



The

Union Mail

Vol. 59 No. 8 | November/December 2016

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.

Postal workers remember anthrax victims Joseph P. Curseen, Jr. and Thomas L. Morris, Jr.



15 Years of Shared Memories

These unspeakably tragic events served as a defining moment for the Postal Service. The use of the mailstream for these despicable acts threatened all Americans and it placed us at the Postal Service's national service network like nothing before or since. By weathering the storm and by ultimately retaining the nation to a sense of normalcy, Postal Service employees became quiet heroes to all of our country. Patrick Donohoe, PMG October 21, 2011

Joseph P. Curseen, Jr. - born September 6, 1954 - died October 22, 2001 - Joseph was a quiet, warm, and fun-loving man. Joseph was an active, respected community leader who served as President of his neighborhood Homeowners Association. Joseph served his spiritual community as a Eucharistic Minister, led the lunch break bible study with his co-workers once a week, and wanted to go into the prison ministry. With no children of his own, Joseph enjoyed the role of being a godfather. Joe worked at the U.S. Postal Service for over 15 years. He was a dedicated and professional employee, setting an example for others. He would daily go the extra mile to assure that not one letter was missed being processed before he left the workroom floor. He added balance to his sense of duty by finding time to jog, play basketball, softball, and bowling. He lost his life on October 22, 2001, due to the deadly anthrax letters placed in the mail stream and processed, during his time at work at the then Brentwood Processing Distribution Center. Joseph's memories will live through many, but especially through his wife, Celestine Curseen.

Thomas L. Morris, Jr. - born March 2, 1946 - died October 21, 2001 - Thomas led a life marked by devotion to his family, friends, and his co-workers. Thomas, a kind and private man, shared his emotions fully and happily with those who were closest to him. Thomas was also devoted to his country and service to the people of our nation, as he honorably served in the U.S. Air Force and Postal Service for over 30 years. His co-workers knew him as one who was well-versed in many sports and would always reiterate safety practices. He was honored four times with outstanding work performance and service awards. One of his favorite pastimes was serving as President of the Tuesday Morning Mixed Bowling League, where his friends called him "Mo". He lost his life on October 21, 2001, due to the deadly anthrax letters placed in the mail stream and processed, during his time at work at the then Brentwood Processing Distribution Center. Thomas' memories will live through many, but especially through his wife, Mary Morris, and his son, Thomas L. Morris, III.

— page 8

Unions are our strength



Jonathan Smith

As unionized postal workers we have pay and benefits. Nobody just gave us that. If you learn nothing else as a worker, realize that management doesn't give anything they

don't have to. Unions have won better wages, hours, and working conditions through organized struggle. Through sacrifices of time, energy, and money. Sometimes sacrifices of their jobs, their freedom, and even their lives. So life can be better for workers.

Unions are the best of what America has to offer. That's our strength. There's an increasing number of "right-to-work" states where people wish they had a union. We take it for granted. We take for granted things like labor laws, collective bargaining, health and safety protections, social security. Shame on the people I see on Facebook who are always talking bad about the Union. But never anything bad about management!

Fighting dangerous working conditions for drivers

After a long struggle, Motor Vehicle bids were finally awarded in Manhattan and the Bronx. The Form 4533 that goes with each job describes everything the driver must do. But after the bids were completed, management arbitrarily added duties to some of the drivers' jobs. On Sunday morning the driver is required to open the station because

no postmaster is there. Think about it: back into the building, secure the truck, walk around, open the station and take off the alarm. Next, return to the truck and pull in to load or unload the mail. This was added with no notice or discussion with the union. The drivers themselves had to tell us. That's improper unilateral action, a violation of the CBA, Article 5, and labor law.

And it's unsafe. The stations are in areas which could be dangerous. Some streets are deserted. Some are near late night bars or clubs. To have a driver coming regularly to open a post office in the dark creates an atmosphere where our drivers can get robbed, killed, or raped. Management has conducted absolutely no study to determine the safety of the drivers in these neighborhoods.

The Union has filed a 10J with the National Labor Relations Board requesting an immediate injunction. We filed an Article 14 Safety grievance directly to Step 2. We have asked for Postal Police protection. We had meetings with management showing they are putting postal drivers at risk. The most we got back so far is that they will try to send two drivers with routes close to each other to go together "when they can." This should not be optional but required. Why do we have to wait for something bad to happen before management is willing to address it?

This is not the first time. In 1993, Willie Gonzalez, a young driver out of Bronx GPO, was brutally murdered due to the indifference of

Postal management. For weeks he reported that a car was following him when he went on a remittance run. 1767s and grievances were filed and ignored. He, the union, and the postal police themselves asked for police protection and were ignored.

The robbers knew the time of his run. One of them got in the cab and shot him at point blank range. The plate number he had put on the 1767s led to the killer, but this was no use to him. Brother Gonzalez was dead at age 27, leaving behind a 6-year-old daughter. And why? Because postal management **DID NOT LISTEN**. Just like now, they refuse to do the right thing to protect the drivers. But we as the Union are committed to this fight. ☑

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
Nora Taggart, 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**
Tiffany Foster Ext. 110
- Dir. Ind Relations**
Daniel Zachman, Jr. Ext. 106
- Secretary-Treasurer**
Sharon Tyrrell Ext. 107
- Dir. Organization**
Kevin Walsh Ext. 105



Cover photo of memorial by Eugene B. Horton

Stand up for health and safety

By Tiffany Foster, Executive Vice-President



Tiffany Foster

In my last article, I wrote about the unhealthy work conditions in Hamilton Grange Station. I talked about the importance of filling out PS Form 1767.

I even provided you with the contractual support and the language for what is required when you fill this form out.

Now, I'm going to talk about an issue that affects you all, garbage. How often is the garbage collected where you work? Management seems to think that a once a week garbage pickup is sufficient. What do you think? Do you leave garbage in your home for a week at a time? We are at work more than we are at home with our families most times. If the garbage is only being picked up once a week in your station or facility where you work, what have you done about it? What are you going to do about it? Doesn't management have an obligation to provide you with a healthy work environment?

There are stations where the garbage dumpster is kept inside the facility in close proximity to where the employees work. Where is it located in your station or facility? I can name several stations where this is the norm, but one station in particular is Morningside. This station has a dumpster located on the inside of the station. It sits in front of the stairs that lead up to the employee's locker and swing rooms.

The employees must walk around the dumpster in order to get to their locker and swing room.

Now remember, I stated earlier that management feels a once a week garbage pickup is sufficient. Do you think they work in an unhealthy environment? Is it alright that you don't? What have you done about it? What are you going to do about it? Doesn't management have an obligation to provide you with a healthy work environment?

The union has requested a copy of all the garbage collection contracts for the Manhattan and Bronx Installations. We want to see the frequency of the garbage collection. As you can guess, the union hasn't received this information yet. Labor Board charges will be filed because management has violated Articles 17, 31 and the National Labor Relations Act, which says the union is entitled to information relevant and necessary for collective bargaining, enforcement, administration and interpretation of the collective bargaining agreement.

Motor Vehicle Safety issues

Outside the stations, there are also safety hazards. The Motor Vehicle Operators completed their bid process in early September of 2016. Soon after, management blindsided them and the union with additional duties that were not part of the duty assignments when they made their selections. Article 39.2.D mandates management to state specific information on the duty assignment notices. The union negotiated this so that the employees will be able to make informed choices about the

duty assignments they choose and it prevents management from just adding duties at will.

Management's decision to send drivers out alone to perform the duties of their supervisors and management by opening stations is without regard for the employee's safety. There are several concerns the union and the employees have brought to management's attention but they don't care. As our President says, the Postal Service is about profit over people.

The union has taken action. Labor Board charges and grievances have been filed. But what are you doing about this unsafe practice? Is overtime more important than your safety? Does someone have to get attacked or even worse killed before management will stop this unsafe practice?

Every employee has a right to make a complaint to OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) about unsafe or unhealthy working conditions. Calling OSHA isn't solely a union responsibility. You can even file a complaint online at www.osha.gov. Collectively, we can do more, but alone we are just that—alone. The definition of a Labor Union is an organized association of workers formed to protect and further their rights and interests. Ask yourself is this what we are?

This administration has been and still is intent on educating you about your rights.

M.E.T.R.O.'s motto: Members, Educated, Trained, Respected, Organized. ☐

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

Postal Reform Act of 2016

By Nora Taggart, Legislative and Political Director

The current 114th Congress (2015-2016) might break the record of being the least productive in modern history. The 112th Congress (2011-2012) broke the record for passing the fewest bills into law since clerks started keeping track several generations ago. Even if Congress this year manages to avoid the record, it's on track to be among the worst.

The possibility that several postal legislations will see the light of day are slim to none. That includes the Postal Reform Act of 2016 (H.R. 5714). This bipartisan legislation has four cosponsors, and as with any legislation, there are other issues to be worked out as the legislation moves through both houses of Congress. For example, it proposes to adopt private sector best practice to reduce the cost of future retiree health benefits by integrating federal health insurance coverage of postal senior citizens (age 65 and older) with Medicare. It may seem unfair to a minority of current seniors who would now be required to enroll in Medicare Part B after choosing not to do so when they turned 65. The APWU has been playing a proactive role calling for a hardship exemption and the need for it to be part of the overall package. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (OGR) actually took steps to address these affected seniors – the bill requires

USPS to help them pay for the Part B premiums over the three years after enactment, and it provides for one-time-only waiver of Part B's late enrollment penalty. With that modest change, the bill would fully protect any truly vulnerable seniors.

Also, many mailers and NALC strongly oppose the bill's mandatory conversion from door delivery to centralized delivery for perhaps millions of American businesses. This would be counter-productive -- businesses generate mail volume and revenue, and pick-ups and door delivery in the age of e-commerce are more essential than ever.

Considering some of the language, no postal reform might be better than a bad one.

Sen. McCaskill introduces bill to prevent emergency postal suspensions

U.S. Senators Claire McCaskill (D-MO) and Jerry Moran (R-KS) introduced legislation (S. 3452) to bar the U.S. Postal Service from permanently closing postal locations without community notice or appeal process. The bill would prevent the U.S. Postal Service from using its emergency suspension process—

meant to be temporary—to indefinitely close post offices without notice to the community, opportunity to appeal, or a timeframe for either reopening or permanently closing the facility

“These post offices are part of the lifeblood of our communities—a source of employment and a lifeline for commerce—and we can't allow the Postal Service to balance its books on the backs of small communities by shuttering post offices where they're often most needed, with little transparency or explanation,” said McCaskill in a news release.

Of the 650 postal facilities that were “temporarily” closed under emergency suspensions since 2011, 511 remain closed today. Residents in those communities have not been told by postal service officials whether or not those post offices will reopen.

McCaskill, a longtime advocate for postal service in rural communities, is widely credited with having waged a successful campaign over several years to save rural post offices and maintain delivery standards. She even questioned the U.S.

Postal Service's pricing for its “last mile” of delivery in rural areas because she believes it may be losing money by under-charging competitors such as UPS and FedEx to carry mail to those areas. ☐



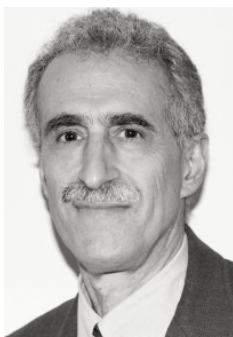
National elections show support for APWU's direction: Fighting for Justice!

By Flo Summergrad

In a clear affirmation of the current administration's accomplishments and goals, President Mark Dimondstein and his team scored a resounding victory in the National APWU elections.

The resulting Executive Board and national officers reflect the diverse membership of the American Postal Workers Union, including a growing number of able and dynamic sisters. Almost all the winners were candidates endorsed by the NY Metro Area Postal Union and we know they will continue to move us forward.

Our Local's votes played an especially important role in the success of the two contested positions in the Northeast Region. We are pleased and proud of the victories for Maintenance National Business



Mark Dimondstein

Agent, NE, Dave Sarnacki and Retiree National Convention Delegate, NE, Dolores Young!

Although our members did not participate as fully in the balloting as we should have, we definitely played a significant role in winning these very important positions. Both Dave and Dolores are a tremendous asset to the entire APWU and friends to NY Metro in particular.

We congratulate all the re-elected and newly elected officers and look forward to working with them over the next three years. With them at the helm, we will continue to build the American Postal Workers Union, a proud and respected organization, which is a leader in Fighting for Justice! ☑

APWU NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS 2016

PRESIDENT

Mark Dimondstein	33,538
Jerry Stidman	6,618

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Debby Szeredy	17,495
Jeff Kehlert	9,690
Greg Bell	12,940

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Tony D. McKinnon	10,244
Vance Zimmerman	18,277

LEGISLATIVE/POLITICAL DIRECTOR

Judy Beard	27,778
Thomas R. Benson	11,641

HEALTH PLAN DIRECTOR

John L. Marcotte	22,057
Robert Furbush	4,505
Sarah J. Rodriguez	6,380
Lisa A. Norwood	6,512

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Joyce B. Robinson	18,754
Charles P. Smith	9,468

CLERK DIVISION DIRECTOR

Clint Burelson	13,559
Ross Baker	6,095

CLERK ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lynn Pallas-Barber	14,135
Renee Breedon	5,543

MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR

Steven G. "Steve" Raymer	3,558
Robert (Bob) Hock	2,679

MAINTENANCE ASST. DIRECTOR

Terry B. Martinez	3,343
Michael "Mike" Burris	2,824

MAINTENANCE BUSINESS AGENT, NE

Christopher Howe	464
Dave Sarnacki	669

RETIRES DEPARTMENT

Nancy E. Olumekor	7,191
Karen Swift	1,548
Desi Neurohr	1,258
Joe Gordon	1,354

RETIREE NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATE, NE

Dolores Young	1,147
Michael Bruno Ganino, Jr.	535

Know your union!

For the members who said they "don't know who any of these people are," we encourage you to go regularly to the websites: www.apwu.org and www.NYMetro.org and union Facebook pages. Read your *American Postal Worker* magazine and *The Union Mail*. NYMAPU newsflashes and wall postings from the APWU should be available on your bulletin boards and at the branch offices. There are lots of short videos that explain campaigns and accomplishments of the APWU that will make you feel good about belonging to a strong national union that is respected for Fighting for Justice! ☑

Stop Staples!

The staunchest campaigners against the USPS/Staples contract are our retirees. These activists are fighting to preserve what they won for us. Brother Oliver Drummond was one such labor hero. His dedication serves as an inspiration to all. We feel it is appropriate to include this tribute in a page about the ongoing struggle at Staples rather than in a memorial, because his spirit is here with us. —UM Editors

Goodbye, Brother Oliver Drummond



Oliver (center) with other Stop Staples! demonstrators in Philadelphia

Stop Staples campaign organizer. Up until just very recently, he hit the streets five days a week fighting Staples privatization of window clerk jobs. It was my honor and privilege to call him my friend and brother. God Speed Brother Drummond!

—Randy Zelznick 21st Century Postal Worker post Oct 3, 2016

Photos by Randy Zelznick



We lost a good friend and APWU brother Saturday night. Oliver Drummond succumbed to cancer after a long and hard fought battle with the disease. Oliver was a member of the APWU Philadelphia Retiree Chapter. He was a very dedicated activist in our fight to save the Postal Service. Oliver was also a Philadelphia

Meet Saul

He's in sixth grade. Yesterday he was one of hundreds, maybe thousands, of people who went to the debate site on Long Island to raise the battle cry Fight For \$15-- And A Union!

When he saw Dennis, one of the New York crew, in a Stop Staples tee shirt, he came right up and proclaimed, "Not one thing in my back-to-school stuff came from Staples!" His mother chimed in that it wasn't easy, but Saul refused to shop at the chain because of our boycott and they managed!

The entire NYC posse thanks you, Saul, and all the other kids who know right from wrong! (And the parents who help them.)

—Dennis O'Neil Facebook post



Photo by Dennis O'Neil

Don't let the One Percent steal the people's post office

By John Dennie [Reprinted from *Labor Today*, fall/winter 2016]

The management of the United States Postal Service is attempting to transmogrify good union jobs at the post office into non-union, low-wage “associate” jobs at Staples. Any public spin that postal management mouthpieces try to put on this union-busting scheme is belied by the recent unearthing of a secret report prepared by a private consulting firm hired by postal bosses. The keystone of the union-busting recommendations prepared by the firm of McKinsey & Co. was to shift work to “mail partners,” Staples being the first retail chain to bite on the carrot being offered by postal management. . . .

The American Postal Workers Union has launched a multi-pronged fight back. Postal workers, retirees and community allies have been standing in front of Staples locations handing out leaflets describing what is going on and turning away potential customers. Postcards have been printed and sent by the thousands to Staples CEO (see: StopStaples.com). The union charged the postal service with violating contract provisions regarding subcontracting. The NLRB issued a complaint against the USPS which is currently awaiting the decision of an Administrative Law Judge. The NLRB has issued



Honorary NY Metro member, retired MH John Dennie, getting the word out about Staples at NY Labor Day march

subpoenas to USPS bosses which were stonewalled until a 90,000 page document during a couple of weeks before the start of hearings. 28,000 pages were deemed “confidential” but the USPS lawyers inadvertently included the McKinsey Report with the non-confidential material.

The AFL-CIO and many of its affiliates have endorsed the Staples Boycott, but some affiliates are still buying their office supplies from Staples. (To the tune of some \$3,500,000 in fiscal year 2015.) We are sure this is simply a case of word not filtering down to the pur-

chasing department and those unions who have been contacted immediately canceled their Staples contracts. (To find out if [a] union is currently buying from Staples, contact the writer at johndennie20@gmail.com). In NYC, the crew from “Stop Staples NYC” (Find them on Facebook) joined demonstration in support of the CWA workers in their strike at Verizon. We realized the Verizon strikers were fighting for the entire working class. Among the groups which have come out in all kinds of weather to support the NYC postal workers and retirees are the Party of Communists USA, TWU Local 100 (retirees), UAW, Granny Peace Brigade, Occu-Evolve, Solidarity with Bangladeshi Garment Workers, Students Against Sweatshops, and many more. “Workers of the world unite; You have nothing to lose but your chains.” ☐

Look forward to the Letters to Santa Program at JAF! – coming in late November

15 years later: 2001 anthrax victims remembered

By Flo Summergrad

On October 21, 2016, a ceremony was held at the Brentwood Post Office in Washington, DC, to unveil a monument memorializing the two clerks who died in 2001 after inhaling anthrax spores released through mail sorting machines. Joseph P. Curseen, Jr., and Thomas L. Morris, Jr., were long time APWU members, postal workers just doing their job.

Although the world remembers the attacks of September 11, 2001, many people forget the ongoing terror and stress that affected our nation's postal workers for months afterwards. In the weeks after 9/11, letters containing deadly anthrax spores surfaced in the offices of two U.S. Senators and in the mailboxes of news media.

Law enforcement focused on the addressees, ostensibly the targets of bioterrorists. Congress was closed and inspected. The Florida Sun and other news organizations were sealed. But there was little concern that the deadly bacterium anthrax was in envelopes sorted by postal workers. Postal authorities dismissed the concerns of long time postal workers at the Brentwood facility who came down with flu-like symptoms in mid-October. By October 21, 2001, Thomas Morris called 911 and told the dispatcher that he suspected he had been exposed at work to lethal spores. He was worried because his symptoms fit a description of anthrax poisoning.

Two hours later, he died. The next day, Clerk Joseph Curseen passed away. On October 23, the



APWU Local president Dena Brisco speaking at unveiling of monument



Joan Jackson, Joseph Curseen's sister, views memorial

diagnosis of inhalation anthrax was confirmed. Postal workers from the NJ Hamilton Township facility, who also handled the toxin, were poisoned through their skin. Several were rendered permanently ill or crippled. Both the Brentwood and Hamilton offices were closed for years of decontamination while workers were displaced.

Postal management, however, refused to consider shutting key mail hubs in NYC and NJ, although contamination was found on machines in Morgan Station. The union fought

fiercely for safety protocols, inspections, and clean-up. There were protests and press conferences; the tainted machines had to be cleaned more than once. Morgan workers were issued antibiotics, which caused side effects and unease. In Jersey City, BMC workers held a lunch time rally to get the plant's machinery tested.

Today it's hard to imagine the anxiety of working in the post office during the anthrax terror. At the October 21st commemoration, Dena Briscoe, President of National Capital/Southern MD Local APWU, said, "Many workers' lives were shattered." She expressed pride that despite the danger, postal workers continued to perform their duties. When the mail processing center was reopened in December 2003, most employees "bravely walked together back into the building."

It takes courage to function through fear to do ordinary but important jobs. Those who serve the public today can take pride in those of us who moved the mail during 2001 and 2002. The theme of "Postal Workers are Heroes Too" replaced the false characterization of "going postal."

We have to ensure that brothers Thomas Morris and Joseph Curseen will never be forgotten. They died in the performance of their postal duties. They symbolize why we fight to preserve America's Postal Service—a network of dedicated men and women who serve the public. They are part of the legacy that says: the U.S. Mail is not for sale! 🇺🇸

DVD workers take a stand for Black Lives Matter

By April Branch, Steward at DVD, Tour 2

Unions stand for good living wage jobs for all people and justice in the workplace as well as in the neighborhoods we live and work in. We needed our members to start taking a stand.

One of our co-workers got shirts made that said BLACK LIVES MATTER and a lot of the workers decided

to ask if we could all wear them on a particular day. So when they asked me as a steward if it would be



ok, and I agreed it should be done and said, I'm in full support, I will wear mine as well, they felt a little

more comfortable.

This was about 32 workers all on the same tour at DVD. Not just black workers – other cultures wore the shirts as well. As long as we are unified, we can't be broken! ☑

[Editor's Note: At the 2016 National Convention, the APWU adopted a strong

Resolution to support the "Black Lives Matter" movement, This is putting that Resolution into practice,]

Statements win money for lead clerks

Clerk Craft Director Diane Erlanger filed grievances for three Customer Service clerks who were holding Lead Clerk bids while part of their administrative duties were performed by a 204-B (Acting Supervisor). This violation continued over a one-year period, despite con-



tract language that limits the time of a supervisory detail to 90 days.

The grievants worked in Old Chelsea, Port Authority, and Patchin Station. The grievance cited language from the Local Memorandum of Understanding (LMOU), the JCIM Appendix C, and APWU web news article #51-2012 on the specific duties of Lead Clerk-Customer Service as well as interviews with the manager who tried to justify the violations by claiming the Lead Clerks "didn't want the responsibility." This

was clearly rebutted by the evidence submitted.

The Union prevailed in the grievance at Step 3, winning \$900 apiece for the aggrieved workers and re-posting the clerk bid of the long-term 204B. Diane attributes the success of the case to the fact that the clerks provided clear Statements with specific facts. They worked with the steward to prove the violations. As President Smith constantly reminds us: "Arguments don't win grievances. Evidence does." ☑

Quanisha McNeal is NE Regional Rep to the APWU National Young Member Committee!



New York Metro is proud to announce that Quanisha McNeal has been appointed as the Northeast Regional Representative for the APWU National Young Members Committee. This Committee, for members 35 and under, was founded at the 2016 National Convention.

NE Regional Coordinator John Dirzius took names from the APWU Locals in the Region and sent recommendations to the APWU President. President Mark Dimondstein appointed our own Quanisha, a PSE steward from NY Metro Area Postal Union. At the October 19, 2016, General Membership meeting, Quanisha told us that she will work to get the 35 and under workers to understand the importance of being in the union and educate them about the contract. She will strive to get young members involved for their future and the future of the Postal Service. ☐

Postal News Briefs

STAPLES TUMBLES TO NEAR 20-YEAR LOW IN WAKE OF FAILED MERGER

Staples fell to lowest in almost 20 years. Enthusiasm on Wall Street is hard to find in the wake of Staples' failed bid earlier in the year to merge with Office Depot. Staples will close 46 to 50 stores in North America this year, as it attempts to slash costs and restore investor confidence. It has closed more than 300 stores since 2011.



USPS ANNOUNCED TWO CENT PRICE INCREASE TO TAKE EFFECT JANUARY 2017

The United States Postal Service today filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) of price changes for Mailing Services products to take effect next year, following the end of the holiday mailing season. The new prices, if approved, include a two cent increase in the price of a First-Class Mail Forever stamp, returning the price to 49 cents, the price of a Forever stamp before the Postal Service was forced to reduce prices by the PRC as part of the exigent surcharge removal.



THREE YEARS AFTER PRIVATIZATION, ROYAL MAIL AT CRISIS POINT

Royal Mail is 500 years old this year, an anniversary marked with some fanfare last month. Today however, is three years since Royal Mail was privatized—and this is an anniversary we're unlikely to be hearing much about. This year alone 11,000 jobs have been lost, a fifth of its mail centers have closed and 5% of its delivery offices have shut with more due to follow as shareholders are exerting more and more influence to maximize their own profits. Put simply, with Royal Mail on course to have paid out £650million in dividends over this period, the truth is that privatization has seen more money flowing out of Royal Mail rather than into it.



It's sad to say, but the story of Royal Mail's privatization is a story of our times: the loss of democratic control; the transfer of wealth and power to the richest in society; and the growing pressure on working people to work harder and faster for less.

OBAMA TRIES NEW APPROACH TO SPUR FEDS' ANNUAL GIVING



President Obama signed an executive order Thursday to make it easier for federal employees to volunteer at charitable organizations and for retirees to donate to them. Under the new rules, federal workers will be able to make non-monetary pledges to CFC charities by instead committing to donating their time.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 16

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Annual Turkey Raffle

Hotel Pennsylvania

401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)

Paris/Zurich Room, 6th Floor

(check calendar in lobby for room change)

As per NYMAPU Constitution:

NO DECEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

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)

Metro Night Out

Sunday, January 8, 2017

12:00 Noon

76ers vs. Nets (Tickets \$63)

Sunday, February 5, 2017

12:00 Noon

Raptors vs. Nets (Tickets \$47)

Members call to reserve tickets

NYMAPU office: 212-563-7553

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of 09/01/2016	\$ 291,695.49
Total REVENUE September 2016	\$ 115,681.32
Total Operating Expenses September 2016	\$ 118,873.05
TOTAL NET INCOME/LOSS	\$-(3,191.73)
Closing Balance as of 09/30/2016	\$ 288,503.76

October/November/December

Don't Buy Staples! Rallies

will be scheduled throughout our area. For locations and times, check www.nymetro.org or call the Union office, Kevin Walsh, 212-563-7553

NY Metro Area Postal Union Now Accepting Debit & Credit Card Transactions from Members

(in addition to Money Orders)

Visa and MasterCard ONLY

Postal ID required at time of transaction

NY Metro Scholarship Fund

Union Plus works with our local to give scholarships to members and their families. Union Plus Scholarship Awards honor achievement and union values. Each year NYMAPU has worked to increase our scholarship fund to help with the burdensome costs of further education.

Visit UnionPlus.org/education to learn more and apply for the scholarship program.

Application deadline is January 31, 2017.

Check Out the APWU Health Plan!

Federal Employee Health Benefits

Open Season

November 14–December 12, 2016

APWU Health Plan Representatives:

J. Renee Bost, Barbara Harris, Mike Suchomel, Jackie Owens

Join NY Metro Postal Union Officers in Celebrating the Holidays!

Friday, December 16, 2016

3 pm–10 pm

AFSCME Building 420 W. 45th Street, 1st floor, NYC (between 9th and 10th Aves.)

Food and Beverages Provided

Please present membership ID at the door.



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



Holiday Greetings! The officers and stewards of NY Metro wish our members and their loved ones a joyous holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year!

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: _____
