



The Union Mail

Vol. 63 No. 7 | October 2020

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.

Whose Post Office? The People's Post Office!



See pages 6 & 7

Why we march



Jonathan Smith

Pride is a feeling of honor and self-respect, a sense of personal worth. It is what each person should feel regardless of gender, race, cultural background, sexual orientation, or anything else that makes us different from what society considers the norm. Yet, we are often made to feel less than and discriminated against because we are different.

The March on Washington of 2020 was devised in part to build on the passion for racial justice that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. summoned when he delivered his “I Have a Dream” address 57 years ago from the lectern at the base of the Lincoln Memorial.

Dr. King’s March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom drew an audience of a quarter-million in 1963. The Commitment March did not approach that number, in part because the city was requiring quarantines for visitors from 27 states and much of the event was streamed live on the internet or broadcast.

Dr. King’s eldest son, Martin Luther King III, described our mission this way: “We need you to vote as if your lives, our livelihoods, our liberties depend on it. Because they do.” He told the crowd, “There’s a knee upon the neck of democracy, and our nation can only live so long without the oxygen of freedom.”

We need to demand a new national reckoning with hate and bigotry. The country’s problem was not too little police presence but far

too much. The protest sought to rally support for enacting the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, backed by House Democrats and the Congressional Black Caucus. The bill would overhaul law enforcement training and conduct rules to try to limit police misconduct and racial bias.

“We can’t ignore the moment that we’re in,” said Kristen Clarke, the president of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. “This is a march that is very much needed right now, given the fires that are raging as we deal with police violence, racial violence and voter suppression. It’s created almost a perfect storm.”

Senator Kamala Harris of California, the Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate, recorded a message that drew huge cheers from the protesters when it was played on large screens around the memorial. “The road ahead, it is not going to be easy,” she said. “But if we work together to challenge every instinct our nation has to return to the status quo, and combine the wisdom of longtime warriors for justice with the creative energy of young leaders today, we have an opportunity to make history, right here and right now.”

The event’s goals, included increasing voter registration and participation in the 2020 census and enacting a new version of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The protest in the streets of this country must lead to significant policy change. Structural racism is not addressed with talk or good will alone. “Feel-good” protest without significant action is an unacceptable resolve.

Things were summed up by Bridgett Floyd, George Floyd’s sister.

“What will be our legacy?” “Will our future generations remember you for your complacency or your inaction? Or will they remember you for your empathy, your leadership, your passion for weeding out the injustice and evil in our world?”

Yolanda Renee King, the 12-year-old daughter of Martin Luther King III, called for her generation to pick up her grandfather’s torch. “I want to call on the young people here to join me in pledging that we have only begun the fight, and that we will be the generation that moves from ‘me’ to ‘we,’” she said. “We are going to be the generation that dismantles systemic racism for once and for all, now and forever.”

We are marching in the spirit of Dr. King but also in the spirit of John Lewis to make “good trouble, necessary trouble.” This is why we march!

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:
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Cover photo by Bernadette Evangelist

LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT

Elected officials need to be watched, carefully

Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

As we go to press, the Postal Service has been the center of the news cycle, primarily because of the actions of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy in the face of the serious impact COVID-19 has had on the Postal Service. Outgoing PMG Brennan went before Congress calling for emergency relief for the USPS. New PMG DeJoy came into power and felt that the best thing he could do was to cut back on overtime, have a hiring freeze, and no longer prioritize the delivery of mail. It awoke the public to the Postal Service and the problems that DeJoy has caused.

The Postal Service needs financial relief from Congress, now. When Brennan spoke, she called for \$75 Billion in relief. \$25 billion to deal with the loss because of the pandemic; \$25 for infrastructure, especially upgrading trucks, many of which are 30 years old; and a no-strings credit line for \$25 billion as needed. Brennan's calls were supported by the bipartisan Postal Board of Governors, all Trump appointees. Despite this, Trump blocked any relief for the Postal Service. The Democratic House passed the Heroes Act which included \$25 billion in relief and another \$10 billion credit line. The Senate didn't deal with it. Subsequent to that, a bipartisan stand-alone bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME). The Postal Service Emergency Assistance Act (S4174) had 21 co-sponsors. It called for immediate

relief for the Postal Service up to \$25 billion. But for apparent political reasons, Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) had no interest in promoting Collins' bill.

As New York Metro Area Postal Union President Jonathan Smith says, "We don't deliver Republican or Democrat mail, we deliver America's mail." And for that reason, it is essential that any move to get financial relief for the Postal Service be fully bipartisan for it to have any chance of success.

When Postmaster DeJoy was trotted out for hearings before both the Senate's Homeland Security Committee and the House's Oversight and Reform Committee, he was asked some incriminating questions that he didn't handle well. There is a movement to have DeJoy resign or be fired. Major newspapers like the Boston Globe have called for his ouster. NYMAPU is not standing alone with the call that "DeJoy Must Go!"

In addition to the two hearings, the House scheduled a special session to deal with The Delivering for America Act (HR 8015). The bill aimed at calling back DeJoy's changes to postal procedures back to January 2020 and not allowing any new changes until

January 2021. It included \$25 billion in relief for the Postal Service but only as an afterthought. While there were 26 Republicans voting along with Democrats, making it technically a bipartisan bill, it was essentially not bipartisan because no Republicans were co-sponsors. There was apparently no outreach at the leadership level.

Journalists are reporting that the Republicans and Democrats have been in discussions with a stripped down, or "skinny" stimulus package. It has been reported that there is relief for the Postal Service, but it is only for \$10 billion. Most recently, there is a report that the Republican Senate will pass their own package that also includes \$10 billion in relief for the USPS.

\$10 billion is long way from \$75 billion, certainly a long way from \$25 billion, too. What happened? All we have to do is to go back to the original CARES Act. Republicans were intent upon giving financial stimulus to the richest Americans. The Democrat-led House approved it with a voice vote, and the Senate voted for it 96-0. The CARES Act was the only time that Democrats had leverage to make sure that the Postal Service could get the relief it needed. They decided it was more important not to stand up against the Republicans funding the wealthy, so they joined in wholeheartedly.

We have to stay vigilant. When we assess our elected officials, watch what they do. What they say, that's another story. ☐



In the centennial of women's right to vote: Use it!

By Flo Summergrad

August 18, 2020, marked 100 years since the 19th Amendment gave women in the U.S. the right to vote. The fight for women's suffrage was originally led by affluent white women who had the time to devote to this cause. But on March 25, 1911, the horrific Triangle fire in NYC's garment district galvanized a movement for workplace safety and the importance of the female vote.

Union activist Clara Lemlich put the connection between the lack of safety for women workers and their disenfranchisement into perspective: "The manufacturer has a vote; the bosses have votes; the foremen have votes; the inspectors have votes. The working girl has no vote. When she asks to have the building in which she must work made clean and safe, the officials do not have to listen."

The male government had ignored the dangerous conditions in which women were forced to work. 146 people—most very young immigrant women—were dead in minutes. Blocked aisles, no water, and locked doors killed 146 people—mostly young women in their teens and early twenties—who jumped to their deaths to escape the flames. The fact that this tragedy could have



been prevented outraged the public and acted as a catalyst to bring women together in a powerful effort for the vote. Nine years later, they prevailed.

But the 19th Amendment did not empower all women equally. In the South, white supremacy reigned at the polls. Until the Voting Rights Act of 1965, there were many places where black women, along with black men, were disenfranchised through racist manipulation of voting rules and outright terror tactics.

In 2020, women have the vote, but are still struggling for equality. Officials are still not listening to their voices during this COVID-19 crisis, where Congress plays politics with relief bills while wealthy companies have already been "bailed out" and

are even profiting from the pandemic. More than half the job losses since February have been female, and the crisis exposed the fact that a high percentage of women's jobs do not have paid sick leave or health insurance. Most single parents are single mothers, so the lack of child-care and school hit women harder than men. Even in two parent families, with children stuck at home with "shelter in place," it is mothers who are there for them, even if they are still working or working from home and taking care of kids at the same time.

One out of three women is an essential worker. Jobs that are largely "women's work" are in fields like health care, day care, elder care, hospitality, and teaching. To work, they have to choose to risk their health. This has been called "the first female recession," with the burden falling hardest on women of color. Latinas unemployment peaked at 20.2%; the jobless rate for black women was 16.5%; white women are suffering unemployment rates of 13.1%, which is still very high.

If there has ever been a time for women to make our votes count, it is now. VOTE! ☑

**On September 16, 2020,
the General Membership Meeting of the
New York Metro Area Postal Union
unanimously endorsed
JOE BIDEN/KAMALA HARRIS for
President/Vice-President of the U.S.**

★★★★ VOTE! ★★★★★
**VOTE as if your life depends
on it.**
BECAUSE IT DOES!
**VOTE as if your job depends
on it. BECAUSE IT DOES!**
★★★★ VOTE! ★★★★★

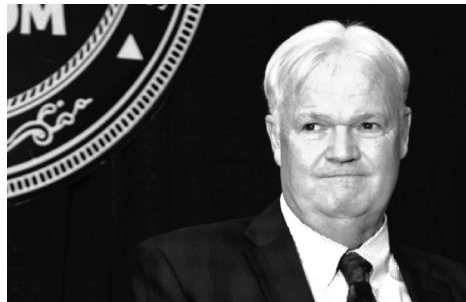
Telling the truth about PMG DeJoy

By Nora Taggart

David C. Williams, the former vice chairman of the USPS Board of Governors (BOG), testified on August 20 before the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Mr. Williams briefed the lawmakers on why he resigned from the board. He blamed the illegal takeover of the Postal Service by Secretary Treasury Steve Mnuchin on behalf of the Trump administration and how Mnuchin was turning the Postal Service “into a political tool, ending its long history as an apolitical infrastructure.”

Williams, who spent decades in DC as a government watchdog, was an advocate for good governance and transparency. Having worked under both Republican and Democrat administrations since 1989, he has served as Inspector General for five federal agencies, including the Treasury Department. He served as the Inspector General for the Postal Service from 2003 until 2016. He was appointed to the BOG in 2018 by President Trump.

He said Mnuchin “insisted that all Republican appointees for the Board of Governors and Postal Regulatory Commission come to his office to kiss the ring and receive his blessing before confirmation.” He also testified that Mnuchin “was keenly interested in labor agreements, postage pricing generally and especially the volume discounts being given to the Postal Service’s largest customers: Amazon, UPS and FedEx. He accused Mnuchin of using the \$10 billion credit line allocated to the USPS by Congress in the CARES Act to strong-arm the agency into transferring control of the agency to



David C. Williams

the Treasury.

In addition to President Trump’s demands that package prices be hiked by 400%, Mnuchin wanted the agency to adopt a pricing methodology known as “fully allocated cost,” an idea that came from UPS. If adopted, it would make the Postal Service non-competitive in package delivery.

When asked about vote-by-mail, Williams told lawmakers that before resigning (prior to DeJoy’s selection) the confidence level to handle vote-by-mail could not be higher. Because the COVID 19 crisis had caused a drop in advertising mail, the Postal Service had the capacity to respond to enhanced levels of vote-by-mail.

Williams described the unusual circumstances in which Louis DeJoy was selected as Postmaster General (PMG). He said that although the BOG had retained an outside firm to search for potential candidates and had brought forth several serious contenders, it was board member John Barger who suggested DeJoy. He described the two interviews DeJoy had with the governors as disastrous. Barger had to help DeJoy with his answers. Williams said of all the candidates they had interviewed, DeJoy appeared to be the least qualified. Mr. Williams was also con-

cerned that there wasn’t a background check done and that there were concerns that DeJoy’s company, which contracted with the agency, wasn’t billing correctly nor performing fully.

When asked by Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) if DeJoy was selected because he was a mega-donor of President Trump tasked with the specific function of degrading and destroying the USPS to respond to a political critic (Jeff Bezos) and to improve the financial conditions of competitors and ultimately to privatize it, Williams responded he didn’t know because most of those conversations happened outside of the BOG’s meetings, but that the dots needed to be put on the table and all connected.

David C. Williams expressed concerns that the combination of DeJoy’s sweeping destructive changes to the 250 year-old Postal Service after only being in his position for five weeks (which he compared to that of an enraged bull in a china shop) along with the President’s pledges and threats and promises and Mnuchin’s actions would be deadly. ***“If this is the beginning of what the President promised, it’s the end of the Postal Service.”***

Conflicts of interest

A lot has been said about DeJoy’s conflicts of interest but, little to nothing has been said about Treasury Secretary Mnuchin having \$132 million worth of shares in the exchange-traded S&P 500 funds. These funds are composed of 500 of the biggest American companies, including FedEx and UPS. ☐

Whose Post Office? The People's Post Louis DeJoy has got to go!

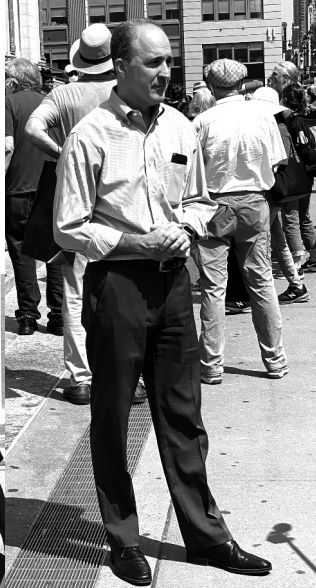
August 25, 2020 – People around the country demanded an end to forced mail delay and at least \$25 billion allotted to funding the people's post office. NY Metro made a strong statement in midtown Manhattan on August 25, demanding that elected officials **SAVE THE PUBLIC POST OFFICE**. Over a hundred postal workers and supporters rallied on the steps of the JAF Post Office, in front of its engraved motto: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

Members of grassroots organizations were there to let DeJoy know that the people of America **LOVE** the post office and **NEED** the mail! There was a chorus of Please Mr. Postman followed by speakers Vinnie Alvarez, President of the NYC Central Labor Council; Dennis O'Neil from the Moe Biller/Eleanor Bailey Retiree Chapter, and Jonathan Smith, President of NY Metro.

All voiced their outrage that the mail was being intentionally delayed. DeJoy's temporary reprieve until "after the election," is a farce. He says he will not restore mailboxes or sorting equipment that has been removed. And there is no sign that the coronavirus pandemic will be over on election day which means Americans will continue to depend on the USPS delivery of goods and medical supplies. And the holiday season means **GIFTS** that are mailed every year, but even more so in 2020 when people are not free to visit and socialize. ☐



Office! Hi, hi, ho, ho,



Photos by Claudia Del Aguilera and Kevin Walsh

Elections & Hatch Act Restrictions

The 1939 Hatch Act imposes restrictions on partisan political activity by federal employees (including postal employees). The APWU considers it an infringement on our rights and encourages us to press for Congressional reform. Under the hatch Act, when on the job or in postal uniform, you may NOT advocate for a candidate or party or display their election slogans. For example, you can put a candidate's bumper sticker on your personal vehicle, but not on a government vehicle that you drive. You MAY register and vote as you choose or be a member of a political club or party.

GENERAL PROHIBITED ACTIVITY

- **May NOT** be candidates in partisan elections.
- **May NOT** solicit, accept, or receive political contributions (including hosting or inviting others to political fundraisers) unless both persons are members of the same federal labor or employee organization, the person solicited is not a subordinate employee, the solicitation is for a contribution to the orga-

nization's political action committee, and the solicitation does not occur while on duty or in the workplace.

NO POLITICAL ACTIVITY AT WORK

Political activity is defined as any activity directed toward the success or failure of a partisan candidate, political party, or partisan political group. What is NOT political activity is discussion of legislation, ballot initiatives, non-partisan elections (like school boards). This means you can discuss issues but not candidates.

■ **May NOT** engage in political activity while on duty, in the workplace, wearing a uniform or official insignia, or in a government vehicle. For example:

- **May NOT** wear, display, or distribute partisan materials or items.
- **May NOT** perform campaign-related chores.
- **May NOT** make political contributions.
- **May NOT** use email or social media to engage in political activity


OFF DUTY (and not in the workplace) YOU MAY:

- ✓ contribute money to political par-

tis, campaigns, or partisan groups

- ✓ attend political rallies, meetings, or fundraisers
- ✓ sign nominating petitions
- ✓ follow, like, or comment on the social media pages of a candidate for partisan office, political party, or partisan group
- ✓ circulate nominating petitions
- ✓ work as campaign volunteers
- ✓ distribute campaign literature
- ✓ organize campaign events
- ✓ speak on behalf of a candidate
- ✓ serve as delegate to a party convention
- ✓ Organize party events
- ✓ serve on a party committee


NOTE: No one is allowed to use their official authority or influence to affect the outcome of an election. Your supervisor or manager cannot pressure you on how to vote.

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) administers Hatch Act guidelines. **Questions? Refer to the APWU guidelines on the Hatch Act. OR you can call or email the OSC: Phone: (800) 85-HATCH (202) 804-7002 or email: hatchact@osc.gov** 

SUPPORTING BLACK LIVES MATTER IS NOT A HATCH ACT VIOLATION

Black Lives Matter is NOT covered under Hatch Act restrictions! The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) in Washington, DC, explains why. "The Hatch Act prohibits employees from engaging in political activity while on duty or in the federal workplace. 'Political activity' is activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, partisan political group, or candidate for partisan political office."

Using BLM terminology in the workplace is not political activity in this sense. The various organizations under the umbrella of BLM are not partisan political groups. This is considered "issue advocacy." In 2016, Black Lives Matter Global Network opted not to endorse either Presidential candidate. Instead, they directed work toward voter registration and education on issues. It does not matter that this issue may be associated more with one party or another. Legally, this is not a partisan political group.

The OSC states that "this means that an employee is not prohibited by the Hatch Act from expressing support for, or opposition to, the BLM movement while on duty or in the workplace, as long as that position is not linked to "This means you should vote for Candidate X in November." "Black Lives Matter" is a hot button issue, but NOT a campaign slogan. 

Players' strike boosts the movement for racial justice

By Flo Summergrad

The public surge of outrage against racist police violence has become a movement. With the latest round of wildcat strikes by pro athletes, people are not only seeing players stand up for “Black Lives Matter,” but also that labor can have power. The Milwaukee Bucks met in the locker room before a playoff game and crafted a statement why they refused to play in the aftermath of the police shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin – an hour away from their home stadium. Blake, who was unarmed, was shot seven times in the back and lies paralyzed.

Inspired by the Bucks, another Milwaukee team, the Brewers, decided they wanted to do more than wear jerseys in support of Black Lives Matter. Christian Yelich, who is white, spoke about having to live what you believe. “What you saw here today was us coming here collectively as a group and making a statement for change.”

In New York, on a night when other sports teams boycotted play, Mets outfielder Dominic Smith knelt alone during the national anthem. The team played, but afterwards, a tearful Smith spoke emotionally about the pain he felt at the shooting in Kenosha and the need to support the strikers. The next night, after the Mets and Marlins took the field for a 42-second moment of silence to honor Jackie Robinson, the player who broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball, the teams walked off, leaving a Black Lives Matter shirt covering home plate.



The surge had become a veritable tsunami of protest.

In LA, when Dodger outfielder Mookie Betts, the team’s only African American, said he was going to sit out the game, the other 27 men in the clubhouse joined him in the protest. All games for August 26 and 27 were cancelled. Then, Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer, Hockey and the WNBA joined the strike. Tennis star Naomi Osaka withdrew from the Western & Southern Open tournament in the U.S. in support, saying she is a black woman first, and an athlete second.

This was a moment in time when athletes stood in a united front against league management. Basketball players openly stated they were “withholding their labor” – a strike that is illegal in their contracts with the NBA. And because they stood together representing something much larger than a demand for their personal paychecks, NBA management could not fire them. This was the power of solidarity in a context that made all working people stronger.

In 2016, Colin Kaepernick was forced out of the NFL for his gesture of protest against racial injustice. Yet 4 years later whole teams are taking up the cause. David Zirin wrote in *The Nation*, “What these players are doing is nothing less than striking for Black lives. They’re using their power as workers to protest not only the police shootings of Blake and the white supremacist terrorism in Kenosha, but also the fact that ‘nothing is changing.’” Players are challenging owners to use their resources to put on political pressure.

LeBron James has been a leader in using his status as a player to bring attention to racial injustice. On the eve of the basketball playoffs, his team, the Lakers, and the LA Clippers were pushing to strike the rest of the season. The loss of these major contenders would have effectively ended the playoffs and cost the league big money.

Players Association President Chris Paul reached out to ex-US President Barack Obama for advice Obama met with a group of player activists, including LeBron. According to his spokesperson, he called the strike “brave and inspiring,” but persuaded them to leverage their influence into another forum -- a “social justice committee.”

While the decision to continue basketball playoffs stemmed the tide of the rising strike movement, the struggle is not over. Black Lives Matter has lit up America. It should light up the entire labor movement. ☒

POSTAL PRIDE

High praise from the Office of the Inspector General

The OIG Report of September 10, 2020, validates our Postal Pride, both today and historically. The OIG examined how the USPS has continued in its mission for the American public during this pandemic even though postal workers themselves have been victims of COVID 19. The report explains that during this disaster, postal workers have been delivering medicine, medical supplies (including COVID test kits), food, and necessities to even the most isolated communities. Having a functioning Postal Service gives people comfort, because it is “an important sign of a return to normalcy.”

USPS is essential:

“As a vital part of the nation’s emergency response structure, the Postal Service ensures that mail operations—a lifeline for impacted communities needing access to medications and essential items—are restored after an emergency or natural disaster.

“The Postal Service, and the Post Office Department before it, have supported the American public during crises since the early days of the republic, from distributing the smallpox vaccine in the early 1800s to delivering essential items during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.”

The Report calls the Postal Service “a backbone” for the economy as people have had to rely on e-commerce. “Ensuring the continuation of mail service during this challenging time is helping to keep the American public stay safe, secure, and connected.”

Postal News Briefs

UN URGES SUPPORT FOR POSTAL AND AIR CARGO OPERATORS

On September 1, 2020, the UN agencies concerned with international shipping issued a joint statement stressing the importance of maintaining an efficient delivery service during the pandemic. To ensure that this happens, they recommended that national governments provide resources and regulatory flexibility to postal and air cargo operations during the current crisis. Clearly, the \$25 billion to keep the US Postal Service functioning should be provided to maintain efficient delivery service.



CONGRESSWOMAN DENIED ENTRY TO S. FLORIDA MAIL PLANT

September 4 – Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL) was barred by postal police from entering two mail processing plants in South Florida. Her visit was based on photos sent to her by the local Mail Handlers Union, which showed stacks of delayed mail including medical supplies.



A postal spokesperson cited “short notice” as the reason for telling a member of Congress that she would be escorted off the property if she did not leave. Apparently there was not enough time to hide the backlogged mail -- something San Antonio postal workers were ordered to do in August before a Congressman visited.

As a member of the oversight committee that has jurisdiction over the Postal Service, Wasserman-Schultz had a sharp interchange with PMG DeJoy at his appearance before Congress. She called his testimony “dishonest.”

HISTORIC POSTAL MURALS BEING COVERED

The USPS has begun a process of covering over 80-year-old murals, possibly with the intent of removing them from the walls of post offices in 12 states, from Florida to upstate New York. Artists were commissioned to paint these during the 1930s. They depict the history of Americans at work in the fields, the factories, and the docks. These works of art have been reproduced as stamps and in books of paintings.



An “artwork workgroup” of high-level United States Postal Service (USPS) officials, including attorneys and USPS’s Federal Preservation Officer have removed the paintings from public view by covering them with dark plastic sheets, which look like huge garbage bags hanging on the wall.

This is being done without explanation or input from people in the communities who use these post offices. Whatever the reason, this art belongs to the public and its removal should not be decided behind closed doors by a secret club.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 21

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting
via Zoom

Wednesday, November 18

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting
via Zoom

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

Members Only!

- Download Zoom App
- Open link
- Enter Meeting ID #548-304-2304
- Mute audio

ALL COVID-19 MOUs extended through December 31, 2020!

SISTERS! As an APWU member, you are a member of NY METRO P.O.W.E.R. (P.O.W.E.R. stands for Post Office Women for Equal Rights.)



Prior to the pandemic, all sisters were invited to P.O.W.E.R. meetings at the Union Office at 1:00 pm, the 4th Wednesday of every month. We are working on alternatives.

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

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of August 1, 2020	\$1,577,916.15
Total Revenue August 2020	\$ 235,002.76
Operating Expenses August 2020	\$ 211,925.79
Total Net Income August 2020	\$ 23,076.97
Ending Balance Augst 31, 2020	\$1,600,993.12

Update on FFCRA for childcare

Due to the various school opening conditions, the Department of Labor has updated the conditions for eligibility for the Family First Coronavirus Response Act. If you are someone with childcare problems due to school closings, please read the full information on the APWU website. However, in a nutshell, if your child's school is open only a few days a week, you may use the FFCRA leave intermittently for the days the child is learning at home. If the school has not yet decided to re-open, you may use the FFCRA leave while it is pending. However, IF the school is open and you CHOOSE to keep your child home, you are NOT eligible for this leave.

Temporary MOU expands AL Carry Over

A new MOU between the APWU and the USPS increases the number of hours craft workers can carry over to 520. This year ONLY! In addition, for the beginning of 2021 only, eligible workers will be able to exchange 80 hours of leave instead of 40. (NOTE: The requirement for Leave Exchange remains 440.)

The objective of these changes is to enable people to come to work during the pandemic without losing excess AL.

PAY INCREASE

4th COLA as of August 29, 2020

(remember that PSEs do not get COLA)

Monthly Tracking	Amount
Per Annum	\$208.00
Per Pay Period	\$8.00
Cents Per Hour	\$0.10

POSTAL EMPLOYEES RELIEF FUND



The news is filled with terrifying scenes of destruction:

- Forest fires in the Western states.
- Hurricanes flooding the Gulf states.

The Postal Employees Relief Fund is a way to give assistance to fellow postal families who are losing everything.

MISSION STATEMENT

To aid postal employees and retirees whose homes are completely destroyed or left uninhabitable as a result of a major natural disaster or house fire. When disaster strikes and all is lost, PERF is committed to helping postal families rebuild their lives. No state has been exempt. We are all potential victims.

Give through CFC #10268 or mail a check to PERF!

Donations and Applications: PERF, PO Box 7630, Woodbridge VA 22195, 202-408-1869, perf10268@aol.com



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NAME: _____ FACILITY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS: _____

All workers and customers: Report delayed mail!
SEE SOMETHING! SAY SOMETHING! DO SOMETHING!
delayedmail@nymetro.org
(See page 8 for details)

unionmail@nymetro.org