



The

Union Mail

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

United Auto Workers made 2023 the Year of the Strike.



■ United Auto Workers members march through downtown Detroit, Mich., on Sept. 15, 2023. The UAW is conducting a strike against Ford, Stellantis and General Motors. Paul Sancya/AP

After a historic six-week escalating strike by the United Auto Workers against the Big Three automakers, over 146,000 union members have negotiated and ratified contracts that reversed a decades-long trend of concessions.

See page 4

2024 ELECTION RULES WITHIN

Is the future of the postal service bright? It depends on you.



Jonathan Smith But despite their attempts to mistreat and overwork the bargaining unit employees, they always failed. Because the workers stuck together and stood up as one body against management's harassment.

What makes what is happening in today's Postal Service different from the one I remember? Three things: dedication, work ethic and pride. Let me briefly explain what I mean.

Dedication: We were proud to be postal workers and serve the American public. Veteran postal workers took me under their wing and taught me that showing up for work every day was a responsibility and an obligation. Childcare was my responsibility and not the Postal Service's. I needed to find a way to accept that I will be on Tour 1 because you are on the bottom of the totem pole. Getting better working hours is a privilege that must be earned. We fought for better pay because we were committed to delivering the best Postal Service in the World. The Postal Service was built on the blood, sweat and tears of those that came before us.

Work Ethic: I hear a lot of old timer's postal workers exclaim I was the best LSM operator, window clerk, driver, or mechanic the Postal Service ever had. But today, many workers (specifically the PSE's and newly converted), want overtime for as little work as possible. They do not come

to work for weeks, no call, no show, but they expect to get paid. We came back from lunch and breaks on time. When our co-workers needed help, we would help them without even being asked. We replaced the words me, myself, and I, with we and us. We got the job done. The Postal Service was what we did collectively.

Pride: No one thought of being a supervisor until they had some years of service on the job. They felt like being a supervisor had to be earned. Most of the supervisors had the employees' respect because for many years they worked right beside them. Everyone wore their union shirts and jackets with pride. They attended union meetings, participated in union rallies, Christmas parties, and picnics etc.... They understood it was their responsibility to make and keep their union strong, they understood that the union works with you and not for you. They understood the union's job was to enforce the contract not to get the employees what they want. They understood they were the "U" in Union.

So how do we save the Postal Service, first we must stop being selfish and treat each other with respect, realizing we are all in the same boat and that sticking together is our strongest weapon. Secondly, we must stop turning away work because it is not in your job description. Let me be clear, all work is our work, we cannot give them an excuse to contract out any work. Third, we must come to work on a regular basis. The number one reason employees are removed is because of attendance. Babysitting, a second job, 'I can't work every weekend' etc... are all excuses disguised as reasons. It is time to grow-up and show-up for

work every day.

To answer the question about the future of the Postal Service? Well, the Postal Service is getting younger and younger, and the new school postal worker does not understand the dedication, work ethic and pride that their predecessors demonstrated to make the Postal Service what it became. The old timers, now a days, have not put these young workers under their wing like what was done for us.

Many say the Postal Service has changed and if you want to see that change go look in the mirror. And after honestly assessing what you see, I hope you conclude that if you fix what is in that mirror then the postal service's future is bright. ☐

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LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT: Standing Up to PMG DeJoy

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

Representative Tim Burchett, a Republican from Tennessee's second district, has come out and blasted Postmaster General Louis DeJoy for a meeting in his district about the consolidation of operations from the P&DC in Knoxville, TN to the P&DC in Louisville, KY. Burchett wrote to DeJoy following the meeting. Burchett referred to the meeting by calling it a "complete waste of time" that could be viewed as successful only "if the goal was to simply check a box and move on." Burchett was probably unaware that these meetings were being held throughout the country as part of the consolidation of 200 processing plants to just 60.

The meetings are required to take place, but Burchett saw them for what they are, as he detailed in his letter to DeJoy, "Your staff apparently drove to Knoxville from Nashville and points in between, likely getting paid for mileage and per diem, for a meeting that lasted just over 15 minutes, and at which not a word was uttered in answer to a single one of the many valid questions postal employees asked of their supposed "leadership". My staff attended the meeting and reported to me that your staff stared blank-faced at my



constituents who were asking legitimate questions, and never even acknowledged that a question was asked, let alone bothered to answer one. Your employees-my constituents-deserve to be treated with more dignity and respect than was on display during this wasteful, useless public spectacle. If the goal was to simply check a box and move on, then the USPS was successful."

Kudos to Representative Burchett. Hopefully, other members of Congress are calling out DeJoy for his insulting behavior toward the people he is supposed to be serving. Unfortunately, this meeting was not the exception but the rule.

The Current Postal Board of Governors

December 8, 2023 has come and gone and we don't have any new members appointed to the Postal Board of Governors. The USPS Postal Board of Governors is the governing body of the United States Postal Service. It oversees the activities of the Postal Service. There are eleven members of the Board, nine governors are presidentially appointed, one is the PMG and one is the Deputy PMG. The nine governors elect the PMG, the USPS inspector general and the Board chair.

The Board are the ones who hire and are the only ones who can fire the Postmaster General. This means that the Board still consists of DeJoy friendly Roman Martinez IV, who will serve for the remainder of a seven-year term that expires on December 8, 2024. Amber F. McReynolds will serve for the remainder of a seven-year term that expires on December 8, 2026. On November 14, 2023, she was elected



Steve Sack | Copyright 2020 Cagle Cartoons

by her fellow Governors to serve as vice chairman. She also currently chairs the Board's Election Mail Committee. Robert M. Duncan's term expires December 8, 2025. He currently serves on the Board of Compensation and Governance Committee. Anton G. Hajjar is currently in his holdover year. On January 12, 2022, he was elected by his fellow Governors to serve as vice chairman of the Board of Governors—a role he served in until December 2023. He currently chairs the Board's Compensation and Governance Committee and serves on the Operations and Election Mail Committees. Derek Kan will serve for a term expiring December 8, 2028. He currently serves on the Board's Audit and Finance, Compensation and Governance, and Operations Committees. Ronald Stroman was confirmed by the Senate to a second term expiring on December 8, 2028. He serves on the Board's Operations and Election Mail Committees. Daniel Tangherlini will serve for a term expiring December 8, 2027. He currently chairs the Board's Audit and Finance Committee. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and Deputy Douglas Tulino also serve as member of the Board of Governors. ☐

The United Auto Workers Stand Up!

By Peter Boyer

After a historic six-week escalating strike by the United Auto Workers against the Big Three automakers, over 146,000 union members have negotiated and ratified contracts that reversed a decades-long trend of concessions.

Pay scales for autoworkers have now substantially improved, as separate wage tiers were eliminated, the time to reach top step was reduced from eight years to three, and many workers at the bottom of the pay scale will see their salaries double immediately. Temporary workers now have a guaranteed path to permanent jobs within nine months, and COLAs were restored after being sacrificed during the Great Recession.



United Auto Workers members hold picket signs near a General Motors Assembly Plant in Delta Township, Mich., on Sept. 29. Paul Sancya / AP file - NBC News

While workers hired after 2007 still will not be eligible for a pension or retiree healthcare, they will receive a guaranteed 10% contribution to a 401(k) plan regardless of their own contribution. All three automakers also agreed to provide additional annual leave to newer employees.

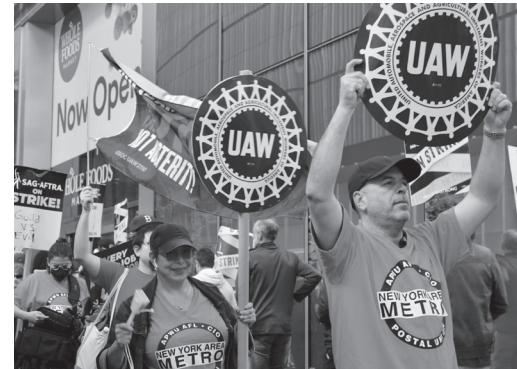
Perhaps most importantly, thousands of additional union jobs were created or restored. Stellantis (formerly known as Chrysler)

reopened a plant in Illinois, restoring 1,200 jobs. All three automakers agreed to cover employees working in electric vehicle plants under the master agreements, providing lower-paid workers there the same pay and benefits given to workers at traditional auto plants.

The UAW strike was successful for a number of reasons. The union led an escalating strike campaign, starting small with only 15,000 workers and continuing to lead more workers on strike until the automakers agreed to most of the union's demands. After over 50,000 workers walked off the job and the most profitable truck plants were closed, the companies had no choice but to negotiate with the union to create contracts that benefited the workers.

The UAW has also been more open with members and the public during these negotiations due to the leadership of President Shawn Fain, who was elected directly by the members for the first time in the UAW's history at the beginning of the year. Fain, who ran with the slate Unite All Workers for Democracy, ended the practice of secret negotiations and provided weekly updates to the members. This led to more involvement among members and a greater sense of union solidarity. More members were willing to take stronger action and strike when they knew what they were working toward.

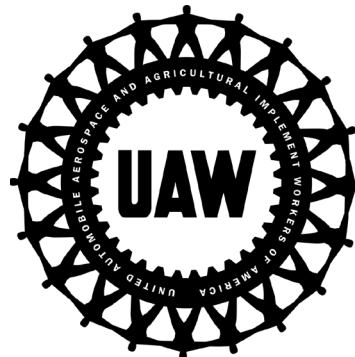
The successful strike has led to better jobs for more than UAW members at the Big Three. Within days of the contracts being ratified, many non-union automakers like Toyota and Honda raised pay, and



NYMATWU Shows solidarity at the UAW picket in midtown this past September.

over 1,000 workers at a Volkswagen plant signed cards to join a union. This shows the power of unionized workers to raise wages and benefits for all workers in a sector.

After decades of concessions among unions and fewer union jobs in America, the tide appears to be slowly turning in favor of the working class. Since 2020, a series of successful strikes against major corporations have raised the standard of living for the members represented by unions. This success has led to powerful campaigns to form unions at jobs where this was previously thought impossible. The workers of this country are increasingly taking charge of their livelihoods, and the UAW strike is a prime example of power returning to the working class.



Chaos at the NDC!

We should be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first and largest Bulk Mail Center (now NDC) in the country. The plant has moved record-setting numbers of parcels, letters, and flats – including the years of the pandemic when workers processed wall to wall mail.

Now, in peak season 2023, the NJ NDC is in complete disarray. This is a result of PMG DeJoy's restructuring of the postal network, which is effectively disabling the proud flagship of the BMC/NDC system.

Chaos. Disorganization. Confusion. Mismanagement from the top.

In March, management closed the entire Bulk part of the facility, ostensibly while Headquarters figured out what machinery to

dismantle and what to add. After a flurry of men in suits (engineers?) peering at machines, the building has stayed dormant – piled up with old and broken equipment.

In November, all mail processing personnel were squeezed into bids in the remaining building. Staffing is askew. People are moved daily to cover the blanks. There are times when there are too few clerks for the job; other times, workers are overlapping and misdirected. There are hours when the pedestrian aisles are a terror zone of moving vehicles and illegal "bulldozing" – pushing extra postal packs or containers beyond what's safe.

Confusion reigns. Many clerks don't know who their supervisor is; many supervisors don't have access to input employees' leave. Postal norms of holiday scheduling and

Overtime Desired Lists are not met. Mandatory overtime is unregulated.

Every question or complaint from the Union is met with: "Grieve it!"

Lives have been disrupted by the new hours and tours. In previous years, at least there was an explanation of why changes were needed. This time, repeated Union requests for the mail arrival times were ignored. Without explanation, changes seem arbitrary and capricious. This breeds resentment and anger.

The annual fast pace of moving holiday mail no longer seems productive. Just chaotic. Pride in the job is gone.

An update on this situation will be in the next issue of The Union Mail.

APWU (finally) Challenges USPS Actions

In April, 2023, at the Bulk Mail Conference, a major agenda topic was PMG DeJoy's Ten Year Plan, its impact on postal workers, and what the APWU was doing about it. President Mark Dimondstein addressed questions via a telephone hookup.

In particular, NY Metro Area Postal Union President Jonathan Smith contested the USPS failure to answer any Requests for Information (RFIs) from the Union in regards to the Plan. He questioned why the National had not filed an NLRB charge against the Postal Service.

President Dimondstein's answer gave reasons for delaying filing a charge at that time. Many of the attendees were frustrated since the so-called "network modernization" plans were proceeding quickly and

without transparency.

In the November/December issue of The American Postal Worker, the APWU updated the membership on challenging the network changes – both through the NLRB and the grievance procedure.

The national APWU has filed two Unfair Labor Practices (ULPs) with the NLRB against the Postal Service on the implementation of the Ten Year Plan. One ULP contends that management has failed in its legal obligation to bargain over the changes it is making in the postal network. The other is what President Smith asked for back in April – management's failure to respond to union requests for information on the changes to the network.

Hopefully, this is not too little,

too late, since 3 out of an estimated 60 Regional Processing and Distribution Centers as well as 24 Sorting and Delivery Centers (S&DCs) are already partially up and running.

A major grievance has already been filed against management for ignoring the job security protections on "landing spots" for career employees facing potential excessing. There is also action and training to protect APWU work from being given to other crafts.

DeJoy's business plans for the USPS are already underway. But it is encouraging to hear that the national is taking steps to fight unilateral action by the Postal Service on our rights to information and input. Our Local must continue to take the lead in this fight.

2024 Notice of Nominations, Election and Campaign Rules for the New York Area Metro 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 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
Sandra (Penny) Guzman
Marialeone Vidal
Roberto Rodriguez
Genevieve Gardner

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 responsibility 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 Thursday, January 11, 2024, the Notice of Nominations will be posted on Union bulletin boards in all postal facilities. The Notice of Nominations also will be inserted in the January 2024 issue of the Union Mail. 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, 2024, at 5:30 pm by Zoom link and/or in person.

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. All nominees must file an Acceptance of Nomination notice with the Election Committee by Monday, March 4, 2024.

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 4, 2024. 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 Thursday, March 7, 2024, 11:00 am by Zoom link and/or at the New York Metro Area Postal Union office, 350 W. 31 St., 3 Floor, New York, N.Y. 10001, to discuss the election procedures.

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 4, 2024, 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 Jacquelyn Owens 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 "no 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 moneys 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 (5) 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 18, 2024 and in the March 2024 edition of The Union Mail.

17. Ballot Preparations and Mailing: The Election Committee and the American Arbitration Association 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. In addition to the ballot, the American Arbitration Association will arrange ballot return envelopes pre-addressed to the official location for return of the ballots.

No later than March 29, 2024 ballot packages will be mailed to all members. Each member will be mailed: Instructions on voting and ballot return, one (1) unmarked ballot, one (1) small envelope marked “Secret Ballot Envelope,” and one (1) larger return envelope addressed to the American Arbitration Association with member identification (signature required for membership verification only). Ballots will be returned to the offices of the American Arbitration Association and safeguarded.

Undeliverable ballots returned to the American Arbitration Association will be kept separate. The American Arbitration Association 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 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 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
120 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10271
212 484-4136*

18. Collection and Tally of Ballots: All ballots must be received on or before 10:00 am, April 26, 2024. The counting of the ballots will commence immediately afterward.

The Election Committee will observe the verification of eligibility conducted by the American Arbitration Association. Any candidate or watcher may attend and observe. The Union will provide the American Arbitration Association 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 will safeguard all challenged ballots.

After the verification of eligibility is completed, the American Arbitration Association will tally ballots under the supervision of the Election Committee. Only American Arbitration Association 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 Rules: 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
Sandra (Penny) Guzman
Marialeone Vidal
Roberto Rodriguez
Genevieve Gardner*

POSTAL PRIDE

Where is that postal pride?

For postal workers, the holiday season has always meant a great source of pride and accomplishment in processing and delivering millions of gifts and cards to our customers.

In December 2023, this season has been far from joyous. Postmaster General DeJoy has taken the joy out of Christmas inside the plants. In stations there is little holiday spirit while many are trying to be upbeat, and campaigns for employee involvement are not attracting a big following.

Knowing that many plants are being consolidated and the hours will be changed to create longer commutes for both workers and customers, the ties to the community are being lost. All of this detracts from the usual festivity of the season. Customers are questioning higher rates of postage and complaining about slow delivery. The only answer we can give the public is that these are business decisions that will supposedly improve the bottom line. The “new” USPS no longer seems like a community service and the customers and employees are feeling it.



Postal News Briefs

Moving West Virginia P&DC Meets Political Resistance

The upcoming closing of West Virginia’s largest post office (800 workers) has met bipartisan opposition. Republican Senator Shelley Moore Capito and Democrat Senator Joe Manchin have made an alliance across the aisle on this critical issue demanding that the USPS not move the facility to Pennsylvania. Governor Jim Justice has praised the hardworking and trusted postal employees. The welfare of the workers and their families will be jeopardized, and the entire economy of West Virginia will be hurt if this move is made.

Public Inquiry on Changes to the Postal Network (Delivering for America 10-Year Plan) Established

In response to the issuance of Postmaster DeJoy’s Delivering for America 10-Year Plan, the Postal Regulatory Commission established a Public Inquiry Docket to create a forum to delve into DeJoy’s plan. The information was posted in April of 2023. Here are excerpts:

The Postal Regulatory Commission today established Public Inquiry Docket No. P12023-4 to provide a forum to gather information, provide transparency, and learn more about the Postal Service’s Delivering for America strategic initiatives that may have a significant impact on the postal community.

As part of this public inquiry, the Commission will seek on the Postal Service’s recently announced plans to create sorting and delivery centers to “reduce transportation and mail handling costs” by aggregating delivery units into “larger Sort and Delivery Centers with adequate space, docks, and material handling equipment to operate more efficiently.”

Interested parties who wish to propose questions regarding the planned initiatives associated with the Postal Service’s Strategic Plan, may do so via Docket P12023-4 by filing motions seeking information requests . . .

All materials associated with and filed in this proceeding will be available, where applicable, for review on the Commission’s website, prc.gov

Milk Run in Dairyland

As reported by SavethePostOffice.com the Postal Service responded to an information request by the Postal Regulatory Commission concerning the new Optimized Collections initiative. The response sheds a bit more light on the OC plan, but not much.

Under the current system, mail is transported early each morning from processing centers to 31,000 post offices, where it’s distributed to PO Boxes and sent out for delivery by letter carriers. In the evening, the process is reversed — the outgoing mail is collected from post offices and transported back to the processing centers.

Optimized Collections eliminates the evening collection of mail and parcels. The day’s mail will instead be collected the next morning, at the same time that the mail from the processing center is dropped off at the post office.

It’s essentially a “milk run” approach — pick up and drop off at the same stop — just as the milkman on his daily route would distribute full bottles and collect the empties, all at the same time.

The plan would eliminate the evening collection at thousands of the country’s post offices — almost all of them in rural areas — and slow down a significant portion of single-piece First Class mail and parcels.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 16

9am, 12pm, 3pm
Retirement & Federal Benefits Seminar
Register via form sent to all stations

Wednesday, January 17

5:30pm
General Membership Meeting
Via ZOOM

Wednesday, February 21

5:30pm
General Membership Meeting
Via ZOOM

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

Members Only!

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

****For news, upcoming events and more, visit our website at nymetro.org**

APWU LOCAL BLDG. CORP

Building Corp for the end of 2023 will be available in the February, 2024 issue.

SISTERS! As an APWU member, you are a member of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. (Post Office Women for Equal Rights). Prior to the pandemic, all sisters were invited to P.O.W.E.R. meetings at the Union Office on the 4th Thursday of every month at 1:00pm. Because of social distancing concerns, Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization, and Chairperson of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R., told the Union Mail that we would be holding the P.O.W.E.R. meetings on ZOOM at a later time -- 5:30 pm.



NEXT MEETINGS:

January 24th, 2024 at 5:30 pm
February 28th, 2024 at 5:30 pm
ZOOM Meeting ID #239-026-1053
[Follow ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.]

THANK YOU, Bernadette!



For over ten years, Bernadette Evangelist has been the graphic designer for NY Metro’s *The Union Mail*. The graphic designer is the person who makes the paper fit together and look good.

Bernadette not only had the training and expertise to do an outstanding job with our newspaper, but, even more important, she understood and believed in the issues we address: the importance of unions, the defense of women’s rights, the struggle against racism and injustice. Often she was the one who found historic photographs for the cover that pulled the theme of the issue together.

In addition to her artist’s eye, Bernadette had the skills to take beautiful photos at rallies, training sessions, conferences, and demonstrations. This gave visual life to our pages and members were happy to see themselves in action.

The Union Mail won many awards for its written articles and its layout. Bernadette used the Bobble-head dolls to mock Postmaster Generals who were working against the people’s Postal Service. She was able to find graphics to

illuminate our Briefs and other articles.

Bernadette Evangelist has been a tremendous asset to NY Metro Area Postal Union. She was out there on the front lines of many rallies and marches when, unfortunately, many of our members did not attend. And her dedication to The Union Mail kept her working long hours and sacrificing weekends.

The officers and members of NY Metro owe Bernadette a huge THANK YOU! Her political energy and fight to justice will bring us into contact for many years to come.



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