



The

Union Mail

Vol. 64 No. 8 | Nov/Dec 2021

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.

New York Metro Area Postal Union's Long Struggle for Postal Banking in the Bronx



Bronx petition drive for Postal Banking February 2018

See pages 5-7

Step up or shut up!



Jonathan Smith

Thanks to the people who have stepped up to represent our Local and fight for the members! They are the backbone of the Union.

But I get frustrated by people who complain about lack of representation but won't become stewards. Reasons become excuses when they are used to avoid responsibility. I hear members tell me they can't be a shop steward because they don't have the time. Shop Stewards do all their work on the postal clock and on their tour of duty. Members say, "I can't represent people that are wrong." You are not representing individuals; you are enforcing the contract. Then they say they fear retaliation. The contract and the law protect stewards. If you don't step up, who will protect you?

We spend so much time cultivating everything in our lives. Why don't we feel we have responsibility to fight to protect what makes all these things possible -- our jobs. Doing the steward job is a source of pride and a moral duty to protect what was fought for so hard by the postal workers that came before us. Remember that all the rights workers have were earned through blood, sweat and tears. Management never gave us anything without a fight. In 1970, Postal workers went on an illegal strike; they fought for better wages and working conditions and

won the right to have a union with collective bargaining. That struggle gave us a voice and the benefits we enjoy today. On the work floor, our voice is the shop steward acting on behalf of the workers.

Our stewards are elected because we have faith in the members. Workers know the people who can truly fight and pull us together. Helping co-workers and fighting injustice on the job gives stewards energy and satisfaction. A shop steward's job is to enforce the requirements in the contract that management tries to ignore every day.

After the Great Postal Strike of 1970, we were the victors and everything at work got better. Then we got comfortable and took our rights and benefits for granted. But that can all be lost if we lose our moral compass, our solidarity. This is what the seasoned workers need to pass on. There are smart and able young postal workers who can take up the fight and build the union.

It's time to pass the responsibility to protecting good postal jobs to the next generation. Those newly converted PSEs (the new PSEs and all PSEs) and any postal worker with less than 15 years has a lot to lose. The new Postmaster General is trying to take all that was accomplished over the last 50 years away and destroy the Postal Service, and with it, our good union jobs.

At the places where our work is contracted out, people are hired at lousy wages with no protections or

benefits. The goal is to privatize the postal service and take away or greatly decrease postal workers' benefits, wages and working conditions. PMG DeJoy and company are confident that the fighters are just about gone, and this new generation is easy pickings.

I say, let's prove them wrong! Step up and run in the steward election. The job you save may be your own. The consequences of standing on the sideline will be dire. For those who are out there fighting, thank you! For the complainers who criticize, but make excuses to hang back, play your part to make it better. **Step up or shut up!**

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The Postal Service needs direction — not DeJoy nor Bloom

Chuck Zlatkin, *Legislative and Political Director*

Congress needs to step up: Part 1

On October 15, 2021 the House Committee on Government Oversight and Reform's Subcommittee on Government Operations held a field hearing in Chicago, Il: - "Waiting on the Mail: Postal Service Standard Drops in Chicago and the Surrounding Area." The unfortunate fact of the matter is that such a field hearing could be held in virtually any community in the entire United States and be justified in doing so. The sorry state of the mail delivery in the DeJoy era has been made worse by the further slowing of the mail as the DeJoy-Bloom 10 year-plan began on October 1.

The chair of the Subcommittee is Representative Gerry Connolly (D-VA). Rep. Connolly is very knowledgeable on postal matters and has been an outspoken critic of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, calling for him to be fired. The witnesses included: Eddie Morgan, Jr., the Chicago postmaster; Melinda Perez from the Postal OIG's office and Mack Julion, National Association of Letter Carriers representative. Morgan was new to his position, brought in this past June to deal with the delivery problems. Julion is an impressive union leader who was proactive in having his members report in daily on the problems with the mail that management wasn't dealing with at all. He forwarded all the reports from his

members on to the elected officials in the area. Julion's work reflected poorly on Chicago management's lack of transparency and leadership. The hearing was well attended and while it was aimed at Chicago's problem with mail delivery, it shone a bright light on how management's policies led to slowing of the mail that is felt everywhere, not just in Chicago.

Congress needs to step up: Part 2


Postal Reform legislation still hasn't been passed in Congress. It was back in May that bi-partisan postal legislation was introduced in both Houses of Congress. There was hope that this legislation would bring financial relief to the Postal Service by reversing the unfair prefunding of future retirees' health benefits that was part of the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) that has had such a deleterious impact on the finances of the Postal Service. Earlier in the summer there were certain amendments to the original bill that had to be made in the area of Medicare integration. The whole bill was almost shot down when a provision was initially included that would enable the Postal Service itself to determine delivery standards with no oversight.

The APWU made it clear to Chairperson Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) that the union would not support the legislation if this provision remained. Maloney made sure that it was struck from the bill. There is still

reason to be hopeful that the legislation will pass, but leadership in both the Senate and the House must stand up and make sure that this legislation goes through and that a public Postal Service will be maintained.

77 organizations make it clear to the White House: Bloom must go!

On October 8, 2021, 77 public interest groups led by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and The Save The Post Office Coalition sent a letter to President Biden calling on his administration not to reappoint Ron Bloom:

"We write to express our disappointment with the current direction of the United States Postal Service under Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and the Chair of the Board of Governors, Ron Bloom, in particular. With Mr. Bloom's holdover term expiring in December, we implore you to chart a new direction for the Board rather than allowing continuation of the failed leadership of the current Chair. Mr. Bloom has repeatedly supported plans for the Postal Service that erode the service standards expected by the American people. We therefore ask you to take action to ensure that the Board is led by a new appointee who will advance the interests of the American people with regard to leadership of the Board." 

How is Louis DeJoy still Postmaster General of the United States?

Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

The FBI is investigating him for election fraud; he has awarded a \$120 million contract from the Postal Service to his old firm, XPO Logistics, even though he still owns stock, and receives \$2 million a year in rentals; he purchased \$305,000 in bonds from Brookfield Asset Management where his boss, Ron A. Bloom, Chair of the Postal Board of Governors is Vice Chairman and Managing Partner. If that is all we knew about Louis DeJoy, it is a wonder that he is still the 75th Postmaster General of the United States. But unfortunately much more is known about this career-long anti-unionist, Trump benefactor, supporter, and multi-millionaire businessman who seeks profits over people. On October 12, U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner for the Central District of California approved combined settlements for XPO Logistics, the former company of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, one of the world's largest trucking companies. XPO agreed to pay \$30 million to settle class-action lawsuits filed by 740 truck drivers who claimed that they earned less than minimum wage. XPO Logistics Cartage and XPO Port Service paid drivers less-than-legal wages, failed to pay them for missed meal and rest periods, and failed to reimburse them for business expenses or for waiting-time penalties. Joe Piette's "New Postmaster General Is an Expert Job-Killer" in the May 15, 2020 issue of Labor Notes details the sordid anti-

worker history of Louis DeJoy: "His company has a terrible labor record, rife with red flags including sexual harassment, discrimination, speedup, workplace injuries, excessive use of temps, misclassifying workers as independent contractors, and inadequate sick leave during the current pandemic." Here are just a few examples:

DeJoy's company New Breed Logistics was ruled against by the NLRB with "anti-union animus" in 1994 when it avoided hiring Longshore (ILWU) union members, after he received a contract to run a U. S. Army terminal. Three temp workers for New Breed were awarded \$1.5 million in a sexual harassment and retaliation lawsuit in 2013. In 2014, four women warehouse workers for New Breed in Memphis suffered miscarriages when management ignored their pleas for light-duty during their pregnancies. Piette reports that, "Workers hoped that conditions would improve when XPO took over, but instead things got even worse—workers were now expected to pack 120 boxes per hour instead of 60, and got punished for too-long bathroom breaks. In 2017, a woman died of cardiac arrest on the warehouse floor, and workers around her were told to keep working. In 2018, two more women miscarried."

Piette points out, ". . . postal workers should be . . . alarmed at [DeJoy's] 35 years' experience in labor analytics—the art of eliminating as many jobs as possible."

DeJoy has been able to fool some people into believing that he is a changed man and now respects unions and isn't looking to eliminate jobs. Yet if you read DeJoy's 10-year plan, "Delivering for America," you see that there will be the eventual elimination of living wage, union jobs. Trump's task force on the Postal Service had this as a goal.

People give DeJoy credit because the feared delay of election mail and ballots didn't happen. But the truth is that DeJoy fought the 12 lawsuits to move the mail brought by States Attorneys Generals and public interest organizations. He lost them all.

Since then, DeJoy has been successful in delaying the mail with the October 1, 2021, new service standards. This is a direct slap in the face of generations of postal workers who have been committed to moving the mail on time.

DeJoy's introduction of a national test for expanded financial services in only four post offices is not sufficient reason to give him any trust. We can't ignore the long-range negative impact of slowing the mail permanently or DeJoy's association with Ron A. Bloom, whose company historically profits from privatization.

New York Metro Area Postal Union stands by its call for the immediate firing of Louis DeJoy! ☒

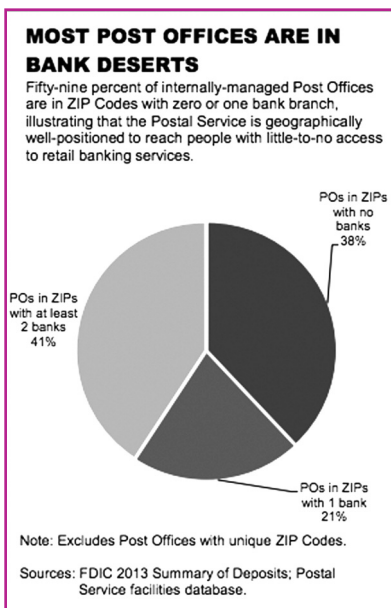


New York Metro Area Postal Union and Postal Banking

Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

On October 4, 2021, the Federal News Network announced, “The Postal Service, after years of skepticism, is quietly moving ahead with plans to expand its banking services. USPS launched the pilot program on Sept. 13, which allows customers to cash payroll and business checks in the form of gift cards. For a flat fee of \$5.90, customers can purchase a single-use gift card of up to \$500, using business or payroll checks as payment. USPS won’t accept checks larger than \$500 and won’t disburse cash for any checks. USPS spokeswoman Tatiana Roy said the USPS is running the pilot in collaboration with the American Postal Workers Union and called it ‘an example of how the Postal Service is leveraging its vast retail footprint and resources to innovate.’”

This appears to be a major victory for those who have been fighting for postal banking, particularly for NYMAPU because this union has been so active, specifically in the need for postal banking in the Bronx. NYMAPU was quick to respond to the January 27, 2014, USPS Inspector General’s White Paper, “Providing Non-Bank Financial Services for the Underserved.” In the March/April 2014 issue of *The Union Mail*, NYMAPU recognized that the USPS “is the ideal provider for providing non-bank financial services to the more than 68 million adults who are ‘underserved’ by the regular banking system.” This was a win-win-win because it would fill an important need for the public; it would expand jobs and income for



the Postal Service; and it would help the entire economy. The OIG report revealed that most post offices are in “Bank Deserts” -- 38% in zip codes with no banks; 21% in zip codes with only one bank. In January of 2015, the APWU along with the other postal unions and community minded organizations formed the Campaign for Postal Banking (CFPB): “The USPS is in a unique position to provide basic, affordable consumer-driven financial services to



Sarah Ludwig

underserved individuals and communities.”

NYMAPU was a key participant in the effort to get petitions signed to restore and expand banking in post offices. In December 2015, 150,000 signed petitions were delivered to USPS HQs in Washington, D.C. The January, 2016, UM linked this to the fact that postal banking was not new: “The USPS successfully operated a postal savings bank from 1911 to 1967. Postal banking, in fact, was so central to our banking system that it was the alternative to federal deposit insurance. It helped fund two world wars and reduced a massive government deficit after the Great Depression. At its peak in 1947, four million users had \$3.4 billion deposited in the postal banking system.”

In May, 2016, in conjunction with A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service, NYMAPU hosted the NYC Field Hearing to protect and enhance the USPS. Sarah Ludwig, Founder and Codirector of the New Economy Project, was one of the presenters. She showed that “people living in bank deserts spent \$89 billion annually in high interest and fees to have basic financial services. The void is filled by check cashing places and pawn shops, 70% of them in non-white neighborhoods. Low-income people end up paying 10% of their income just to have access to their own money.” She concluded, “Postal banking makes sense!”

Is 2017, NYMAPU was buoyed when delegates to the AFL-CIO

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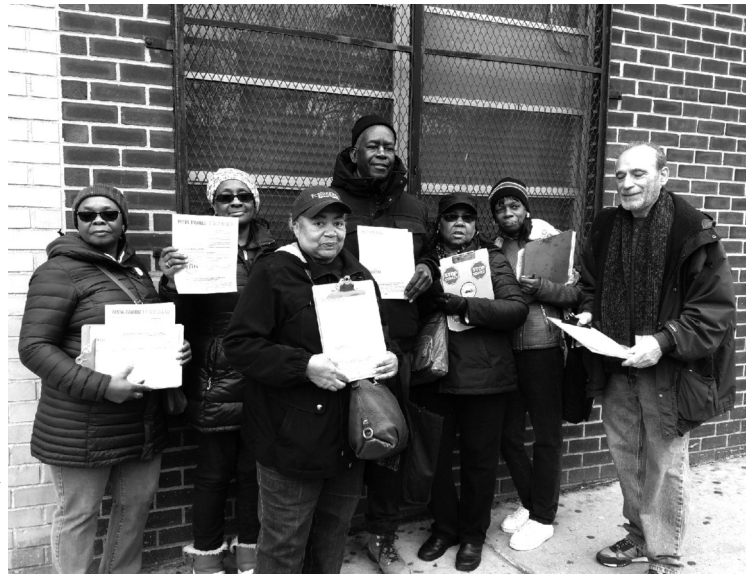
New York Metro Area Postal Union and Postal L

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Convention unanimously passed a resolution to “Support Postal Financial Services and Postal Banking.” As NYMAPU reached out in our communities, it became clear that there was no place more in need of postal banking than the Bronx. More than 52% of Bronx households are underserved by traditional banks, and 21.8% have no bank accounts at all. The Bronx has more so-called financial service “institutions” per person than banks. As 2018 began, NYAMPU reached out to the APWU and the Campaign for Postal Banking, along with Bronx-based organizations to create a petition campaign in the Bronx. The petition to “Make Postal Banking in the Bronx a Reality” was addressed to both the Bronx Postmaster and the Postmaster General of United States. The petition called on the Postal Service, “to

the public took place on the streets of the Bronx. NYMAPU was part of a full-fledged movement. With material support from APWU national and the hard work of our members and retirees, petition gathering was taking place for real.

President Jonathan Smith carried the message everywhere. His presentation at the NYC Chapter of LCLAA (Labor Council for Latin American Advancement) was such a success that National LCLAA passed a reso-



First day of petitioning for Postal Banking



Press conference for Postal Banking featuring Representatives Joseph Crowley and José E. Serrano with NY Metro Area Postal Union Preseident Jonathan Smith

take immediate action to provide affordable financial services including ATMs, paycheck cashing, bill payments and electronic money transfers.” NYMPU’s education of

lution calling for postal banking. In June, a Postal Banking Information Session sponsored by Congressman José Serrano for elected officials and community groups was held at

Bronx Community College. This featured President Smith and Katherine Isaac of the Campaign for Postal Banking (CPB). It was attended by CPB members: Local 300 of the NPMHU, Branch 36 of NALC and locals from the Communications Workers of America (CWA). That August, President Smith appeared at a “Community Conversation” with then candidate for Congress Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, where he gave a rousing speech on the importance of postal banking in the Bronx and the nation.

On October 16, 2018, a press briefing and petition presentation were held at the Hunts Point Station, where the Bronx Postmaster’s office was located. Over 5,300 petition signatures of Bronx residents, workers, and business owners were presented. A letter for expanded financial services in the Bronx from all four Bronx Congressional representatives --Serrano, Espaillat, Engel, and Crowley--was sent to Megan

Brennan, the US Postmaster General.

The movement continued to build. In 2019, the activists from the retiree chapter more than doubled the number of signatories to the petition and distributed tens of thousands of pieces of literature describing the positive impact of postal banking on the Bronx. 60 bi-partisan members of Congress from around the country signed onto a new letter.



Postal Banking Information Session participants

Postal Banking had become a national issue.

In April 2021, a press conference was held in Washington, DC, to promote funding of a pilot program for non-bank financial services in post offices. The featured speakers were Senator Kirstin Gillibrand (D-NY), Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ). The call was for a \$6 million pilot in five zip codes in urban communities and five zip codes in rural communities for fiscal year 2022.

When the recent announcement of test sites with very limited expansion of financial services was made, many advocates for postal banking declared victory. NYMAPU is less enthusiastic. The inclusion of the

Bronx as a site for any possible pilot was a testimony to the effort of NYMAPU but Baychester is not the area of greatest banking need.

For the seven years of the campaign, NYMAPU has emphasized post office banking as a solution for the unbanked and underbanked communities. Most of the Bronx has been abandoned by commercial banks and its residents are exploited by predatory check cashing businesses.

Baychester, Riverdale, and City Island serve communities with different economic profiles than the rest of the borough. Why, out of the 40 or so post offices in the Bronx,

did the USPS select Baychester as one of the only four post office in the nation to be a test site for this program?

NYMAPU is also concerned by the rushed nature of getting this going without adequate training for the clerks who will do the work, and the lack of material promoting the new service available at Baychester station. We question whether the USPS management under Postmaster Louis DeJoy wants this initial foray into postal banking to succeed.

Postal banking makes sense. This pilot program may not. ☒



President Jonathan Smith at "Community Conversation" with then candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez



Attempting to deliver petitions to Bronx Postmaster

Accident in Greensboro BMC is wake up call on machine guarding

In our October issue of *The Union Mail*, we remembered Brother Eddie Domingo, an MPE at the New Jersey Bulk Mail Center (now called the NDC). Eddie was killed in an industrial accident on the job that the OSHA investigation proved was due to the lack of a machine guard at an in-running nip point. Now, an accident at the Greensboro BMC/NDC seems to have had a similar cause.

In this case, the brother did not lose his life, but lost a limb. On September 27, a new Maintenance

Mechanic got his arm caught under the rubber roller of a conveyor belt. The UM article stressed that Safety around industrial machinery is critical. All of us have to make sure that machines must have proper safeguards. The report sent to the field from Greensboro included MMO-013-20, Machine Guarding. This is a MUST for all our stewards and Maintenance workers to review and understand.

As stated in this MMO: “The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires

any machine part, function, or process that may cause injury to be safeguarded. When the operation of a machine or accidental contact might injure the operator or others in the vicinity, the hazards must be eliminated or controlled.”

In reporting the Greensboro accident, our APWU BMC Coordinator Terry Martinez urges: **“Ensure belt guards, (over) screen guards, nip points, and pinch points are in place. If not, a 1767 is in order. Safety is everybody’s concern. Accidents can be prevented.”** ☐

COVID is not over!

This fall there continue to be positive cases in stations in NYC, as well as at DVD and the NDC. At least one person in our Local has been hospitalized in the last month and as winter approaches, there may be more illness.

What can we do?

Don’t let management get careless about the protocol of sanitizing the area, OHNA follow-up of close contact tracing, and service talks. Masks and social distancing protocols must be observed on the job even if people have been vaccinated. Despite management pressure to come to work no matter what, the instruction, “If you’re sick, stay home,” is still part of the Stand Up Service Talk.

Temporary Additional Leave for PSEs

Because the COVID-related pay under EFEL ended on September 30, 2021, the MOU on PSE sick leave has been restored. This is the exact language of the Memo of Understanding:

“Re: Temporary Additional Leave for PSEs. Newly hired PSEs hired after the signing of this agreement will be permitted to use up to 80 hours of paid leave for the reasons provided for in the original March 18, 2020, MOU—Temporary Paid Leave for PSEs MOU. It does not provide an additional 80 hours for existing PSEs. Those PSEs already hired prior to the signing of this extension who only used a por-

tion, or none of the 80 hours leave from the original MOU, will be entitled to utilize the remainder of the 80 hours that was left over.”

The original memo allowed PSEs to use this leave for COVID-related absences. If you have a problem using it, see your steward.

Federal Employees Compensation Act and COVID

For all employees, The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that President Biden signed on March 11, 2021, makes it much easier for federal workers diagnosed with COVID-19 to establish coverage under the Federal Employees’ Compensation Act. (This can be retroactive.) For more information, ask your steward or look it up on the OWCP website. ☐

Workers are rising up



By Flo Summergrad

Workers are rising up, and they're rising up angry. Men and women who worked long hours doing essential jobs during the height of the pandemic were hailed as "heroes." With contracts coming up, the companies that banked huge profits have reduced them to "zeroes."

There is a new willingness to commit to a work stoppage. At the health care giant, Kaiser-Permanente, 96% of the workers (21,000 in California and 3400 in Oregon) voted yes to a possible strike. Strikes have been authorized by unions as diverse as graduate workers at Harvard and Columbia to transit workers in Beaumont, Texas, and Akron, Ohio. In September, 99% of 10,000 UAW John Deere warehouse and manufacturing workers authorized a strike vote. Now they are shutting down production of tractors and farm equipment at 14 John Deere plants in Illinois, Iowa, and Kansas.

Other workers are already on strike. Coal miners in Alabama who saved the company from bankruptcy by huge give-backs in 2016, have been striking for months to get Warrior Met Coal to bargain in good faith. 97% of nurses and staff at Mercy Hospital in Buffalo voted strike and went out on October 1 when their contract expired. They are protesting inadequate patient care due to understaffing. While their employer, Catholic Health, boasts on its website about making huge investments, the nurses face shortages of supplies, lack of support staff, and lower pay than other regional hospitals. Even more outrageous are the millions of dollars the

hospital has budgeted for housing and high salaries for scabs to replace the strikers.

Hollywood's 60,000 unionized production workers authorized a strike, which was averted by a contract offer just before the deadline. (This has yet to be voted on.) These men and women are the backbone of the entertainment industry, but they've been denied adequate pay, breaks, and mealtimes even though streaming companies are making tremendous profits.

In the food industry, 1400 workers are striking four plants owned by the cereal giant, Kellogg. These are long time employees who produce popular brands like Fruit Loops, Rice Krispies, and Raisin Bran. They are facing severe job cuts and closures.

According to a Cornell study, there have already been 178 strikes this year. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 12 strikes of more than 1000 workers.

Unions gaining support

Another reflection of labor militancy is that unions are gaining public favor. The most recent Gallup poll shows that more than 2/3 of Americans approve of labor unions. Organizing is on the rise.

UNITE HERE is organizing the meal kit industry which boomed in the pandemic. They've filed for a union election, representing 1300 workers at HelloFresh factory kitchens in Aurora, CO, and Richmond, CA. The company sold 278 million meals to Americans and doubled its U.S. revenue to \$2.4 billion, while running labor intensive assembly lines with 10-minute timers for bathroom breaks. Pay is low and

production quotas keep rising. Speedup means injuries; in June, an unsecured pallet weighing several hundred pounds fell onto employees, sending two to the hospital, and others into signing for the union.

And then there is Amazon. The loss of the union drive at Amazon in Bessemer, AL, was portrayed as a significant defeat for labor. But unions turned it around. Organizers from the RWDSU filed and won a challenge before the NLRB. Amazon was found guilty of unfair labor practices, and organizing continues.

The June Teamster convention voted by a landslide (1562 to 9) for the resolution "Building Worker Power at Amazon." Teamsters are now organizing 9 of the 15 "fulfillment centers" in Canada with an eye on the U.S. plants.

Amazon's fear of unionization is reflected in the daily media blitz promising workers rewards without a union. This "pie in the sky" lure is backed by millions of dollars of anti-union propaganda.

Corporations spend \$340 million on "union avoidance" consultants every year. In Bessemer alone, Amazon paid three anti-union consulting firms each \$10,000/day (more than an Amazon warehouse employee makes in 3 months). HelloFresh is paying upwards of \$20,000/day for 7 consultants to combat organizing.

These corporate giants understand what many of our own members don't: Organized labor is a powerful weapon for the working class. Workers rising up is *our* movement. **Union-YES!** ☑

POSTAL PRIDE

Postal Pride?

As a postal worker for nearly 50 years, I was originally horrified at the new service standards which will make delivery slower. This is especially true for long distances. Transporting everything by truck when we have used air mail for 100 years seemed very much “Back to the Future” in 2021.

But then I saw the headline: “USPS Begins Fiscal First Quarter with Improved First-Class Mail Service Under New Service Standards”! This is explained: “10/15/21—The US Postal Service reported service delivery performance scores for the first week of the fiscal first quarter started in October that showed continued gains across all F-C, Marketing, and Periodical mail categories.”

Wow! It is a big improvement over the last quarter. First Class mail was delivered 91.0 % on time by the USPS new service standard, an improvement of 3 percentage points from the last quarter under the old service standard.

What a brilliant plan! By simply changing the standards, we have become so much more efficient.

Think of how this can work in other walks of life!

■ School grades, for instance. If 90-100 was an A, lower the standard so that 80 is an A. So many more children can be “A” students, and the school can boast of improvement.

■ Change the standard for normal Blood Pressure. If 160/90 is the new normal, doctors can claim patient improvement.

■ Shortening the standard length for Olympic swimming pools will allow more people to break established records.

If simply lowering standards in any field makes it easier to claim success, the possibilities are endless. For the USPS, the new service standards mean last quarter’s failure is this quarter’s success! Of course, the people waiting for mail to arrive two or three days later may not agree that this is “improved First Class service” but who cares about the customers if the data looks good. ☒ —*Flo Summergrad, Ed.*

Postal News Briefs

CHICAGO LETTER CARRIERS RESIST DELIVERY IN THE DARK

On September 9, Chicago letter carriers staged a protest against delivering in the dark as a safety issue. Mack Julion, President of Chicago Branch 11 for the National Association of Letter Carriers said: “We tell our carriers, if you need a flashlight to deliver mail then, it’s time to stop delivering mail. . . . If they have to do that overtime to get the mail delivered and it’s dark, they are not going to do it.”



WORLD POST DAY 2021

World Post Day is celebrated on October 9, to highlight the value of postal services to society and the world economy. Since 1969, the member countries of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) mark this day with special stamp exhibitions and promotion of the importance of postal connections between various states.



UPU

The UPU was established in 1874 to facilitate mail delivery among countries by setting rules for international postage. Today it is a special agency of the United Nations that coordinates postal policies among the 192 member nations for both letter and parcel mail.

US DISTRICT COURT SHUTS DOWN PSYCHIC MAIL FRAUD SCHEME

10/08/21—The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida entered a permanent injunction against three individuals and two companies operating an international mail fraud scheme. The solicitations targeted the elderly and other vulnerable populations. They claimed that financial fortune would come to the individual by submitting a small fee (\$45-\$50) for psychic help. From March 2017 to June 2018 alone, 34,000 victims sent in more than \$1.4 million.



NATIONAL ELDER FRAUD HOTLINE

1-833-FRAUD-11

1-833-372-8311

Encourage seniors to ask others before answering an offer. If something sounds too good to be true, it’s a scam. If you or someone over 60 suspects financial fraud, get help. Call the Department of Justice National Elder Fraud Hotline: 1-833-FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311). ☒

CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 17

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Via Zoom

As per the NYMAPU Constitution:

No Membership Meeting in December

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

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

ALL COVID-19 MOUs extended through December 31, 2020

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of September 1, 2021	___	\$ 1,255,428.60
Total Revenue September 2021	_____	\$ 125,982.26
Operating Expenses September 2021	_____	\$ 242,439.86
Total Net Income September 2021	_____	\$ (116,457.60)
Ending Balance September 30, 2021	_____	\$1,138,971.00

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. We are working on alternatives.

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 at 1:00 PM via ZOOM on November 24, 2021. Next meeting January 26, 2022 at 1:00 pm. ZOOM Meeting ID# 239-026-1053** [Follow ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.]



NY METRO Area Postal Union RETIREMENT & FEDERAL BENEFITS SEMINAR

LOCATION: 350 W. 31st Street, 3rd floor, NY, NY 10001

DATE: [pick one]

Tuesday	November 30, 2021	9:00am
Wednesday	December 1, 2021	12 noon
Thursday	December 2, 2021	3:00pm

Open **FREE** to members and spouses/partners
Deposit \$10 Money Order/person by November 10, 2021
(will be returned when you attend)

Contact your steward for the form or call
NY Metro at 212-563-7553

THE IMPORTANCE OF UPDATING YOUR PROFILE INFORMATION

As we begin 2021, we would like to provide you a courtesy reminder to update your personal information. It is important to keep this updated as we often send out important notices, such as *The Union Mail*. Recently, we received numerous U.S. Postal Service returns pertaining to *The Union Mail* for various reasons, i.e. attempted not known, no such number, unable to forward, etc. These mail delivery failures do not only impact member's Union funds it also denies you the ability to be informed with vital information within your local and national unions.

Your access to update your mailing information is just a few clicks away. Here's how to start: Log into APWU.org then, Click on members only. This will prompt you to sign in: "USERNAME" is your Employee Identification Number (EIN); "PASSWORD" is your last name and the last four digits of your Social Security number.

Scroll down and in the middle of the screen you should see "My Addresses". If the address on file is incorrect, click on the pencil and proceed to enter your current mailing address. **Update your address** and **click save** and **close**. Your information will be processed and updated by APWU expeditiously. Should you encounter any issues and/or problems, please contact your Union representative for assistance.

If you work with a member who hasn't received their latest copy of *The Union Mail*, suggest that they contact **Joe Martir** immediately.

Call: 1-212-563-7553 extension #107 or joseph.martir@nymetro.org.



New York Metro Area Local, APWU
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New York, NY 10001
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Periodicals class
POSTAGE PAID
at New York, NY



Season's Greetings to all!

*T*his has been another stressful year for many, but we have come together to mount a serious fight for the continuance of a public Postal Service, protecting our jobs and our future. At this time of year, we need to take time to celebrate with our family and friends.

New York Metro officers & stewards wish you & your family health & happiness in 2022.



unionmail@nymetro.org