



The






# Union Mail

Vol. 61 No. 1 | January 2018

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.*

## Make 2018 the Year of Action!

-  Gear Up for APWU Contract Fight
-  Alert, Educate, Mobilize Public Against Service Cuts
-  Stop Privatization and Consolidation
-  The Fight for Postal Banking Begins
-  Legislative Battles Need All Our Support

**FIGHTING TODAY**  
**for a BETTER**  
**TOMORROW**

*"We have the power because we do the work, create the wealth and provide the needed services, and there are far more of 'us' than 'them.' . . . a successful fightback will have to include strong alliances with the public and taking it 'to the streets.'"*

—MARK DIMONDSTEIN, APWU President



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

## 2018: Gear up for the fight!



Jonathan Smith

**A**s we start the new year, in spite of all the challenges facing us, we have a lot to be thankful for. We have jobs; we have benefits; we have a union that is an organized force to fight for

our future.

The Postal Service is going through intense changes. There are forces in management whose priority is to cut staffing in all crafts by any means necessary. This makes membership in the union and the involvement of our membership in the fight for our jobs more vital than ever.

We must take an anti-terrorist approach. What do I mean by that? The attack on our livelihoods and our families' survival is a form of economic terrorism. This is serious. They are truly coming after our job security. No one who works for the post office is a millionaire or billionaire – the 1% who are so wealthy that they don't have to think about where food and shelter will come from if that pay check stops.

How do we defend our jobs? If you see something, say something! Anything that looks shaky to you, let the union know immediately.

Get credit for the work you do. Clerks, don't let management put you on the wrong operation number so that it looks like there is no work where you are. If you are moved, ask for your time card so you can make sure the operation is recorded properly.

MVS yard jockeys, keep a log of

the moves you make. Write 1767s or record any problems that delay yard moves. All drivers must make sure that the scanner program instituted by management is not used against us to "justify" cutting routes.

The APWU has agreed to the use of scanners, but the program must be implemented properly. There is a thin line between crossing crafts if drivers are scanning something that is expeditor or dock clerk work. The union is working vigorously to set clear craft responsibilities.

Management is responsible to train any driver on the proper use of the scanner and to identify specifically what should be scanned. There should be a SOP on the proper scanning procedures.

Maintenance workers get credit for their work only if the route sheets (4776) are filled out correctly or if you're a MS-1 employee you must create work orders No work order, no credit. If management gives you a form that doesn't have the number 4776 in the lower left-hand corner they are violating the MS-47 regulations. If this is the case, bring it to the union's attention. You are probably filling out assignment sheets, not route sheets. Getting lazy and just signing whatever means job cuts.

A clear example of management's contempt for us and our work is their treatment of the custodians in Manhattan and the Bronx. They wrongly changed assignments and rest days, disrupting the lives of many custodians. Although the union grieved this and won in arbitration, the NY District is refusing to comply with Arbitrator Thomas's

ruling to restore all staffing to the status of April 2017, with appropriate financial recompense.

The union cannot in good conscience allow management to get away with only partial compliance and leave other custodians out in the cold. That is why the letters returning only some people had to be cancelled. To resolve this, we've secured a Clarification Conference with the Arbitrator for late January 2018.

As we enter the New Year, we are asking you all to gear up for the struggles ahead. In my next column, I will address the direction we will be taking NY Metro in 2018. United we will prevail against the attacks from the enemies of labor. I wish all of you and your families much Happiness and Health for 2018!

God Bless! ☰

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.

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# “The struggle continues...”

– Moe Biller, late APWU President

By Tiffany Foster, Executive Vice-President



**Tiffany Foster**

Since the end of 2016, management has been set on dismantling the full-time career work force by reverting, abolishing and excessing employees out of

their duty assignments.

Why? A few reasons.

Management wants an all PSE work force. With an all PSE work force, they can continue to pay low wages, provide no retirement benefits and give no chance for a career.

Did you know that about 50% of the career work force can retire right now? Well they can. Management is trying to push them out. Through the constant abolishments, reposting, reassignments and excessing, management is silently attacking the older work force to make them retire. Because of these actions, many have already retired and more are looking to go soon.

NY Metro provides free retirement seminars for our members and since we started working with Federal Prep in 2013, this year we’ve seen a major increase in members scheduling meetings to plan their retirement. Why? the work has gotten harder. Management has gotten more aggressive with the nonsense.

I have spoken to members of the Moe Biller Retiree Chapter about what is going on across the country with the aggressive attacks on our jobs and they said they have never seen it like this. This is bad. Times

have changed and we have to change also. Today, the fight is still needed and it seems like it’s for the same things as it was in the ‘70s. This time it’s to maintain the better wages, working conditions and benefits that were won then.

Your Union has been working very hard and is fighting all of these attacks. We have filed grievances on all actions that are in violation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (our contract).

In the last article we wrote about the major arbitration award in the NY District regarding the Canal Street reversion, management not providing information requested and their fake “earned hours” data that they wrongfully used to determine staffing and how Arbitrator Pecklers destroyed this argument.

Recently, NY Metro was successful again in arbitration regarding a reverted duty assignment from Gracie Station. The difference between the Canal Street Award and this one is management settled the grievance in the presence of the arbitrator. NY Metro was prepared to fight to the end. For the Union were the following: Union’s advocate, Clerk Craft National Business Agent Pete Coradi, his Technical Advisor, Clerk Craft National Business Agent Bernie Timmerman, President Jonathan Smith as an observer, me as a witness, Director of Organization, Kevin Walsh, who was the steward of record, and from the APWU HQs, Assistant Clerk Craft Director Lamont Brooks. Lamont has been guiding and assist-

ing locals from all across the country on how to fight the reversions and abolishments. He has been an asset to NY Metro and has personally worked with us from the beginning and thought it was important for him to come to New York for this case.

NBA Pete Coradi successfully got management to agree that the settlement was precedent setting in the NY District and was citable. This is huge! Precedent setting means to establish a usage, tradition, standard to be followed in the future. This means that all of the reversions going forward should be resolved based on this language. It also means that those duty assignments that were already reverted should be posted Installation-wide and the successful bidder paid out-of-schedule premium from fourteen (14) days before the grievance was filed until the effectuation of the assignment.

This doesn’t mean that the fight is over. Most certainly not!. Management will just find another way to go after our jobs, but we won’t stop fighting to protect and maintain what was fought hard for. The problem now is will we have to file a noncompliance grievance when management does not follow the arbitration ruling. We probably will.

Contract negotiations are coming up. Stay informed. Read your local and national magazines. Go to the APWU and NY Metro websites.

**METRO** stands for **M**embers, **E**ducated, **T**rained, **R**espected and **O**rganized. As the great Moe Biller said, “The struggle continues.” ☐



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

# Tax plan: The wealth gushes up, not trickles down

By Nora Taggart, Legislative and Political Director

### Massive tax cuts for the 1% at our expense

*“Once you realize that trickle down economics doesn’t work, you will see the excessive tax cuts for the rich as what they are—a simple upward redistribution of income, rather than a way to make us all richer, as we were told.”* – Ha-Joon Chang, economist.

Apparently, the people of this country know that this major \$1.5 trillion GOP tax bill is nothing more than a sham. A Quinnipiac University poll a couple of weeks ago found that just 16 % of the respondents believed that the tax bill would reduce their own taxes. The rest seem to know that the proposed tax cuts to the middle-class are tiny and temporary. That’s right—temporary. Unlike the corporate tax cuts which are permanent.

According to the Tax Policy Center (TPC), in 2027 taxes would be raised slightly on average for the bottom 40 percent. According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, in 2027 households making under \$75,000 would see their taxes increase on average. These increases on the bottom 40 percent would help finance very large tax cuts for the richest households and big corporations. TPC finds that in 2027 the Senate tax plan delivers 62% of its benefits to the top 1%, households that currently have an income of \$730,000 or more. In other words, two-thirds of the \$1.5 trillion tax cuts go to the 1%.

### The wealth gushes up, not trickles down

The Republican tax plan is a flat giveaway to America’s richest households and corporations. It solves no problem facing typical American families and no benefit from it will trickle down to them. Claims that corporate tax cuts will make it all the way down to workers’ wages are not supported by real-world evidence. As a matter of fact, corporations including Cisco, Pfizer, Coca-Cola, and Amgen have said that the gains from corporate tax cuts will go to shareholders, not workers.

The Republican tax bill has progressives warning that the GOP is planning to use the massive deficit hole to justify taking a sledgehammer to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. Florida Senator Marco Rubio even admitted that the tax plan to aid corporations and the wealthy will require cuts to Social Security and Medicare to pay for it.

Another way the Republicans will finance a portion of the tax cuts they’re showering on corporate America over the next 10 years is by eliminating the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) individual mandate. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this would lead to 4 million Americans’ losing their coverage next year, and 13 million fewer insured in 2027. As healthy people leave the pool, premiums for everyone else in the ACA’s exchanges would spike by 10 %.

### GOP donors, not voters, rule

Congressional Republicans are under a lot of pressure to pass a massive package of tax cuts in the next year. They are worried their donors will desert them if they don’t.

“If they don’t get tax relief done, as they promised they would, then we will support challengers who will do their jobs for them,” said Doug Deason, a Dallas investor, and high-dollar Republican donor.

“Donations will still flow, just to different politicians.”

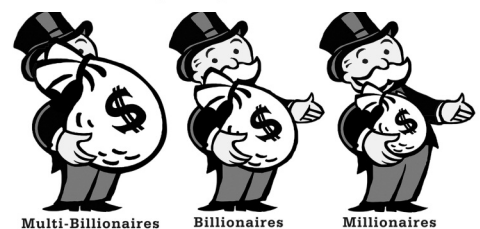
### What happens now?

The House and Senate have now passed their respective tax bills. Next, they have to figure out how to reconcile their differences.

Reconciling the Senate and House tax bills won’t be a walk in the park, given how unpopular the GOP tax plan is – as few as 1 in 4 Americans support it. The GOP’s tax bill is much like their health care bill.

Instead of working in a bipartisan way to address genuine economic challenges, the Senate is ramming through an ill-conceived, unpopular piece of legislation that will weaken America’s economy at a time when the U.S. can least afford it. ☐

Everyone gets a Tax Cut!



# 2018 Nominations and Election Notice and Proposed Campaign Rules for the New York Metro Area Postal Union APWU, AFL-CIO Election of Officers and Trustees

Pursuant to Article 12 of the New York Metro Area Postal Union (NYMAPU) Constitution, the NYMAPU Election Committee hereby proposes the following rules for the election of local union officers and trustees. The Election Committee has chosen to utilize the services of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) to help conduct the election. The provisions of Article 12 of the NYMAPU Constitution not specifically mentioned herein are incorporated by reference. A copy of these rules will promptly be provided to any member who requests a copy.

**1. Election Committee:** The following individuals have been appointed by President Jonathan Smith and approved by the Executive Board to serve on the Election Committee and have full authority to implement all aspects of the election:

William Bachmann, Chairperson  
Dolores Young  
William Pinedo  
Michael Milazzo  
Danielle Peaker

All correspondence to the Election Committee should be addressed or faxed to:

New York Metro Area Postal Union  
350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
Fax: (212) 643-9051  
Attn: Election Committee

**2. Application of NYMAPU Constitution:** The election will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the NYMAPU Constitution, amended June 19, 2013.

**3. Officers to be Elected:** The following officers are to be elected: President, Executive Vice-President, Director of Industrial Relations, Secretary-Treasurer, Director of Organization, Coordinating Vice-President, Legislative/Political Director, Director of the Bronx Division, Assistant Director of the Bronx Division, Director of the Clerk Division, Assistant Director of the Clerk Division, Director of Motor Vehicle, Director of Maintenance Division, Assistant Director of Maintenance Division, Director of Morgan P&DC, Assistant Director of Morgan P&DC, Director of the Dominick V. Daniels Facility, Assistant Director of the Dominick V. Daniels Facility, Director of the NJI Network Distribution Center, Assistant Director of the NJI Network Distribution Center and five (5) Trustees.

**4. Term of Office:** The term of office is three (3) years. The installation of officers will be held at the next regular membership meeting after the election is certified by the Election Committee Chair.

**5. Candidate Eligibility:** To be eligible to hold office a member must meet the following criteria:

Any member in good standing shall be eligible to be a candidate for officer or trustee provided he/she has been a member in good standing continuously for one (1) year prior to the nominations meeting, with the following exceptions:

(a) Any member who has an application pending for a supervisor position in the Postal Service through participating in the PASS program, or other similar programs, shall be ineligible to be a candidate, hold any elective, and/or appointed position in the Union;

(b) Any employee eligible to be a member of the union who voluntarily holds a managerial, supervisory or EAS with respon-

sibility for issuing or recommending discipline, or applying or interpreting the national agreement for the equivalent of a two (2) week period in a year, is ineligible to hold office for a period of one (1) year from the time the employee vacated such position; or

(c) Any member who has submitted an application for a managerial, supervisory and/or EAS position with responsibility for issuing, or recommending discipline, or for applying or interpreting the national agreement shall withdraw such application prior to acceptance of nomination for any office in the union.

**6. Nominators:** To be eligible to nominate a candidate the nominator must be a member in good standing. In the case of craft officers, only a member of that particular craft may be nominated or vote for a candidate for craft office.

**7. Nomination Notice:** On or before Monday January 10, 2018, the Notice of Nominations will be inserted in the January 2018, issue of the Union Mail. Notices will also be posted on Union bulletin boards in all postal facilities. The notice will advise the membership of candidate eligibility requirements, offices to be filled, the date, time and place of nominations, and the procedure for submitting and accepting nominations.

**Nominations:** Nominations will be conducted at the regular membership meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 5:30 pm at:

Hotel Pennsylvania  
401 Seventh Avenue, 18th floor (Sky-Top)  
New York, NY 10001

Prior to the nominations meeting, the Election Committee will ensure the availability of a current list of members in good standing. At the meeting oral nominations will be accepted from the floor. No seconds will be required. Self-nomination will be permitted. Members need not be present to be nominated. Nominees can accept their nomination orally at the meeting or by prior written acceptance.

**8. Candidate Eligibility Determinations:** The Election Committee will review the NYMAPU dues records to determine the eligibility of all nominees. Eligible nominees will be notified of their eligibility, provided a copy of these rules, and asked how they wish their names to appear on the ballot. Ineligible nominees will be advised of the reason(s) they are not eligible to run for office.

**9. Slate Voting:** Any group of candidates representing at least sixty (60) percent of offices to be filled may run as a slate, provided they notify the Election Committee of their intention to do so no later than 12 noon, Monday, March 5, 2018. Detailed information on slates is laid out in NYMAPU Constitution, Article 12, Section 11, (a) through (e).

**10. Candidates Meeting:** The Election Committee will meet with any interested candidate(s) or their designee, who must be a Union member, on Monday, March 5, 2018, 2:00pm, at the address below to discuss the election procedures:

New York Metro Area Postal Union Office  
350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10001 @11:00 am

**11. Inspection of Membership List:** The NYMAPU will make its most current membership list available for inspection by any candidate or their designee, upon request the week of March 5, 2018 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Candidates wishing to inspect the list must make an appointment: to do so they should contact NYMAPU Secretary-Treasurer Sharon Tyrrell at (212) 563-7553, ext. 107, twenty-four (24) hours prior to the date. A candidate's right to inspect the membership list does not include the right to copy or receive a copy of it.

**12. Campaign Restrictions:** The Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA) requires that all candidates be treated equally with respect and the opportunity to campaign. Section 401(g) of the LMRDA provides that "[n]o moneys received by any other labor organization by way of dues, assessments, or similar levy, and no moneys of an employer shall be



contributed or applied to promote the candidacy of any person in the election subject to the provisions of this title. Such monies of a labor organization may be utilized for notices, factual statements of issues not involving candidates, and other expenses necessary for the holding of an election.”

This prohibition extends to equipment, vehicles, office supplies, records and personnel of the NYMAPU and any other labor organization, and to any employees, regardless of whether they employ Union members.

The LMRDA prescribes that members who exercise their right to support candidates of their choice may not be subjected to penalties, discipline or reprisals of any kind by a labor organization, or its members

**13. Distribution of Candidate’s Campaign Material:** A candidate desiring to mail campaign materials to the NYMAPU membership shall make such a request to the Election Committee no later than five days before the ballots are counted. Uniform prices for mailing services will apply to all candidates.

**14. Watchers:** Candidates are entitled to designate themselves or one (1) watcher to be present at the tallying of ballots. Watchers must be members of NYMAPU.

**15. Voter Eligibility:** All members of record will be mailed ballots. Only the ballots of members in good standing as of the date of the ballot count will be tallied. Good standing for voter eligibility is defined as being current in dues and meeting the other eligibility requirements on Article 3 of the NYMAPU Constitution.

Only members employed in or at:

(a) A Bronx installation shall be eligible to be nominated for the position of Director or Assistant Director of the Bronx

(b) The Dominick V. Daniels facility in Kearny, New Jersey shall be eligible to be nominated for the position of Director or Assistant Director of the Dominick V. Daniels facility.

(c) The NJI Network Distribution Center in Jersey City, New Jersey shall be eligible to be nominated for the position of Director or Assistant Director of the NJI Network Distribution Center.

(d) The Morgan P&DC facility shall be eligible to be nominated for the position of Director or Assistant Director of Morgan P&DC facility.

**16. Election Notices:** Election Notices will be posted on all union bulletin boards in all postal facilities no later than March 19, 2018 and in the March 2018 edition of The Union Mail.

**17. Ballot Preparations and Mailing:** The Election Committee and the American Arbitration Association (AAA) will design the official ballot and comprehensive voting instructions. The printing, acquisition, custody, control and distribution of ballots will be under the supervision of the Election Committee and the American Arbitration Association (AAA).

In addition to the ballot, the American Arbitration Association (AAA) will arrange ballot return envelopes pre-addressed to the official location for return of the ballots.

No later than March 30, 2018 ballot packages will be mailed to all members. Each member will be mailed: Instruction on voting and ballot return, one unmarked ballot, one (1) small envelope marked “Secret Ballot Envelope,” and one (1) larger return envelope addressed to the American Arbitration Association (AAA) with member identification (signature required for membership verification only). Ballots will be returned to the offices of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) and safeguarded.

Undeliverable ballots returned to the American Arbitration Association (AAA) will be kept separate. The American Arbitration Association (AAA) will regularly inform the Election Committee of the undeliverable ballots. The Election Committee will make reasonable efforts to find updated addresses for these members so that the American Arbitration Association (AAA) can mail them clearly identified duplicate ballots. If both an original ballot and a duplicate ballot are received for same member, only



the original ballot will be counted.

No earlier than seven (7) days after the mailing of the ballots or no later than five (5) days before the ballots are due, any member who has not received a ballot may request that the American Arbitration Association (AAA) mail a duplicate ballot to him/her. All requests for duplicate ballots either by mail or phone must be sent directly to the address below or requested by calling the number listed:

American Arbitration Association (AAA)  
120 Broadway, 21st Floor  
NY, NY 10271  
1 (800) 529-5218

**18. Collection and Tally of Ballots:** All ballots must be received on or before 10:00am, 23 April 2018. The counting of the ballots will commence immediately afterward.

The Election Committee will observe the verification of eligibility conducted by the American Arbitration Association (AAA). Any candidate or watcher may attend and observe. The Union will provide the American Arbitration Association (AAA) with its most current eligibility list. For a ballot to be counted, the member must be in good standing at the time of verification. All ballots received from members declared ineligible to vote will be separated from the ballots of eligible members and will be considered challenged ballots, and the reason for the challenge will be noted. The American Arbitration Association (AAA) will safeguard all challenged ballots.

After the verification of eligibility is completed, the American Arbitration Association (AAA) will tally ballots under the supervision of the Election Committee. Only American Arbitration Association (AAA) personnel will physically handle the ballots. Candidates or watchers will be allowed to observe the counting process. No candidates or watcher will be allowed in the ballot room with a coat, folder and/or bags(s) of any sort.

Write-in votes will not be counted. Candidates who receive the greatest number (plurality) of votes cast will be declared elected.

**19. Publication of Election Results:** The Union will publish the results of the election in the Union Mail and post them on Union Bulletin boards.

**20. Preservation of Election Records:** The Union will preserve the election records for at least one (1) year after all appeals have been exhausted.

**21. Election Protests:** Any member who feels aggrieved in connection with the conduct of the election shall file his or her protest with the Election Committee. Such protest(s) must be in writing, setting forth the specific facts, signed by the protestor, and addressed to the Election Committee within seventy-two (72) hours after the cause of protest has arisen. Appeals from an adverse decision of the Election Committee may be further appealed as per Article 12, Sections 8 and 9 of American Postal Workers Union (APWU) Constitution & By-laws.

**22. Installation of Officers:** Newly elected officers will be installed at the next regular union membership meeting after the Election Committee Chair has certified the election.

The above rules are not all inclusive. The NYMAPU Election Committee, as needed, may issue additional election rules or clarifications during the nomination and election period.

ISSUED BY THE NYMAPU ELECTION COMMITTEE:

William Bachmann, Chairperson  
Dolores Young  
William Pinedo  
Michael Milazzo  
Danielle Peaker



## PART II

# Postal workers deliver in devastated Puerto Rico

By Nora Taggart

*In 2000, George Clooney starred in a movie called “The Perfect Storm.” Based on a true story, the film is about a nor’easter that collides with a hurricane. This unusually intense storm pattern catches some commercial fishermen unaware and puts them in mortal danger.*

*The term “a perfect storm” can be used to describe what happened to the Postal Service in Puerto Rico after the island was hit back to back by two catastrophic hurricanes. The magnitude of the devastation was so great it set the whole island back two to three decades.*



**Puerto Rico Area Local member’s house was destroyed by Hurricane Maria.**

## The curse of the postal motto

“Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.” While the Postal Service has no official motto, the popular belief that it does is a tribute to America’s postal workers. But it also leads customers to get extremely frustrated because they erroneously believe that, unlike everyone else, the Postal Service and postal workers are immune to natural disasters.

So, the “perfect storm” began to brew. On one hand you have an island, which is a U.S. territory, which is left decimated. Many postal workers could not report to work. The postal infrastructure suffered damages as well. The main processing sites did not have power to operate the sorting machines, so mail had to be sorted manually with only a fraction of the workforce. On the other hand you have hundreds of thousands of care packages (about six to ten times the normal amount) arriving in Puerto Rico.

These and other factors contributed to an extensive delay in the delivery of mail. On top of that, customers were over-stuffing the priority flat rate boxes (“if it fits it ships”, up to 70 lbs) with very heavy items like canned goods, water and even perishable foods. Many boxes were not packaged correctly and were damaged in transit. The rotting food and spilled liquids damaged other customer’s packages. When people didn’t receive their packages within a few days, or received the boxes damaged and missing items, they accused postal workers of theft. These false accusations spread like wildfire on social media and several news outlets, causing many postal workers to feel demoralized.


## Postal Workers are heroes

But these hardworking and dedicated postal workers in Puerto Rico didn’t let that deter them. Despite having to deal with extraordinary circumstances both in their work and at home, they kept moving the mail. The Postal Service made arrange-

ments to get fuel for all their employees, so they could return to work. They set up tents in front of damaged post offices in order to continue to provide services to the public. They worked tirelessly to get the agency up and running because they knew the public, who were facing a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions, depended on them. They worked long hours in the dark and in the heat. Some even took to social media to explain to the public how to prepare packages correctly so they wouldn’t get damaged. These posts were shared and viewed tens of thousands of times and they made a huge difference.

Even the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) relied on the postal workers to collect data for them. “We might know the general area where people need help, but the mail carriers are the only ones who really have the exact addresses,” a FEMA worker told Reuters, asking not to be named because he was not authorized to speak to news media.

Today the Postal Service is probably the only agency or company on the island that is operating as close to normal as possible. Packages are being delivered on time, or close to it. And all because of all the postal workers that went above and beyond their call of duty.

*[In the third part of this series we will explore the role of the American Postal Workers Union in Puerto Rico.]* 

## POSTAL PRIDE

# Our members took action to win King holiday

**T**hey didn't give us this holiday. We had to fight for it, remembers Clerk Matricia Anthony. Many current postal workers were not even born on November 2, 1983, when President Reagan signed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday into law as a federal holiday. Most don't realize that there was fierce opposition to honoring Dr. King.

MLK was assassinated in 1968. The legal holiday was not established until 18 years later after a national campaign. Many current Postal workers take the "King Day" for granted. In fact, naming a national holiday to honor a great African American was a result of the same struggle that Dr. King led—a struggle for civil rights.

Postal workers were active in this fight. Petitions to Washington were circulated and signed on the work floor. NY and NJ postal workers were among those who risked reprisal for taking off for MLK's birthday every January. Workers of all races submitted leave slips or called in: "MLK Birthday." Retired Shop Steward Charles Kabir recalls: "Most black workers took the day off—approved or not!"

NYMAPU members can be proud of our part in that political struggle. At the Local meeting when President Josie McMillian announced that Reagan had signed the bill to make Dr. King's birthday a federal holiday, everyone stood up and cheered. We had helped make history. ☑



# Postal News Briefs

## MOVE OF COLLEGE STATION STOPPED!

On November 2, 2017, a letter was sent by Tom A. Samra, the USPS Vice President Facilities, to Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer stating that Samra "...decided that the Postal Service will not relocate retail services from College Station Post Office at this time."



This is a major victory for NY Metro Area Postal Union and community allies in the struggle to maintain a post office for the residents of Central Harlem. The Postal Service, through its representative Gregory Lackey, attempted to push the relocation and then sale of College Station past the community. NY Metro helped alert, educate, and mobilize the community to fight this unwarranted move by the USPS. There was outstanding support from the 138th Street and 139th Street Block Associations in pressuring elected officials to get involved. U.S. Congressman Adriano Espaillat and Borough President Brewer's offices did get active and lent support for the effort.

NY Metro appreciates this victory but understands that the community must stay vigilant; the Postal Service will be back.

## USPS TO BUILD SELF-DRIVING MAIL TRUCK

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is partnering with the



University of Michigan to build a self-driving mail delivery truck and hopes to launch a fleet of the vehicles on rural routes nationwide as soon as 2025.

In a potential self-driving postal truck scenario, a human postal worker would sit behind the wheel of the truck, but would sort mail and perform other duties as the semi-autonomous vehicle drives itself along the route. Other uses include driverless parking while the carrier makes deliveries, as well as having the vehicle follow the carrier for walking routes. The vehicle can also be used to bring extra mail to the carrier or even be used as a mobile parcel locker, available to customers 24/7 and on-demand.

Rural areas are being looked at for the experiment first because of the lesser potential for accidents due to fewer pedestrian and vehicle traffic. If all goes according to plan, the rural test run could lead to full national rural areas deployment between 2022 and 2025. USPS said it eventually plans to explore city delivery, and eventually remove steering wheels and pedals altogether. ☑



## CALENDAR

### Wednesday, January 17

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, February 21

5:30 pm  
General Membership Meeting  
Hotel Pennsylvania  
401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)  
Skytop Room, 18th Floor  
(check calendar in lobby for room change)

## APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

|                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Beginning Balance as of 10/01/2017    | \$ 692,207.00       |
| Total Revenue October 2017            | \$ 152,647.29       |
| Total Operating Expenses October 2017 | \$ 111,095.42       |
| <b>TOTAL NET INCOME</b>               | <b>\$ 41,551.87</b> |
| Closing Balance as of 10/31/2017      | \$ 733,758.87       |

## NY METRO SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications:

**LAST DAY** January 31, 2018.

Go online to Union Plus Scholarships at [www.unionplus.org/benefits/money/union-plus-scholarships](http://www.unionplus.org/benefits/money/union-plus-scholarships)



# 2017 NY Metro Holiday Party

Members from all tours and stations enjoyed food, dancing, and socializing at the annual holiday party. 📷



Photos by Gloria Wilson





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

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## STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR UNION:

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

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

