Council. These millennials are the hope and promise of a union future. ☐

## Tell your union!

*continued from page 3*

rights and make me leave. The Postal Police knew their presence wasn’t warranted, so they passed it on to the Inspectors, who had no role in this matter.

Postal law enforcement is hired to protect us and the U.S. mail, not be a tool for ineffective supervisors. Workers do not have to be bullied, harassed, or intimidated by threats of “calling the Postal Police!” Use your contractual right to ask for a steward and call the union. ☐

## POSTAL PRIDE

# On Moe Biller's 101st birthday, retirees keep fighting for justice!

**N**ine NYMAPU retirees attended the Retiree Conference preceding the 23rd Biennial APWU Convention in Orlando. This is our proud Moe Biller Retiree Chapter, who stood out in bright red hats with the words "MOE BILLER RETIREES."

Moe was the first President of the NY Metro Area Postal Union, and was elected to the APWU presidency in 1980. He led our union for over 20 years and was internationally respected as a fighter for justice. The Convention made a special presentation to honor what would have been Moe's 101st birthday.

With Biller at the helm, some of the NY Metro retirees were part of the Great Postal Strike of 1970 – a week long illegal work stoppage that paralyzed mail operations in major mail hubs. That courageous strike forced the government to allow collective bargaining for postal workers and laid the basis for a National Agreement that provided decent wages, hours, and working conditions.

The active retirees take on a lot of the work that keeps the APWU Fighting for Justice. They are there on the ground for all rallies and demonstrations and have been the backbone of our Stop Staples! campaign. Despite being on fixed incomes, a higher percentage of retirees give to COPA than active members. Our Moe Biller Chapter is an inspiration to those workers coming up. ☐



**Moe Biller Chapter retiree delegates in their red hats**

# Postal News Briefs

## APWU CELEBRATES 45TH BIRTHDAY

July 1st marked the 45th anniversary since the APWU was founded, a year after the Great Postal Strike of 1970. The strike served as an impetus for the enactment of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, which granted unions the right to negotiate with management over their wages, benefits and working conditions.



The APWU represents more than 200,000 USPS employees and retirees, and nearly 2,000 private-sector mail workers.

## WILLIE NELSON FEATURED IN NEW 'GRAND ALLIANCE' VIDEO

In a heartwarming two-minute video, Willie Nelson, the iconic musician and founder of Farm Aid, shares his personal connection to the Postal Service and calls on viewers to join A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service.

You can watch the video at [www.agrandalliance.org](http://www.agrandalliance.org).



## CANADA POST, CUPW REACH TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

Canada Post and its largest union have reached a tentative settlement, averting the prospect of job action at the postal service.

Canada Post has been bargaining with its employees for more than nine months, but both sides said they were far apart on key issues including pension changes for new employees and pay scales for rural postal workers.

Mike Palecek, CUPW president, accused Canada Post management of pursuing austerity measures despite nearly 20 years of profitable operations. "We will not be bullied by a corporation that is supposed to be providing people with public service, that is raking in millions in profits every year, and that is willfully and needlessly waging war upon tens of thousands of workers and their families"

The tentative agreements must still be ratified by more than 50,000 postal workers across the country before they become new contracts. ☐



APWU Local 10 Building Corp figures for July 2016 and August 2016 will appear in the October issue.

**Wednesday, September 21**

5:30 pm  
*General Membership Meeting*  
 Hotel Pennsylvania  
 401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)  
 Paris/Zurich Room, 6th Floor  
*(check calendar in lobby for room change)*

**Wednesday, October 19**

5:30 pm  
*General Membership Meeting*  
 Hotel Pennsylvania  
 401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)  
 Paris/Zurich Room, 6th Floor  
*(check calendar in lobby for room change)*

**September/October**

**Don't Buy Staples! Rallies**

will be scheduled throughout our area. For locations and times, check [www.nymetro.org](http://www.nymetro.org) or call the Union office, Kevin Walsh, 212-563-7553

**Retirement and Federal Benefits Seminar.**

NY Metro Postal Union is proud to arrange this extremely informative hands-on NO COST seminar for our members to best plan their benefits—even long before retirement. Spouses and partners are also welcome.

Contact your union rep for a sign-up form to register for this event. Pick your place, date, and time. Fee is \$10/person to hold your place. It will be returned at the Seminar.

**NJ**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 27, 2016  
**Times:** 8:30 am, 12:30 pm, 2:30 pm, 5:30 pm  
**Place:** VFW 300 Belgrave Drive, Kearny, NJ 07032

**NY**

**Dates/Times:**  
 Tuesday, October 25 – 9 am  
 Wednesday, October 26 – 12 noon  
 Thursday, October 27 – 5 pm  
**Place:** NY Metro Union Office, 350 W. 31st St, 3rd floor, NY 10001



**NY Metro endorsements for National Officers**  
*(Members will receive a secret ballot in the mail.)*

**Don't waste your ballot.**  
**VOTE your own choice!**  
**But VOTE!**  
**Your VOTE is your VOICE.**  
**VOTE!**

*President:* **Mark Dimondstein**  
*Executive Vice-President:* **Debby Szeredy**  
*Industrial Relations Director:* **NO ENDORSEMENT**  
*Legislative/Political Director:* **Judy Beard**  
*Health Plan Director:* **Robert Furbush**  
*Research & Education Director:* **Joyce B. Robinson**  
*Clerk Craft Division Director:* **Clint Burelson**  
*Assistant Director (B):* **Lynn Pallas-Barber**  
*Maintenance Division Director:* **Steven Raymer**  
*Assistant Director (B):* **Terry Martinez**  
*NBA, Maint. Division, NE Region:* **Dave Sarnacki**  
*Retirees Department Director:* **Nancy E. Olumekor**  
*Retiree National Convention Delegate, NE Region:* **Dolores Young**



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*(See NY Metro endorsements on p.11)*

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