



The

Union Mail

Vol. 64 No. 2 | February 2021

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.

A new chapter in American history has begun



February is Black History Month

Thoughts about January 6, 2021



Jonathan Smith

2021, by those individuals does not represent your ideology—it represents that of a vast group—millions of Americans.

This is America. The folks who effectively attempted a coup of the Capitol are this country’s husbands, wives, neighbors, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, and, yes, postal workers.

We have to stop being so shocked at this underbelly of America. Trump himself is not the problem. He is just a symptom of what has been instilled in many Americans by their families. Hate and superiority were passed down from generation to generation. It was used by the wealthy to keep poor people divided. Anger was directed at people of color or immigrants instead of getting together against oppressive bosses. The vilest forms of hate and inhumanity were hidden behind sheets and closed doors. Right-wing organizations and militias grew, and the hatred festered. Their sickness had to be nurtured in the darkness and kept out of sight.

But Trump gave the Proud Boys, the KKK, the NRA, QAnon ... and all the right-wing domestic terror groups and neo-fascists, the green

Aren’t you tired of folks saying what is taking place right now is not a reflection of who we are as a nation? This is America. While what took place on January 6,

light to practice and exercise their beliefs publicly and with unwavering, relentless grit. These groups are not new and have not just come to some awakening ... they’ve been waiting for years, for decades for this time to come.

Read your history and the history of every minority group in this country that was brutally sacrificed to “make America great.”

Autobiographies and propaganda from these racist groups expose the ugly truth.

Do you think the men and women who committed atrocities against people they felt were “inferior” just all died off? No! They had children. And their children had children. And their children’s children had children. They were raised to believe that the immoral acts of mob rule were glorious and heroic. But in fact, this was America’s underbelly. They had to take cover in rural, desolate areas and practice their beliefs in secret because it was no longer lawful to commit these insidious crimes on folks. Until now.

America needs a national purging of hate. The wrong men are behind bars. We have allowed the oppressor to lock up, shoot and kill the oppressed for fear that one day the oppressed would rise up and revolt. It is the oppressors who need to be locked up. But as we saw on January 6, 2021, no mass arrests were made. The doors were open to domestic terror.

What has happened is America has changed, evolved, progressed, and decided that the ways of the

past are no longer acceptable, that Uncle Thomas was dead wrong.

This is our America. Two distinct ideologies. One that loves and accepts all people for who they are, no matter what color they are, who they love and who they pray to; and one that wants to sustain the “purity” of what use to be, wrapped in the Confederate flag, Nazi symbols, and other antiquated beliefs.

As trade unionists, we believe in social justice and human rights. No matter what political party we endorse, or what delegate we chose to support, we believe that people have the right to have differences without threat of brutality or death. This is what democracy should look like. ☐

Official publication of the New York Metro Area Postal Union.
The Union Mail (ISSN 0049-5298) is published monthly except combined in March/April, May/June, July/August, November/December by the New York Metro Area Postal Union at 350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10001.
Periodical postage paid at New York, NY.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Union Mail, New York Metro Area Postal Union, 350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10001.
Flo Summergrad, editor
Chuck Zlatkin, managing editor
Bernadette Evangelist, graphic designer
To contact your officers, call 212.563.7553.
www.nymetro.org

- President**
Jonathan Smith Ext. 108
- Executive Vice President**
Kevin Walsh Ext. 110
- Dir. Ind Relations**
Edward Dalton Ext. 106
- Secretary-Treasurer**
Joseph Martir Ext. 107
- Dir. Organization**
Diane Erlanger Ext. 105



Cover photo: Kamala Harris and Joe Biden celebrate in Wilmington, Del. after their win.—AP

LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT

Where we stand

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

There is much to keep in focus

2020 has been a tumultuous and dramatic year both politically and legislatively for the Postal Service, postal workers and members of this union. It appears that as 2021 begins there will be no letting up. Most recently, the outrageous mob actions inside the Capitol Building on January 6 show that there are no limits on what we may have to witness this year.

2020 ended with the election of Joseph Biden (D-DE) as president and Kamala Harris as vice-president (D-CA). It also ended with the passage by the Congress and the signing into law of legislation that includes \$10 billion to the Postal Service. In effect this changes the loan approved as part of the CARES Act into a grant without the strings that former Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin had included. The Postal Service does not have to pay back the money.

2021 began on January 5, with the major upset victory in Georgia in the two Senate runoff elections of both Democrat candidates, Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff. This was a great victory for the working class. Their joint election shifts the balance of power in the Senate to the Democrats. With 50 Senators now Democrat, and 50 Republican, the tie-vote goes to Vice President Harris. With the Democrats now in control of the White House and both houses of

Congress, the promises made by President Biden when he was running for office regarding the Postal Service have even more meaning now, when the Democrats have control of both houses of Congress.

2020 was a hell of a year for postal workers

While 2020 ended with the Postal Service and postal workers successfully delivering over 135 million ballots in the national election, it also showed how totally unprepared the Postal Service was for the extraordinary peak season that postal workers had to deal with throughout the country. This was not a surprise.

In the midst of a pandemic, the increase in using the Postal Service for mailing of packages was only going to be greater. The reality of postal workers having to deal with the virus itself and all the related impact that the pandemic would have on their health and their lives was not a surprise either. Thousands of postal workers would get the virus, tens of thousands would be quarantined, and over 150 died.

DeJoy is responsible; he needs to go

The Postal Service was woefully understaffed for the peak season.

The blame falls directly at the feet of the Postmaster General of the United States, Louis DeJoy. DeJoy, a close ally and benefactor of Donald Trump, who was considered to be a logistics genius, was appointed in May and took the helm of the Postal Service in June 2020 in the midst of the pandemic. DeJoy did everything possible to prevent the Postal Service and postal workers from fulfilling the mission of serving the American people. There is no excuse. There needs to be accountability.

Since Postmaster General Louis DeJoy took control on June 15 he has hired a number of former cronies to high-paid positions with the Postal Service. On June 27 he hired Patrick Fiorentino for \$180,000 and Kelly Abney for \$195,000 as senior executive advisers. Both had worked at DeJoy's New Breed Logistics. DeJoy hired on June 20 Heather Clarke as chief of staff for \$184,900 and Emily Saunders as an executive administrator. Both Clarke and Saunders had worked for DeJoy's real estate firm, LDJ Global Strategies.

PMG DeJoy continues to take care of his former colleagues. As part of his plan to restructure the USPS announced last August, DeJoy created the position of Vice President, Transportation Strategy. DeJoy filled that position with Peter "Pete" Routsolias. The USPS touts the fact that Pete has filled that position with a number of companies. One that jumps

continued on page 4



Where we stand continued from page 3

out is his work as “vice president, transportation and network planning” at XPO Logistics, DeJoy’s company.

The only ones who can determine the path of the Postmaster General of the United States Louis De Joy are the members of the Postal Board of Governors (BOG). The PMG serves at the pleasure of the BOG. Currently, there are four or five members, all appointed by Donald Trump. Governor Ron A. Blum completed his term on December 8, 2020. He would be allowed to stay on for another year, if there wasn’t a move to fill his place. Trump had mentioned that before he left he intended to replace Blum with the former Republican Mayor of Syracuse, Roy A. Bernardi, but never filed the paperwork. In his final days in office, Trump had other things to deal with.

Biden’s promises need to be fulfilled

At this point, President Biden will have potentially five nominations for appointment to the Postal BOG. At this point, it would be good to review the promises candidate Biden made regarding the Postal Service. Biden referred to the Postal Service as “one of our country’s most trusted institutions.” He pledged to provide the USPS with “emergency relief” and promised to eliminate the prefunding requirement of retirees’ health plans. Biden promised to protect six-day delivery. He also wants to delay postal rate increases.

President Biden has stated that he expects the Postal Service to be “led by ethical experts who believe in the importance of a public postal service.” If this is the case, it bodes well

for his appointment to the BOG and what he is looking for in a PMG. He also said that he will “invest in clean infrastructure to modernize the postal fleet.” Biden has stated that he is a proponent of voting by mail.

It is not usual that we have such a detailed list of promises on postal policy from a newly elected President as we do from President Biden. But it is not a time for us to relax. It is time for us to stay vigilant and express that we have listened and are now watching what he does in regard to the Postal Service.

In the last issue of *The Union Mail*, the call went out in this column for us to be prepared to call the White House switchboard and articulate our needs to have qualified people to be appointed to the Postal BOG. It is still appropriate to continue to make those calls in February.

The APWU has stated that it “welcomes the new administration and their pro-postal, pro-union commitments. The APWU also welcomes the two newly elected Senators from GA who prevailed in the GA January 5th “special election” and the improved opportunities for moving pro-worker, pro-postal legislation through the new Congress.”

NYMAPU is happy to participate with the national APWU in its petition campaign to secure a pro-postal pro-worker Postal Service Board of Governors to defend and expand the people’s Post Office and encourage everyone to sign [*See Petition page 5*]. Biden has to be reminded of the commitment he made to Postal Service employees. It is up to us to do it, no one else will do it for us.

What happened?

On January 8, 2021, the Postal Regulatory Commission filed information requests with the Postal Service as part of its annual compliance review. The PRC is demanding answers from the Postal Service on the unacceptable on-time service performance and how the Postal Service did or didn’t plan for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The PRC doesn’t want general answers, it wants to know in detail, what the USPS did to analyze the potential impact and what it did to mitigate the impact. It can only be hoped that the truthful answers are forthcoming. It is important to the PRC to carry out its function, and it is important for those who rely on the Postal Service, and work for the Postal Service to know what is going on.

Being hopeful doesn’t mean not being careful

There is reason to be filled with hope with the new makeup of the leadership of the White House and the Congress and the promises made prior to the new administration coming into office regarding the public Postal Service. But there is also reason to look at recent history. In 2009, the White House and both houses of Congress were under control of the Democrat Party. The damage of the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) had become evident. But nothing was done to alleviate the impact of the PAEA on the Postal Service. We certainly don’t want history to repeat itself. We are hopeful that needed legislation and political leadership in the White House will be there.

President Biden: we will be watching you carefully! ☹️

Sign the petition! Tell Joe Biden SAVE OUR POST OFFICE!

(reprinted from APWU)

TO: President Biden, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader

Throughout the pandemic, postal workers have courageously and reliably fulfilled their mission to “bind the Nation together.” From vital medicines, to ecommerce and business mail, from distant greetings to holiday gifts, from Census forms to the 65 million mail-in ballots, the Postal Service has proven once again to be an essential service to every person and community across the country.

But those essential services – and hundreds of thousands of good postal jobs – are at risk if we don’t act swiftly.

We urge you to help save our national treasure, the public United States Postal Service. **We call on you to quickly fill the four vacancies of the Postal Board of Governors with diverse and community-based members who will build back better the Postal Service, serve our communities and help heal our economy.**

APWU Petition to fill Board of Governors

[go to apwu.org to click and sign petition]

We call on you to quickly fill the four vacancies of the Postal Board of Governors with diverse and community-based members who:

- Are fully committed to vibrant, public and universal postal services
- Reject the Postmaster General’s agenda of cutting service and slowing the mail
- Will champion emergency COVID-relief for USPS
- Will support an agenda of expanding the role of the USPS in serving our communities

Filling the vacancies on the postal board is essential to build back better the Postal Service and to serve our communities and to help heal our economy. ☰

RUMOR CONTROL!

Finance numbers do not affect bids

For months, rumors have circulated (especially on the STC docks) that changes were coming that would lock workers into their jobs or force them to bid. NOT TRUE! The January 2021 change in USPS structure will separate Logistics from Mail Processing and Maintenance by assigning new finance numbers. There may be a change in who you report to. Different finance numbers will NOT change your job or ability to bid!

This is not the first time the Postal Service has made a change in finance numbers, and it will not be the last. Ignore the rumors. Stop the panic.

This is strictly an administrative change. USPS Contract Administration Manager Rickey Dean informed the Union Presidents in writing that: ***“The assignment of new finance numbers will have no impact on bargaining unit employees’ current status or any contractual provisions. Their installations and bid clusters will remain the same.”*** ☰

Good news! 5,524 Function 1 PSEs

On Christmas eve, the APWU and the Postal Service agreed to Additional Function 1 Staffing. Across the country, it is agreed that “the Postal Service will convert 5,524 PSEs to career status in 192 installations.” These conversions will occur no later than March 13, 2021.

Function 1 installations are the plants. For the NY Metro Area Postal Union, there will be a total of fifty (50) PSEs who will become career under this Memorandum of Understanding. The breakdown is as follows: five (5) in DVD P&DC; ten (10) in Morgan P&DC; and thirty-five (35) in the NJI&NDC.

This is great news for the PSEs! Up to now, the conversions have been moving at an incremental rate so it is good that there will be thousands of conversions right away. ☑

Franda S. Greene, NDC



I have been working for the USPS on and off for over 25 years. However, this time around I was offered a career position and am blessed to accept. Now I am proud to say I have a career.

Abdul Webster, NDC



I have been a PSE all over the NDC for a long two years. I am glad to finally be a regular, finally able to get Sick Leave, Thrift Savings, and be able to bid. I love my stewards and my union, and I plan to be working for many years.

I have been a PSE all over the NDC for a long two years. I am glad to finally be a

HISTORY OF PSE CONVERSIONS

Postal Support Employees (PSEs) were a new job category added to the 2010 contract. Getting hired as a PSE was touted as a “path to career,” instead of casual workers who could never become regular postal employees.

Unfortunately, except for the Motor Vehicle craft PSEs, the only contract language that could be used for career conversion was the cap on PSE hiring. It seemed that postal management saw the PSEs (along with the mail handler MHAs, and letter carrier CCAs) as the future of the Postal Service.

But the union did not accept these terms. We kept fighting. In 2013, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) gave PSEs the right to progressive discipline and another MOU ensured that PSE layoffs were by seniority of hiring, not favoritism. In 2014, the Clerk craft MOU on filling residual vacancies provided a path for career conversions. In the 2015 contract, PSEs were eliminated in the Maintenance and Motor Vehicle crafts. The 2015 and 2018 contracts converted a number of clerk PSEs based on their time of service. The union won PSE pay increases, 6 paid holidays, and overtime pay after 8 hours. And now, at the end of 2021, the APWU negotiated the current large number of conversions to enhance function 1 staffing.

The struggle continues. This is why it is critical for every PSE and every newly converted clerk to be a union member. With your participation, the APWU can keep improving wages, hours, and working conditions. ☑

to be converted

Alnisa Curry, DVD



I am very grateful to be a part of this conversion. Also I'm

grateful for having union reps like Shawntai and Melissa who are always front and center fighting and being our voice. This conversion for me is a game changer because not only does it mean financial security, it also means new opportunities for us.

Tanaya Clayton, DVD



Having a good union behind you is the best! The union has fought for better

when it comes to us PSEs. I'm thankful for the support.

Katrina Nesmith, NDC



I feel good being a full time regular. I earned it. I started from the

bottom so I feel very good about myself and my job. I'm glad that the union got this for us.

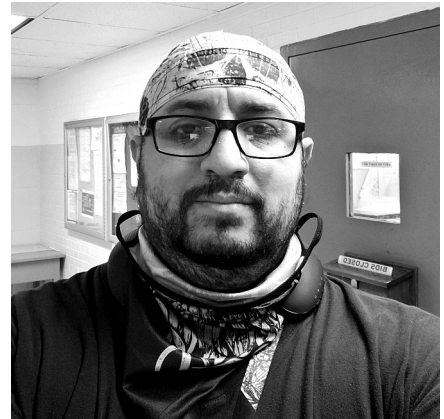
Jackie Kwok, NDC



I am so happy I have guarantee hours! I will respect whatever time they offer me.

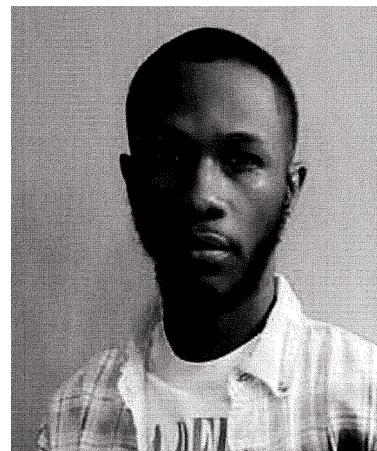
I am just happy to be a Full Time Regular career. This is my dream. If I can stay on this Tour 3 it will be perfect for me at this time because my son needs his mommy

James Rivera, NDC



I'm extremely happy! I've been waiting and hoping for this since I started at the NDC in 2018. This is great.

Jahsaan Wilson, DVD



I'm very excited to be a part of this batch that's getting converted so that I can

continue my career in the USPS. The fact that the union fought to make it happen shows me that they are doing a wonderful job and I am happy to be part of it.

Photos by Jeff Lizardi, Shawntai Downs, Elwillie Graham, James Rivera

Black History Month: A time to expose white supremacy

By Flo Summergrad

As we celebrate February as Black History Month, there are often questions from white people as to why there is a special time set for African American history. The answer was clear on January 6, 2021, when the glaring disparity of treatment of Black Lives Matter protesters who were beaten and gassed around the country with the mild reaction to a white nationalist mob actually storming the U.S. Capitol building.

The Black Lives Matter Global Network commented: “When Black people protest for our lives, we are all too often met by National Guard



troops or police equipped with assault rifles, shields, tear gas and battle helmets,” the group said in a statement. “Make no mistake, if the protesters were Black, we would have been tear gassed, battered, and perhaps shot.”

Anyone raised in this country knows that this is true. Black history is that the abolishment of slavery did not end white supremacy. The victory against Jim Crow laws did not end white supremacy. The fight against economic and social injustice is the ongoing story of Black history in America. The struggle of black history in America is not over. It is the ongoing fight of all minorities against economic and social injustice. The bias towards people of color affects us all. U.S. democracy will not be real until the systemic and structural racism of our society is exposed and rooted out. ☐

Kaepernick calls for Mumia’s release

By Bill Bachmann

For decades the corporate media have locked the story of Mumia Abu-Jamal in a journalistic closet. However, late last year that closet got opened wide with articles and TV news in Philadelphia as locked-out star NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick publicly called for Mumia’s release.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is an award-winning journalist, author, police critic and former Black Panther who was convicted of killing a Philadelphia cop in a 1982 trial that has been widely denounced as a political frame-up. He is currently appealing his case.

In a video statement Kaepernick first noted that Mumia has been in prison longer (38 years) than he’s been alive (33). Kaepernick went on to relate how Mumia’s 30-year stint in solitary amounted to torture under UN conventions, and how prison degraded human beings and amounted to a “slow death row.” Kaepernick also described the rampant brutality and corruption in the Philadelphia Police Department and its ‘union’, the Fraternal Order of Police.

Today, Kaepernick says, “We’re in the midst of a movement that says Black Lives Matter, and if that’s the case, then it means that Mumia’s life

and legacy must matter, and the causes he sacrifices life and freedom for must matter as well.”

“Even while living in the halls of the prison system.” Kaepernick continues, “Mumia still fights for our human rights. We must continue to fight for him and his human rights.”

NY Metro Area Postal Union has done this for years--in the streets and with resolutions, letters and unlike the corporate media, articles in *The Union Mail*, because unions believe “An Injury to One is an Injury to All.” ☐

The video statement can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/yxjkg742>

FFCRA is over

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which helped us survive absences for illness and childcare, expired on December 31, 2020. Congress has NOT renewed this safety net into 2021. The agreement between the USPS and the APWU to extend liberal leave and other COVID-related MOUs, is internal to the Postal

Service. It does NOT continue the FFCRA Emergency Sick Leave and Childcare Leave. Although conditions are becoming more dire, the temporary assistance to federal workers is gone.

President Smith told the members: “Congress needed to extend the FFCRA now. Millions of employees will be left without

leave and without job protection as they and their families battle this virus. This stimulus legislation didn't renew FFCRA, but it found billions of dollars of stimulus for corporations and the wealthy, once again. We cannot forget how the elected officials who make us all kinds of promises, fail us time after time.”

Postal workers are “essential.” Next in line for vaccine

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) said health care workers and nursing home residents should be at the very front of the line for the vaccines. By a vote of 13 to 1, the panel voted that the next in line (Phase 1b) will be those essential workers who are at high risk of infection because their jobs are critical and require them to be in contact with people.

USPS employees are part of the frontline workforce that has higher exposure rates to COVID-19 and are overrepresented by demographic groups that have been worst affected by the pandemic, ACIP



said. 18% of postal employees are Black, 20% are Latino and at least 15% are over age 60. Right now, we face an increase in positive cases during this wave of the pandemic. In December, the Postal Service reported a 43% increase in positive tests with over 14,000 in quarantine and 7,000 with coronavirus. This

means approximately 2 out of every 100 were out of work in December and the data is not better for January.

This does not answer how the vaccine will be deployed and how soon. Postal management has been talking with the postal unions on how the vaccine distribution would be done. This will vary from state to state, and it is possible vaccination sites may be set up at some of the big postal facilities. APWU President Mark Dimondstein says the union is glad postal employees are being recognized for the critical work that we do. “We support that essential workers will be next on the list and that will include postal workers,” he said.

As *The Union Mail* goes to press, there are reports that hospitals cancelled appointments with people for COVID-19 vaccinations because they were in short supply. How is this possible? In 1947, there was a Smallpox scare in NYC. Fear that the deadly disease was about to break out was rampant. City health officials went into gear, ordering millions of doses of the vaccine, planning how to get people vaccinated in as short a time as possible, and educating the public. Miraculously, over 5 million people were inoculated with the vaccine in two weeks! There had never been anything like this accomplished before. The end result of the effort, only twelve cases and two deaths reported in NYC.

Record number of ballots delivered in Georgia

Despite large numbers of workers out with coronavirus, the record number of votes cast in the Georgia Senatorial run-off elections contained over a million ballots sent by mail.

Challenges from groups like the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and Vote Forward forced USPS management to negotiate a speeded up timetable for the Georgia election ballots. On December 24, 2020, the Postal Service agreed to treat ballots that were still in a processing plant three days before the election as Express Mail. That meant they would be delivered the next day. In addition, ballots sent from a printer in NY to Georgia were fast-tracked. Workers swept facilities regularly to make sure no votes were left behind.

Because Atlanta had the lowest rate of ballots arriving on time to mail processing facilities, the USPS agreed to send Atlanta ballots directly to the vote-counting centers. Stacey Sabir Brown, president of the Metro Atlanta Chapter of the APWU, describes the difficulties of mounting mail volume during short-staffing due to illness or lack of childcare. Despite increasing fears of COVID-19 in areas outside the city where masks are not required, Ms. Brown said that postal workers were determined to do their part for the run-off elections.

Nse Ufot, chief executive of the New Georgia Project, a non-partisan voting rights group, praised the efforts of the postal workers. "Vote-by-mail also deserves some of the credit and did some of the heavy lifting. . . Vote-by-mail is safe in terms of your health and making sure you don't contract the virus. but it is also safe in creating a paper trail." In a time when charges of election fraud have been the norm, this is important. ☐

Postal News Briefs

MOU ON DRIVER TRAINING

The Postal Service must continue to hire and train postal drivers while protecting the safety of the Driver Safety Instructors (DSIs). With this goal, the USPS and APWU reached an agreement that will remain in effect until the parties mutually agree that the pandemic has been controlled and the safety measures are no longer necessary.

The classroom part of the training will be "in groups small enough to accommodate social distancing." For the Skills and Vehicle Familiarization part of the course, the DSI will be 6 or more feet from the vehicle window. Face coverings will be required at all times.

For the Controlled Driving, plexiglass barriers will separate the driver and the instructor. This will include protective foam to cover the metal frame, which will be properly maintained. In between uses, the interior cab will be disinfected. (There are additional provisions if the trainee and the trainer want to be in separate vehicles.)



POSTAGE GOES UP

There will be no change in the cost of a First Class letter, but an additional nickel will be added to the cost of each additional ounce—up to 20¢ from 15¢. First Class flats (1 oz) will not change. Priority Mail will see an average rate increase of 3.6% in 2021. First Class packages will see an average rate increase of 6.5%. Online postage ("Commercial Base") will have a smaller increase. The only major change will be an overweight/oversize surcharge of \$100 for parcels that go over the 70 lb. maximum weight limitation or the maximum dimensions size limit.



NEW STAMPS FOR NEW RATES

January 24, 2021—Three new stamps will be released as part of the 2021 postal price change. There will be no first day ceremony for the stamps. These are: a 36 cent post card stamp celebrating the history of America's barns; a new rate priority mail stamp featuring the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, FL; and a brush rabbit stamp to fulfill the change for an additional ounce of letter postage from 15 cents to 20 cents. ☐



CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 17

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Via Zoom

NOMINATIONS for Election of NY Metro Area Postal Union officers will be at the February 2021 General Membership Meeting!

Wednesday, March 17

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 November 1, 2020	\$1,588,681.53
Total Revenue November 2020	\$ 161,673.51
Operating Expenses November 2020	\$ 235,480.92
Total Net Income November 2020	\$ -(73,807.41)
Closing Balance November 30, 2020	\$1,514,874.12

SISTERS! As an APWU member, you are a member of NY METRO P.O.W.E.R. (P.O.W.E.R. stands for 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. We are working on alternatives.

Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization and Chairperson of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R, told *The Union Mail*: "In light of the COVID 19 Pandemic, P.O.W.E.R. meetings are canceled until further notice. Stay tuned for more information."



ALL COVID-19-related MOUs are extended through March 26, 2021

In Memoriam

Luther Thompson: A life well lived



Chief Steward Luther Thompson spent the last decades fighting for the Tour 1 clerks at the NJI&NDC. Anybody with a problem was told, just look for the man with the red cap on backwards.

He was beloved by many for watching their backs through unjust discipline, violations of seniority, and just plain nasty managers. If you had a serious problem, Luther could be trusted to keep your personal business confidential. He was calm and non-judgmental. His daughter Lacey summed him up as a "protector" and giver of "unconditional love."

Luther Thompson carried Tour 1. Many of our clerks would not be working if it were not for his efforts. Stewards trusted Luther's knowledge and ability to keep his cool in stressful situations.

Luther had union in his blood. He was a delegate for the hospital workers union, Local 1199, and was so successful that the union assigned him to Mount Sinai Hospital as a fulltime organizer. He led the members in a fierce strike -- marching, yelling, and even throwing eggs at the scabs.

Coming to the Postal Service in 1987, Luther Thompson continued the fight on the work floor as a Chief Steward, advocate, mentor, and friend until the very end. His eyes shone with intelligence and humor, whether he was fighting a grievance or winning a chess game.

We will miss seeing that red hat with Luther coming to the rescue. ❤️

Photo by LaTina German




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

Periodicals class
POSTAGE PAID
at New York, NY

STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR UNION:

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

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

NAME: _____ FACILITY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS: _____

unionmail@nymetro.org