



The

# Union Mail

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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.

## NY Metro Area representatives wear Dump DeJoy T-shirts at 2022 Labor Notes Conference



Story on page 11

**NYS APWU CONVENTION PASSES "DUMP DeJOY" RESOLUTION UNANIMOUSLY! See page 4**

# The great postal heist



Jonathan Smith

**B**efore we could celebrate President Biden signing the Postal Service Reform Act, Postmaster General DeJoy announced that he was raising the cost of the stamp in July, 2022, from

58 cents to 60 cents. PMG DeJoy said he would continue to raise rates until the agency becomes self-sufficient.

It is my understanding that the newly signed postal legislation is supposed to save the Postal Service \$50 billion dollars over the next decade, so what does PMG DeJoy mean when he says he will keep raising rates on postal products until the Postal Service is self-sufficient?

The price hikes are not needed to make the Postal Service self-sufficient, but they are needed to accomplish PMG DeJoy's ultimate plan -- privatization of the Postal Service.

The first step to accomplishing the goal of privatizing the USPS is to erode public confidence in the Postal Service. Long lines, higher prices, and slower delivery service are sure to accomplish this goal. How is DeJoy's plan of raising prices while degrading the service better for the American people?

When I started working for the Postal Service in the late 80's, there was a standard that all First Class mail would be delivered in 3 days. We took pride in the US Postal Service being the best in the world. Now instead of fighting to keep that standard of excellence, the PMG has decided to lower the bar and ques-

tion the intelligence of the American people by telling them they are getting the same service that they have always gotten. When people hear I work for the Postal Service, they ask me "What's the matter with my mail?" "Why are there such long lines?"

Customers have no idea that we are so short staffed; they have no idea that mail is taking longer to deliver because PMG DeJoy increased the delivery standard by two days. So even though the mail is obviously slower, it is being reported as delivered "on time."

Phase 2 of this plan is the Surface Transfer Centers (STCs). The public drops packages at the post office window, but instead of being sent to the Postal Service processing plants, the mail is rerouted to the STC centers, which employ non-union workers doing postal work for much less money and with less training and security. This might sound familiar. It was called Staples. The Postal Service claims the mail volume is declining -- maybe because the package mail is not going to the Postal Service. I don't think it is a coincidence that since the STC centers have come online that OT is slowly disappearing.

The USPS does not have to raise rates to get more income. We could just provide more services to the American people, such as issuing hunting and fishing licenses, providing broadband service and electric vehicle charging stations. And here is a good one that we have demanded for years: postal banking!

So instead of a postal rebirth after the Postal Service Reform Act, we are in the midst of a great postal heist, while the leaderships of all the

national postal union have fallen for the PMG's charm and phony concern for the US Postal Service. DeJoy set the trap by negotiating fairly decent new contracts and then helping to convince the Republicans to support postal reform legislation. At the same time, behind the scenes, this PMG has contracted out our work to his buddies at XPO logistics and other trucking companies. He has taken all the mail off planes and loaded it on trucks; he has removed mail processing machines; he is closing stations and consolidating plants.

It reminds me of a story of a woman who found an injured snake on the road and nursed it back to health. One day the snake bit her. When she asked the snake, "Why would you do that after all I did for you?" The snake replied "You knew I was a snake when you picked me up!"

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## LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT:

# DeJoy is still with us

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

Most people were encouraged when the Postal Reform Act of 2022 (PRA) was signed into law by President Biden because it would save the USPS \$50 billion over the next ten years. The PRA received bipartisan support and would enable the USPS to update its infrastructure. The public understood that six-day delivery was now permanent and the Postal Service would now be financially stable. It all looks good, except to Postmaster General (PMG) Louis DeJoy.

PMG DeJoy told the American people that, despite the new legislation, they should get used to the fact that there will be “uncomfortable” postage increases for years to come. DeJoy gave the keynote address at the National Postal Forum (NPF) on May 16, 2022, in Phoenix, where he detailed his plans for the future of the Postal Service which would “consolidate” the postal service and “centralize” service.

DeJoy made it clear that he is planning to significantly reduce the number of processing plants, close annexes, cut back on mail delivery units in major cities and “repurpose” existing sites. As he presented in his “Delivering for America: Our Vision and Ten-Year Plan to Achieve Financial Sustainability and Service Excellence,” DeJoy stated that “Our current processing plant and transportation network is, well, not good.” He promised to raise prices, close plants, and cut back hours of service at post

offices, all of which will contribute to slower mail service to the public.

Should we be concerned? Since most of our jobs in the APWU are processing and transporting mail, we should be very concerned. Since Louis DeJoy is still Postmaster General, his stated plans cannot be ignored. Remember, DeJoy has a long history of being anti-union, and when he first took office as PMG, he instituted dramatic cuts in service, including the elimination of overtime. DeJoy’s cutbacks were so damaging that he was called before Congress to explain what he was doing. Members of Congress and leaders of public organizations were calling for DeJoy to be fired. Lawsuits by national organizations and State Attorneys General were brought against him.

### Dumping DeJoy can’t wait

The national postal unions’ leadership were not part of the call for DeJoy to be removed from office. Supposedly, with union contracts to be negotiated, and postal legislation in the works, the union leaders could have decided not to take on DeJoy. But now with the Postal Reform Act

of 2022 enacted into law and the APWU and NALC having negotiated contracts successfully with the USPS, this could finally be the time for the union leaders to hold DeJoy accountable. They still have decided not to do so. Rank and file postal workers know what DeJoy’s policies have meant to them. Why are the national leaders so removed from what their members want? The leaders still support DeJoy as he plans for the long-term privatization of the Postal Service. Why?

The National Postal Forum describes itself as being “a group of major postal customers/mailers who were committed to an ongoing partnership with the USPS.” These are the people with whom Louis DeJoy is most comfortable. It makes sense that when you are a career business person who has accumulated \$110 million in personal worth and donated millions to Republican national candidates that you would feel connected with other wealthy business people. Recipients of donations from DeJoy and his wife, Aldona Wos, have included Donald Trump, the Republican Party and Senate Majority/Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

DeJoy made it clear to his fellow business leaders at the Postal Forum, that he will make the Postal Service more “efficient” by eliminating postal jobs and “centralizing” (reducing) postal locations. DeJoy is personally irked by how many postal loca-

*continued on page 9*





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# NYS APWU passes resolution to remove Louis DeJoy as PMG

New York State APWU will introduce a resolution at the 2022 APWU National Convention calling for the removal of Louis DeJoy as Postmaster General of the United States.

The resolution was introduced by New York Metro Area Postal Union at the 2022 New York State APWU Convention and was passed unanimously. Below is the resolution. ☐

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## **RESOLUTION BY THE AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO, TO CALL FOR THE REMOVAL OF LOUIS DEJOY AS POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES'**

Proposed: (DATE)

**Whereas** the Postal Service had paid \$286 million to XPO Logistics in the seven years before Louis DeJoy was appointed Postmaster General of the United States. During that time. Mr. DeJoy was employed by XPO Logistics as a top executive, and Mr. DeJoy and his family-owned tens of millions of dollars in stock in XPO Logistics; and

**Whereas** Mr. DeJoy still retained between \$30 million and \$75 million in stock in XPO Logistics once he became Postmaster General June 15, 2020, and in his first ten weeks as Postmaster General, the Postal Service increased its business with XPO Logistics by \$10 million, at the same time that the new Postmaster General was instituting policies that deliberately delayed the mail, removing mail sorting machines and mail collection boxes and reducing retail post office hours; and

**Whereas** Postmaster DeJoy on March 23, 2021, unveiled his plan: *Delivering For America Our Vision and Ten-Year Plan to Achieve Financial Sustainability and Service Excellence*, which institutionalized higher postage rates, slower services, and reduced post office hours as a means of saving money; and

**Whereas** in April 2021, the Postal Service awarded a \$120 million contract to XPO Logistics to oversee operations at two "crucial" sorting and distribution facilities in Atlanta and Washington, D.C. while DeJoy's family businesses continued to lease four North Carolina office buildings to XPO which could amount to \$23.7 million in rent payments over the next ten years; and

**Whereas** in April 2022, when the Postal Reform Act was signed into law, and it was hailed for relieving financial pressure on the Postal Service, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy warned Americans to get used to "uncomfortable" postage rate increases in the upcoming years; and

**Whereas** in May of 2022, Postmaster General DeJoy addressed the National Postal Forum whereby exposing his plans, "We are laser focused on our transformation. We will become much more efficient and operate at lower cost. We will support mail innovation and add more value to each mail piece. We will grow volume and fill our trucks with mail and packages to better sustain our business. We are working hard to be the high-performing organization you need us to be, and we know we can be." DeJoy will partially accomplish this by eliminating post offices in New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Cleveland, and the other locations where there are "40 locations within a ten-mile radius."; and

**Whereas** it is now clear that if Postmaster General Louis DeJoy remains in office that postal customers will be receiving slower service while having to travel to a "centralized" location to conduct postal business. The massive savings that DeJoy is promising can only come from the elimination of union postal jobs which pay living wages and benefits including retirement.; and

**Whereas** Postmaster General DeJoy throughout his tenure has been brought before the courts and Congress on multiple occasions to be investigated, and to explain his unwarranted cutbacks in service to the American people, his repeated appearances of impropriety in his financial dealing, which has brought disgrace to the Postal Service and the position of Postmaster General.

**Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO calls for the immediate removal of Louis DeJoy as Postmaster General of the United States.

**Submitted by the New York State, APWU**

# STC private contracts: U.S. Mail processed in secret?

On October 1, 2021, the Postal Service moved STC (Surface Transport Center) operations from the New Jersey NDC to a private plant in Phillipsburg, NJ. This was one of 13 contracted out STCs around the country, which solicited Postal supervisors and managers to run the operations, based on the knowledge they had acquired working for the USPS.

Just before that, on September 29, 2021, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released an audit report on the “Contractor Security Clearances at Surface Transport Centers.” The objective was to determine whether the Postal Service “properly issued security clearances to contractor personnel at STCs.” They sum up that the purpose of the STCs is to “assist” the USPS in maximizing the utilization of vehicles and their capacity to transport mail. At the time of the audit, over 1,000 contractor personnel were performing mail processing operations.

Despite the privatized nature of the new STCs, the OIG explains that **“The Postal Service is obligated to maintain the security of the mail and preserve the public trust.”** Yet the audit revealed that the security clearance procedures were not always followed with STC contractor personnel. Even when they allegedly performed the security checks required by the Postal Inspection Service, they did not always retain the documents supporting that the steps were conducted. (Pretty suspicious.)

There was no clear system for

reporting and review. Without this, the Postal Service was unable to verify whether these contractor personnel met the standards required. Even favorable security clearance based on “unverified or incomplete background screening steps could place the safety and security of Postal Service and STC contractor personnel, mail, and Postal Service information at risk.”

Although the OIG recommended improvements to this clearance process, these uncleared contractors had and have access to the U.S. Mail. While the lowest ranking postal workers – non-career PSEs, MHAs, and CCAs – are required to be screened before hiring, and again screened when they are converted to career, the process for these contract employees is loose and insecure.

## Where is the mail?

The mystery shrouding the STC in Phillipsburg, NJ, is raising some serious concerns about contracting out our postal work. While all reports are showing that parcel volume is increasing, the parcels going through the NDC are at an all time low. So where is the mail?

When Staples had non-postal workers handling the U.S. Mail, the issue was straight up in the face of the public. Untrained, low wage employees were performing the duties of SSAs (Service and Sales Associates, aka window clerks). The security and sanctity of the mail were openly in question. In an interview, the Postmaster General admitted that customers’ letters and parcels were not officially “mail”

until they were in the postal mail-stream.

The Phillipsburg STC’s connection to the mail is more insidious. The building is off the beaten path, hard to access, and closed to the public. What is going on in there? What mail is being handled by non-postal untrained, poorly paid workers?

We hear that the Phillipsburg STC is even handling Registered Mail. This rumor is given credence by the fact that the Registered Mail cage at the NDC is virtually empty. Yet this is supposed to be the premiere product of the USPS. It is advertised as the most secure (and most expensive) way to mail high value items.

Registered mail is highly regulated through the DM901 Handbook. DM 901.7-3.2.1 specifies that only authorized career postal employees may handle registered mail. Security concerns are paramount. Yet the STC workforce is not secure. The fact that some postal supervisors and managers work there does not give the U.S. Mail the protection that the public has the right to expect from the Postal Service. What mail is going through these STCs and who is handling it?

It is clear that the early concerns about the contracting out of the STCs focused on the loss of bid jobs for Bulk Mail Dock Clerks and Mail Handlers. Yet there was little mention of mail processing functions in the Phillipsburg building. This seems to be a backdoor method of privatizing the mail operations. ☒

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# APWU organizing campaign: Building Union Power

**K**now a non-member? Bring up an issue they care about and picture the union bringing it to management. How strong is a steward who only has a few workers behind her? If she has ten out of ten, she has real union power.

Ask co-workers why they don't join the Union. These are the lame excuses you usually get. As a dues-paying member, how would you answer them?

1. I don't have the money.
2. I get the same protections anyway
3. I dropped out when I didn't get my overtime/my bid/my way.
4. I don't like the steward.
5. I don't get in trouble.

Our strength as a union does not depend on great leaders. It depends on the membership. You may not know the percentage of union members in the workforce. But for sure

top management knows. They track how many people sign up and how many don't. If someone drops out, they score it as a point for their team against the workers.

## A chain is as strong as its weakest link

Think of a piece of fabric. If it is tight knit and whole, it is strong. If there are holes and loose threads, it can be torn easily.

Or think of an army. Deserters weaken the army's fighting force.

We make the mistake of looking at non-membership as a passive act. Just saying no. But in fact, NOT joining the Union, or dropping out of the Union, strikes a blow for management against everything the APWU has won for postal workers. APWU Organization Director Anna Smith tells it like it is:

■ "When you and I stand for living

wages so we can provide for ourselves and our families, the non-member is standing against us.

■ When you and I stand for safe working conditions, the non-member is standing against us.

■ When you and I stand for affordable health care for our families, the non-member is standing against us.

■ When you and I stand for Sick, Annual, and Family Medical Leave, the non-member is standing against us.

■ When you and I stand for work-hours and schedules that permit for home life, the non-member is standing against us."

Right now, the APWU is conducting an organizing drive. Anna Smith has prepared organizing packets for our members to use. Find out who the non-members are in your area. (You may be surprised!) See how many you can sign up! ☑

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## APWU says: Don't let them "Check Your Pulse!"

**O**nce again, the Postal Service is conducting its Postal Pulse Survey from June 14 to July 15, 2022. The survey asks your opinions about the USPS and your job supposedly to get your "valuable feedback."

Don't be fooled! The cover letter links this to Postmaster General DeJoy's Ten Year Plan, portraying it as a positive future for the USPS,

customers, and employees. In fact, the Plan projects higher prices, slower delivery, and closing and consolidation of post offices. The survey does not seek to find out our opinions on these actions but will be used to say that postal employees are pleased with the way things are going.

Nowhere does this solicitation tell you that the "Pulse" Survey is VOL-

UNTARY. You do not have to participate and the APWU has always recommended against it because the data gets skewed to show whatever management wants. It is completely up to you, not to the supervisor. If you are ordered to complete the survey, ask for your shop steward. ☑  
[Read the articles on the Ten Year Plan on pages 2, 3, and 4 of this Union Mail.]



# My trip to the New York State Convention

By Cassandra Black, Assistant Director, NJI&NDC

**T**he NYS Convention was great! We conducted state business, voted on several resolutions submitted by President Smith and Director of Organization Diane Erlanger, and heard updates from several national officers. MVS NBA Joe LaCapria announced his retirement. Though the Northeast area was his home, Joe was very helpful to me and quite a few MVS Shop Stewards and APWU Officers across the nation. He will be sorely missed. Joe, along with NYS President Resitaris, and Queens Local's Ron Suslak were given beautiful crystal awards for services rendered to our great locals.

We also voted in a new NY State Maintenance Director, our own NY

Metro Maintenance Director Glenda Morris. Brooklyn Local's Tanya Jackson was nominated for NYS Treasurer. All officers made it in unopposed. Congratulations to all the NYS Officers and good luck in your term of office. We celebrated with a cookout that was relaxing and fun. It felt good to be around other officers, conducting business in person and unwinding after that awful COVID season. I like Zoom conferences, but I am sick of them right about now! Even the scenery on the ride up to Liverpool and back to NYC was beautiful. We practiced social distancing on the bus, and at the conference with everyone maintaining a good dis-

tance between each other, masks included. All in all, it was a good conference. I can't wait for our APWU National Convention!

*Editor's Note: Thirteen of NY Metro Area Postal Union's officers were delegates to the NY State Convention, held from June 1-4, 2022. This is an important meeting where the delegates discuss and vote on Resolutions to bring to the National Convention in August. We were well represented by full and part-time officers from all three crafts: Jonathan Smith, Joseph Martir, Ed Dalton, Diane Erlanger, Jacqueline Owens, Deborah Bethea, Cassandra Black, Daisy DeGout, Denise Holland, Glenda Morris, Naimah Mustafaa, Kim Smith, and Sherell Taitte-Pridgen.*



**NY Metro Area Postal Union delegates to the New York State Convention at Liverpool, NY**

# Stand up for safe jobs!

**H**ave you had supervisors or managers warn you not to report safety issues? “You will get in trouble.” OR “You will get me [your supervisor] in trouble.” OR “The Post Office will get in trouble/close.” OR “This is not a safety issue.” OR “The Union is just making problems.”

These are lies! Don’t be intimidated. You have the right to a safe workplace.

Just in the 50 years of NY Metro Area Postal Union, four of our members were killed on the job. All were victims of unsafe conditions that were ignored by management. MH Mike McDermott’s body was pulled into the gears of a belt where the limit switch was disabled to move the mail faster. MPE Ed Domingo was crushed in an unguarded conveyor. TTO Guillermo Gonzales was robbed and murdered on a remittance run with no security. Clerk Nadia Assad was run over in a poorly lit

parking lot.

Countless other postal workers from our Local and around the country have been crippled or maimed by unsafe conditions on the job. How dare any supervisor tell you NOT to report safety violations?

## Learn and use your safety tools

■ **Union grievance.** The Union can file a safety grievance under Article 14 directly to Step 2, Once you notify the supervisor, the clock starts ticking. If it is not corrected within the tour, ask the Union to file.

■ **1767.** File a PS 1767 (Report of Unsafe Condition or Practice) which must be answered and a **copy given to you within 24 hours.**

■ **OSHA.** Every worker has the right to complain to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The Postal Service is bound by OSHA standards. Under the Biden administra-

tion, OSHA has been able to double the number of inspectors who can investigate. The complaints must be posted for employees to see.

■ **Proper training and PPE.** Make sure you are properly trained for the job you’re assigned and are issued the Personal Protective Equipment to work safely. (gloves, bumpcaps, masks, eyeshields, etc.)

■ **JSA.** Every job is required to have a Job Safety Analysis (JSA). This explains the steps of the job and the risks to avoid. If you bid or are moved to a new assignment, the JSA should be available so you can do it safely.

## The APWU slogan is: Stand Up for Safe Jobs!

That means you have to protect your own health and safety. Don’t trust that management is doing things right. If there seems to be a safety problem, ASK! If you don’t get a clear answer, ask for a steward. ☒

## A COLLECTIVE EFFORT—AN AWARD-WINNING PAPER

**T**he *Union Mail* continues to be an award winning newspaper. In the most recent Metro NY Labor Communications contest for labor journalism, we won in six categories. Chuck Zlatkin, who is both the Associate Editor of *The Union Mail* and NY Metro’s Legislative and Political Director, won First Place for Best News Writing and Best Headline. This is not just about getting recognition and a plaque for our office. It is important because his winning article, “NY Metro Area Postal Union and Postal Banking,”

will be published in the annual magazine that goes to all the participating organizations. This means that thousands of members of other unions in and around NYC will learn the importance of postal banking. (*UM Nov/Dec 2021*)

Second Place for President Jonathan Smith’s Op-Ed, “Step Up or Shut Up!” (*UM Nov/Dec 2021*). Flo Summergrad got Honorable Mention for her feature on “The Right to Vote Matters” (*UM May/June 2021*) and Third Place for the monthly Postal Pride column.

Best Photograph “Dump DeJoy, Bounce Bloom Rally” by Pamela Drew, (*top center cover UM Oct. 2021*)

We should all be proud of these awards. The competition was stiff. Many large unions hire professional journalists for their publications. As much as possible, *The Union Mail* relies on our own postal workers and supporters. That is why we welcome the skills (photos, cartoons, articles) and IDEAS of our members. Chuck Zlatkin’s First Place headline sums it up: “Help is NOT on the way. It’s up to us!” ☒



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# 2022 APWU Election of National Officers: VOTE! Your vote is your voice.

**T**he election of our APWU National Officers is just around the corner. Ballots will be mailed out in September to every member of the APWU, including the PSEs. This is your chance to have a voice in who will lead our Union in the major struggles ahead.

The excuse of “I don’t know them,” is heard in every union election. But, guess what! That “excuse” is no excuse. You will have every opportunity to learn about the candidates, what they have done, and what they stand for. There will be published statements in *The American Postal Worker* – the APWU magazine that comes to your house. There will be campaign literature with the slogans and positions of the people running. There will be



opinions and debate among your co-workers as to who to support and why.

It is your obligation to read, to pay attention, to think about what you want from your Union. And then to VOTE. The APWU makes it easy. The secret ballot comes to your home with simple instructions. All you have to do is mark it and mail it. No postage required.

Unions are democratic organizations. Still, many unions limit voting for officers to elected Convention

delegates. The American Postal Workers Union listens to the voice of each member! You get to vote for your choice with no middleman. One man, one vote! One woman, one vote! This is what democracy looks like.

The more members of our Local who vote, the stronger our voice is in the National APWU. The Locals that turn out the vote show an active membership. That gets respect from the National when a Local needs attention on a particular issue.

Feel the power of using your Vote. That’s what it means to be part of a democratic process. Get involved now and you will be prepared to vote in the November elections. The midterm Congressional elections will be highly contested and very important. VOTE! Your vote is your voice. Don’t be silent. ☑

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## DeJoy is still with us

*continued from page 3*

tions exist in major cities like New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit and Cleveland -- cities where we have many members working and many people. DeJoy’s business model of the USPS disregards the historic role of the Post Office in our communities. Post offices were built as hubs for rural villages and city neighborhoods. The network provides a vital service and has been

the only method of locating people in a disaster. The post office is the most popular and trusted federal agency, because it is a visible symbol of the government serving the people.

DeJoy’s aims to remake the Postal Service at the expense of our living wage jobs and our customers. His Ten Year Plan will ruthlessly gut the mission of the public Postal

Service –binding the nation together through universal and affordable communication. The post office’s reputation has been developed over 250 years. It can be destroyed in a decade unless we stop PMG DeJoy in his tracks.

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy must not be underestimated, he is still in his position as PMG and he is acting as arrogant as ever. ☑

## POSTAL PRIDE

### Keep SERVICE in our Postal Service

**O**n March 3, 1947, Congress authorized the Postmaster General to “establish one or more branch post offices. . . in any city. . . for the convenience of the inhabitants.” This concept of post offices for public access is completely missing from Postmaster Louis DeJoy’s Ten-Year Plan for the USPS. His “Delivering for America” plan is anything but.

The mission of the USPS is to provide the American public with trusted, affordable, universal service. This Universal Service Obligation (USO), is what differentiates the Postal Service from any other carrier and what makes postal workers proud of what we do.

So when Postmaster General Louis DeJoy speaks gleefully about raising prices “at an uncomfortable rate,” when he says his plan “is all about mail,” when he boasts about projected huge “Sort and Delivery Centers,” he is ignoring the Universal Service Obligation.

The plan will impact 10,000 “delivery units,” i.e., post offices, stations, and branches. DeJoy envisions huge plants – which by definition are away from the communities where people use the post office. In his words, “This will transform the Postal Service” by spreading out the stations used by customers. He scoffs at the need for “so many post offices,” in major cities, ignoring factors like population density and convenient access. He sees no need for “underused” small post offices, which have kept people in remote areas connected. This business model is an end to providing service. Postal workers worry about their customers. “How will the elderly or the disabled be able to mail something?” “What does someone do who can’t access a computer?” ☹️

## Postal News Briefs

### ARIZONA JUDGE UPHOLDS VOTE-BY-MAIL

The Arizona Republican Party was firmly rebuffed in its attempt to block voting by mail in the state. The lawsuit was intentionally filed in the most conservative county in Arizona, where Trump got 75% of the vote in 2020. Even so, the Mohave County Superior Court judge upheld the constitutionality of vote-by-mail.

Ironically, the GOP lawsuit did not come from popular pressure. Arizona had one of the highest percentages of mail-in votes – 90% of the electorate voted by mail. The GOP chair, Kelli Ward has been using all means to force everyone to have to vote in person on election day, presumably because he thinks it will favor Republican votes.



### POSTAL SERVICE/INSPECTORS SUED FOR SEIZING BLACK LIVES MATTER COVID MASKS DURING GEORGE FLOYD PROTEST

Movement Ink printer is suing the USPS for seizing shipments of Black Lives



Matter masks sent to protect demonstrators from COVID. The seizure in June 2020, delayed delivery of four boxes of masks to DC, NYC, and St. Louis, harming business relations for the small company. “When there’s an organization or a company that now has a reputation for being a target of law enforcement, people don’t want to do business with them,” explained owner Rene Quinonez. There was no warrant, probable cause, or reasonable suspicion for the Postal Inspectors to impound the shipment. The lawsuit claims that the masks were seized due to their political message, a violation of First Amendment rights.

### SAFETY REPAIRS TO PROTECT ROBOTS, NOT PEOPLE

After many years of worker complaints, expensive building repairs are being done at the NJI&NDC. Cracks and holes in the floor that have caused back injuries for in-house vehicle drivers and endangered workers pushing rolling stock or walking on damaged surfaces were finally fixed. But the Postal Service concern was not for injury to humans. The money was invested to protect the AGV (Autonomous Guided Vehicle) robots which are being deployed in the building. At \$60,000–\$150,000 apiece, the blinking squealing robots are consuming money that has been with-held from improvements to equipment and bathroom facilities which are in serious disrepair.



### RISING POSTAGE HURTING NONPROFIT MAILERS

In early June, *The Non-Profit Times* ran an article about how the rising postal prices are impacting the mission of non-profit mailers. The article was written by Stephen Kearner, who was USPS vice-president of pricing in 2006. He says that by 2010, the USPS abandoned what he considers a sane pricing system. Instead, the USPS launched several campaigns to breaking the price cap on several fronts. The article faults the “run it like a business” mentality. “The only sure thing is that mailers, and in our case many nonprofits will continue to be harmed.” ☹️



## CALENDAR

As per the NY METRO Area Postal Union Constitution, there are no General Membership Meetings during July and August. ENJOY your summer!

### Wednesday, September 21, 2022

5:30 pm  
General Membership Meeting  
Via Zoom

### Wednesday, October 19

5:30 pm  
General Membership Meeting  
Via Zoom

#### ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

Members Only!

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

## APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

|                                      |       |                |
|--------------------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Beginning Balance as of April 1, 202 | _____ | \$1,355,212.61 |
| Total Revenue April 2022             | _____ | \$ 156,972.44  |
| Operating Expenses April 2022        | _____ | \$ 278,425.05  |
| Net Income April 2022                | _____ | \$-(121,452.61 |
| Ending Balance April 30, 2022        | _____ | \$1,233,760.00 |

**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.



Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization and Chairperson of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R, told The Union Mail: Moving forward, the NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. meeting will resume via ZOOM. Next meetings: September 28, 2022, at 5:30 pm., October 25, 2022. at 5:30 pm. ZOOM Meeting ID# 239-026-1053 [Follow ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.]

# Labor Notes Conference in Chicago: Labor movement plans for the future

President Jonathan Smith, Legislative and Political Director Chuck Zlatkin and Clerk Craft Director and Editor of *The Union Mail* Flo Summergrad represented New York Metro Area Postal Union at the 2022 Labor Notes Conference in Chicago June 16-19. This was the first in person Labor Notes Conference since 2018 and was

attended by 4000 trade unionists from all over the United States and 25 countries from around the world. Attendees participated in over 200 panels, workshops and meetings Two well-attended meetings of postal workers discussed how privatizers are out to decimate mail service and the impact on postal workers and the public that we serve. It was a great

opportunity to meet with postal workers from all over the country to compare notes and discuss plans and strategies for the future. Postal attendees wore their “Dump DeJoy and his ten-year plan” tee shirts on the Saturday of the conference to express to all our unified belief that Postmaster General Louis DeJoy must be fired immediately. ☑





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