



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.

## *Our City, Our Fight, Our Future!*

### *Labor Day Rally & March*



■ photo from NYC-CLC

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## *New York Metro Says: Know Your Rights!*

*pg. 10*

# Our Members Deserve the Truth: Questions About the Bryant Park Lease Decision



Joseph Martir

The union has a responsibility to keep our members informed when decisions by Postal Service management affect their jobs, working conditions, and the communities they serve. We also have a responsibility to ask difficult questions when the explanations provided by management do not appear to tell the complete story.

That is why the union recently addressed Postmaster Wanda Diaz regarding statements made during a July 9, 2026, meeting on the Postal Service's decision not to renew the Bryant Park Station lease.

During that meeting, management stated that the lease was not renewed because of a significant increase in rent. On face value, that suggests that rising rent was a primary reason for the Postal Service's decision.

However, the union obtained written information by Kenneth Aschendorf, Managing Member of APF Properties, that raises serious questions about whether that explanation is complete.

According to Mr. Aschendorf, APF Properties offered to reduce the annual lease cost by \$500,000. If that information is accurate, it raises an obvious and important question:

If the Postal Service had an opportunity to reduce its rent by \$500,000, why was the union and, above all, the public told that the lease decision was based on a significant increase in rent without that information being disclosed?

This is not a minor detail. A \$500,000 decrease is a substantial financial consideration. It is information that could materially change how employees and the community understand the circumstances surrounding the decision not to renew the lease.

The union is not asking management to provide excuses. We are asking for transparency, accountability, and a complete explanation.

Our members should not have to piece together conflicting versions of events to understand decisions that directly affect their workplaces. Postal employees deserve straight answers from the officials responsible for making and communicating these decisions.

Management has a duty to communicate honestly and responsibly with employees. When explanations appear incomplete or inconsistent with information provided by other parties involved in the matter, the union has an obligation to question those explanations.

The issue is bigger than one lease. When management makes decisions involving postal facilities, those decisions can affect employees, customers, service levels, transpor-

tation, staffing, and the communities that depend on those facilities. Members have a right to know why those decisions are being made and whether reasonable alternatives were considered.

The union has therefore formally requested that Postmaster Diaz explain why the Postal Service ultimately chose not to renew the lease despite the reported opportunity for substantial savings. We believe that question deserves a direct answer.

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## Our Message to Management

The union expects Postal Service leadership to conduct itself with honesty, professionalism, and accountability.

We recognize that management may have information or circumstances that have not yet been made available to the union. If there are legitimate reasons why the reported \$500,000 annual reduction did not change the Postal Service's decision, then management should explain those reasons clearly. That is precisely what transparency means.

It is not enough to provide a simplified explanation when significant facts may exist that provide a different picture. If management's

original explanation is accurate, then management should have no difficulty providing the documentation and reasoning necessary to explain the decision.

Our members are entitled to know whether the lease decision was based solely on rent, whether other operational considerations were involved, whether the proposed reduction was formally evaluated, and who ultimately made the decision.

## The Union Will Continue Asking Questions

We will not allow important questions affecting our members to be dismissed or ignored.

Our union represents employees who come to work every day, serve the public, and keep the Postal

Service operating. Those employees deserve leadership that respects them enough to provide complete and truthful information. We are not asking for special treatment.

We are asking for the truth, the complete facts, and accountability. If management has a different explanation, we are prepared to hear it. But our members should not be expected to accept incomplete answers when substantial questions remain unanswered.

The union will continue to pursue those answers and will keep the membership informed as additional information becomes available. Our members deserve transparency. Our members deserve accountability. And above all, our members deserve the truth. ☐

"USPS's unilateral decision to shutter the Bryant Park USPS Station will hurt thousands of New Yorkers, workers, visitors, and small businesses."

— Congressman Jerrold Nadler (NY-12)

"The Bryant Park Post Office is a pillar of USPS's postal services in Midtown Manhattan and beyond, and is one of Midtown Manhattan's busiest retail post offices, serving millions of New Yorkers, workers, visitors, and small businesses every day."

— Nadler, Schumer, Gillibrand

instagram.com/repjerry nadler



# Labor Day 2026: Unionists March for ‘Our City, Our Fight, Our Future’

**NY** Metro stood in solidarity with New York City unionists at the Labor Day march and rally in Lower Manhattan on Sept. 8.

President Joseph Martir reflected on “Our City, Our Fight, Our Future,” the theme of this year’s march. “As we commemorate Labor Day, we reflect on the strength, necessity, and vitality of our brothers and sisters on the workroom floor,” said President Martir. “It is a day

to honor the men and women whose hard work keeps our communities, cities, and country moving forward.

“*Our city* is our community. It is the people, businesses, and families that depend on us. *Our fight* is about standing up for good union jobs and protecting the services our communities depend on. *Our future* is about ensuring that the next generation of postal workers can build a career, support a family, and retire with dignity.

“Many of the protections and benefits working people have today were won because previous generations organized, fought, and refused to settle for less. As unionists today, we accept that the future of all union jobs is our responsibility. We honor the workers who came before us by continuing to stand together, protect good jobs, serve our communities, and ensure that the labor movement remains strong for the generations that come after us.”



■ Photo published by NYC-CLC from the NYC Labor Day Rally & March Facebook album



# National Convention 2026: NY Metro Shines in the Golden State

**NY** Metro joined 2,000 union siblings for the APWU National Convention in Los Angeles in mid-August.

The theme of the 2026 convention was “Honoring our Past, Fighting for our Future.” In this spirit, the NY Metro delegation included several generations of New York postal workers and union leaders, united in their commitment to serving and strengthening APWU.

Jonathan Smith, former NY Metro President and current APWU National President, set the tone in his State of the Union address. “Let history remember this convention not as a gathering of delegates, but as a movement renewed, a movement

united, a movement determined,” said President Smith. “Together we will defend our contract. Together we will defend our work and our working families. Together the American Postal Workers Union will continue to rise.

“I want every delegate to think about one question. Years from now, when the next generation gathers for their convention, what will they say about us? Will they say that we protected the Postal Service? Will they say we invested in our young members? Will they say we respected and learned from our ancestors? Will they say we strengthened our union? Will they say we left APWU better than we found it? I believe they will because

I believe in you. I believe in our locals, I believe in our officers, I believe in our retirees, and I believe in our young members. And above all, I believe in the American Postal Workers Union.

“So let us leave this convention committed to doing more than debating resolutions. Let us recommit ourselves to service, to solidarity, to organizing, to education, to protecting every member, to protecting every job, to protecting every community we serve. Together, we will honor our past. Together, we will strengthen our present. Together, we will build the future. And together, we will win.”

See [apwu.org/campaign/convention2026](https://apwu.org/campaign/convention2026) for more reports, videos, and photos.



# Union Contests Article 12 Excessing

By Joseph Martir, President

**W**orksites in Manhattan, the Bronx, and New Jersey are hearing a lot about Article 12 and what it means for job security.

Article 12 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement governs the movement of employees due to excessing. It is a serious contractual mechanism that should only be used when necessary and only after all contractual obligations have been met. Unfortunately, management has a history of attempting to use Article 12 as a shortcut to reduce staffing rather than addressing operational needs in a transparent and collaborative manner.

The union’s position remains firm: any attempt by management to reduce

staffing, revert positions, or excess employees must strictly comply with the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Article 12 contains numerous safeguards designed to protect employees from arbitrary displacement. Management cannot simply eliminate positions or move employees without demonstrating legitimate operational necessity and following every step required under the contract.

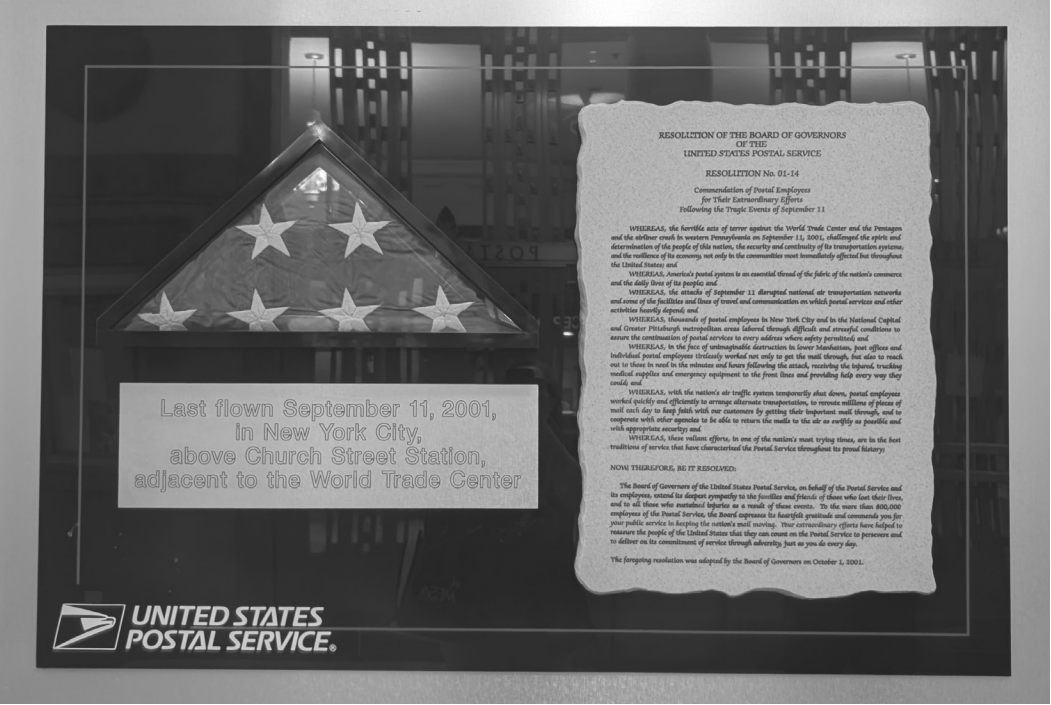
The union is contesting excessing plans announced for Manhattan, the Bronx, and New Jersey. We can and will demand information and explanations from management. The union is entirely focused on holding management accountable. At the same time, we must be

realistic about the severity of threats to the clerk craft. Clerks could be excessed into another craft or excessed out of the installations where they currently work.

Information is knowledge is power. The best way for workers to fight back is to contact your steward, learn the latest developments, and get involved in the union. If you don’t have a steward, look in the mirror. What do you see? You see the person who can save your job.

Postal workers are stronger together and it will take everyone’s strength to fight the obstacles we face. Call the NY Metro office at (212) 563-7553 and become the leader you’re looking for. The job you save may be your own.

# The Station at Ground Zero: 25 Years After 9/11



■ In Church Street Station: a commemorative plaque with the October 2001 resolution and the flag flown above Church Street Post Office on 9/11

September 2026 was the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. All postal workers were affected, perhaps none more so than those at the Church Street station, a mere 1,000 feet from the World Trade Center.

The following excerpts are from an October 2001 resolution by the Postal Service Board of Governors:

“WHEREAS, thousands of postal employees in New York City and in the National Capital and Greater Pittsburgh metropolitan areas labored through difficult and stressful conditions to assure the continuation of postal services to every address where safety permitted; and

WHEREAS, in the face of unimaginable destruction in lower Manhattan, post offices and individual postal employees

tirelessly worked not only to get the mail through, but also to reach out to those in need in the minutes and hours following the attack, receiving the injured, trucking medical supplies and emergency equipment to the front lines and providing help every way they could; and

WHEREAS, with the nation’s air traffic system temporarily shut down, postal employees worked quickly and efficiently to arrange alternate transportation, to reroute millions of pieces of mail each day to keep faith with our customers by getting their important mail through, and to cooperate with other agencies to be able to return the mails to the air as swiftly as possible and with appropriate security; and

WHEREAS, these valiant efforts, in one of the nation’s most trying times, are in the best traditions of service that have

characterized the Postal Service throughout its proud history;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service, on behalf of the Postal Service and its employees, extend its deepest sympathy to the families and friends of those who lost their lives, and to all those who sustained injuries as a result of these events. To the more than 800,000 employees of the Postal Service, the Board expresses its heartfelt gratitude and commends you for your public service in keeping the nation’s mail moving. Your extraordinary efforts have helped to reassure the people of the United States that they can count on the Postal Service to persevere and to deliver on its commitment of service through adversity, just as you do every day.”

# Justice Served (For Now): Vote-by-Mail to Proceed as Normal

Published September 15, 2026  
From APWU, [apwu.org/news/apwu-statement-on-vote-by-mail-supreme-court-ruling/](https://apwu.org/news/apwu-statement-on-vote-by-mail-supreme-court-ruling/)

In a 7-2 decision, the Supreme Court ruled on Sept. 14 that President Trump’s executive order on Vote-by-Mail will not be in effect for the 2026 midterm elections, ensuring postal workers can continue to follow the procedures that have proven to work in the past. Postal workers will continue doing what they have done for more than a century: moving election mail and ballots in a timely and secure manner.

“This decision is a victory for every American and a relief for postal workers who are committed to serving them,” said APWU President Jonathan Smith. “Once again, the public can count on postal workers to ensure their vote is counted.”

Since the executive order was first

issued, the APWU has argued that it was unprincipled, unlawful, and unworkable.

It was unprincipled because Vote-by-Mail works. It has been a feature of American democracy since the Civil War and has helped hundreds of millions of Americans safely and securely access the ballot box for generations, including during the last two election cycles in 2022 and 2024.

The APWU filed an amicus brief with the court arguing that the order was unlawful because it represented an unconstitutional power grab by the executive branch, interfered with states’ authority to conduct elections, and created the false impression that postal workers should have a role in deciding who can

and cannot vote.

Finally, the APWU argued that the rule was unworkable because of the rush to implement it before this year’s election, without proper training or guidance for postal workers or the states that would be forced to comply with it.

“Postal management and the Board of Governors never should have allowed things to go this far,” said Smith. “It is past time for Chairwoman McReynolds and the governors to stand up for the Postal Service’s independence and ensure that this rule never sees the light of day. If they don’t, we will be reliving this nightmare again in 2028. Our message to the board is simple: Vote-by-Mail works. Keep it. Protect it. Expand it.”



■ Stacks of boxes holding mail are seen at a U.S. Postal Service sorting center. Justin Sullivan/Getty Images



**NEW YORK METRO AREA POSTAL UNION, APWU AFL-CIO**  
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A Democratic Trade Union

WE ARE  
STRONGER  
TOGETHER



RESPECT  
DIGNITY  
JUSTICE

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

PROTECT YOURSELF. KNOW THE LAW. BUILD POWER.

If you are going to be questioned by a supervisor or other Company official, it is suggested that you:

- Remain calm;
- Tell the Company official; "I request the presence of my APWU representative before I answer any questions or make any statement." and
- Do not answer any questions or make any statements until you have consulted a steward.

**FIGHTING BACK AGAINST A HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT**

*"The law requires employers to take reasonable steps to end harassment in the workplace."*

Postmaster General Megan Brennan  
Publication 553

**Rights When Questioned By Company Officials**

When a supervisor or other Company official asks to interview you about any matter which you reasonably believe can result in discipline, you have the right under the law to the presence of a shop steward or other APWU representative to assist you in answering any question. You also have the right to a private meeting with the steward prior to your being questioned by the Company. The right to a steward is not automatic; you must request a steward. It is unlawful for the Company to discriminate against you in any way for requesting a steward. If you request a steward, the Company must either agree to let you have one prior to any questioning or cancel the interview.

YOUR UNION. YOUR RIGHTS.  
**YOUR POWER.**

APWU AFL-CIO • NY METRO LOCAL 10  
STANDING TOGETHER FOR A STRONGER WORKPLACE

**JOSEPH MARTIR**  
PRESIDENT

**DENISHA DOBBINS**  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

## APWU LOCAL BLDG. CORP

|                              |       |                 |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Beginning Balance July 2026  | _____ | \$ 1,277,229.42 |
| Revenue Income July 2026     | _____ | \$ 234,236.96   |
| Operating Expenses July 2026 | _____ | \$ 159,806.34   |
| Total Net Income July 2026   | _____ | \$ 74,430.62    |
| Ending Balance July 2026     | _____ | \$ 1,351,660.04 |

|                                |       |                 |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Beginning Balance August 2026  | _____ | \$ 1,351,660.04 |
| Revenue Income August 2026     | _____ | \$ 199,285.72   |
| Operating Expenses August 2026 | _____ | \$ 171,954.39   |
| Total Net Income August 2026   | _____ | \$ 27,331.33    |
| Ending Balance August 2026     | _____ | \$ 1,378,991.37 |

## CALENDAR

### Wednesday, October 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](http://nymetro.org)

## NY METRO P.O.W.E.R.

**SISTERS!** As an APWU member, you are a member of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. (Post Office Women for Equal Rights). Monthly P.O.W.E.R. meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday at 5:30pm via ZOOM. For more information, contact chairwoman Deborah Bethea at [deborah.bethea@nymetro.org](mailto:deborah.bethea@nymetro.org)



### NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 28 @ 5:30pm

ZOOM Meeting ID #462-755-2390

[Follow ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.]

## JOIN THE NY METRO EMAIL BLAST!

Scan the QR code below to stay up to date  
on Union news, events, and more!

\*\*Please allow 3-5 business days to  
verify your New York Metro membership.





New York Metro Area Local, APWU  
350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10001

Periodicals class  
POSTAGE PAID  
at New York, NY

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## STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR UNION:

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

Fill in below and give to any NY Metro officer or steward or mail to NY Metro Area Postal Union, 350 West 31st Street, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10001.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FACILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

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