



The

Union Mail

Vol. 57 No. 8 | November/December 2014

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.

STOP DELAYING AMERICA'S MAIL

National Day of Action November 14, 2014

We're in an all-out battle to save the service standards and we want the American public to know that it will be harder and harder to get the kind of postal service they deserve. This is not just about postal workers but every customer in this country—and every person in this country is a postal customer.

— **Mark Dimondstein**, President APWU

On Nov. 14 your union leaders will speak with the members standing beside them because what once was wind is now a storm. ... We must protect the people's post office.

— **Jonathan Smith**, President, NYMAPU



See page 7

Whose Post Office? The People's Post Office!



Jonathan Smith

November 14 will be a Day of National Action on the day of the meeting of the Postal Board of Governors. We'll be out there to save the public Postal Service from privatization.

Stop the USPS degrading the people's mail service! It needs all of us to stand up and fight back.

"Network Rationalization" is a fancy term for getting rid of the Postal Service commitment to overnight delivery. Management is proposing to change the delivery standards in January 2015, which would completely change the way the USPS handles the mail.

The impact on the American public is obvious. There will be delay delay delay built into the system.

Postal workers won't be needed to get the mail out by the next day. This will have a negative effect on all crafts. Overtime won't be needed because it will be okay for mail to sit around. The number of machines will be cut and they will look to cut staffing. This can lead to excessing outside of the installation for people who just became regular.

Both corrective and preventive maintenance will change as the flow of mail changes, probably forcing a larger maintenance work force onto tour 1. The Mail Arrival Profile will change which affects transportation. The trips will be changed and the

amount of trips downsized.

I'm not going to tell you that the tours and hours are not going to change. But we are going to make sure that any changes are done according to the contract. Management does not need the union to agree to changes. If they make changes the union doesn't agree with, we grieve it. But management is required to give the union the opportunity for reasonable input; we can't give input without information. If they don't give it, we can make it cost them. The key to keeping delivery standards in place is the U.S. Congress. If Congress defends the public's right to timely mail service, they will block the change from going through. This is why voting and pressuring our elected officials is so critical. To have a real voice in keeping overnight delivery, we have to do the little things—the phone calls, the letters to our Congressmen and Senators. It's not hard work, but it's important. We have to go to our plants and stations and get our co-workers to call and write. We have to talk to our family members, friends, and neighbors to stop this attack on postal service. This also means registering, voting, and giving to COPA so we have a voice that gets heard.

The Postal Service is now implementing window services with Staples employees at 5 sites in Manhattan and rolling out its Staples deal into all 1500 sites nationwide. They are putting it right there in your face—taking our work and doing it cheap with workers who have no job security and no benefits.

If it works in the short run, that is

long enough to take away postal jobs. We have organizers provided by APWU Headquarters who will be planning rallies at the Staples in our areas. We have to be out there to get the message to the public that the Post Master General is trying to degrade mail service. Late mail is due to the adverse effect of management changes.

The Staples boycott is about protecting the people's postal service. We want to expand mail service through qualified postal workers. Put USPS clerks into the Staples units – people trained and sworn to handle the mail securely.

We are fighting to save the U.S. Postal Service for the American public. Whose post office? The people's post office! ☑

Official publication of the New York Metro Area Postal Union.

The Union Mail (ISSN 0049-5298) is published monthly except combined in March/April, May/June, July/August, November/December by the New York Metro Area Postal Union at 350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10001.

Periodical postage paid at New York, NY.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Union Mail, New York Metro Area Postal Union,
350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10001.

Flo Summergrad, editor
Nora Mendez, managing editor

To contact your officers, call 212.563.7553.
www.nymetro.org

- President**
Jonathan Smith Ext. 108
- Executive Vice President**
Tiffany Foster Ext. 110
- Dir. Ind Relations**
Daniel Zachman, Jr. Ext. 106
- Secretary-Treasurer**
Sharon Tyrrell Ext. 107
- Dir. Organization**
Kevin Walsh Ext. 105



Metro NY
Labor
Communications
Council

How important is your job to you?

By Tiffany Foster, Executive Vice President



Tiffany Foster

How important is your job to you? How hard will you fight to save your job? Well time will tell. We are being faced with some major challenges. The job that we have taken for granted, because we have a no lay off clause in our Collective Bargaining Agreement allows us to think we are safe. Well we're not. How about the overtime that management uses to seduce us with, that makes us violate our own contract?

Let me tell you why we are not safe. USPS is giving away the business at an alarming rate. Self-sabotage is number one on the agenda. Look at what's happening around you. Every post office has long lines with limited staff to handle the lines. This makes the customers go somewhere else. Is that the plan? Some stations like Grand Central didn't have any stamps to sell to the customers for weeks. How does a window clerk begin to tell a customer they don't have any stamps to sell? This is the post office; we should never run out of stamps to sell. Is this the plan to drive the customers away? Let's not forget about package delivery. The parcel post business for the USPS has increased and I'm sure you see this daily by the amount of parcels received in the stations as opposed to years ago. That still doesn't mean that our jobs are safe. In light of parcel growth,

the USPS is doing everything possible to make us irrelevant. The manufactured crisis imposed on the USPS by Congress has played into the hands of those wanting to privatize the postal service, because it allows them to say we are in trouble. The trouble is the \$5 billion dollars we are mandated to fork over to fund our future retirees' health benefits 75 years into the future. This fund will be for people who are not born yet. More ways the USPS is trying to make us irrelevant is the sweetheart deal with Staples or by its other name Approved Shipper Program. The Approved Shipper program allows Staples employees to sell stamps, other postal products and receive packages just as our window clerks, but are paid a non-living wage. I know you have seen CVS and other retail chains selling postal products. Now, to add insult to injury, Walmart will have postal counters in 2,000 of its stores. Do you think your job is under attack now? In the stations, they are using the PASS or DSS machines. This machine doesn't require you to know the scheme for the station. It tells you the carrier route the parcel goes to. Remember, knowing a scheme required training and was considered a skill. The USPS is making it so that we are dispensable.

Just because you work in the plant don't think you're free. Job security is an issue for you also. The USPS has removed machines out of the plants saying there is no need for them anymore. No machines, no

clerks needed to run the machines and no maintenance employees to repair them. This is not only about the Maintenance employees who repair the equipment, but what about the other maintenance employees who don't fill out their route sheets and work orders properly or at all. You're giving away your job by not recording the work that you are doing. The USPS all across the country has exceeded the number of Maintenance Support Clerks (MSC), because the USPS says there aren't enough maintenance personnel to substantiate the number of MSC that were currently on the roster.

Motor Vehicle Craft, subcontracting is real and ever present. Every chance the USPS gets they are finding ways to subcontract out our work. It is Christmas time again and I bet the USPS will create a self-imposed emergency as a reason to give our work to private contractors. Motor vehicle trucks are being fixed by contractors, but no one will provide statements to help stop the great giveaway.

So, how important is your job to you? How hard will you fight to protect it? Every week NY Metro has been and will continue to put out a schedule for Staples hits, we expect more than our retirees and volunteers from other locals to hit the streets with us. We must keep fighting as long as our jobs are under attack. When NY Metro calls for all hands on deck, that's when we'll see who's serious about protecting their jobs. ☐

MPE Eddie Domingo killed on the job 20 years ago

By Flo Summergrad

Maintenance worker Ernesto Jordan was killed on the job only days before the twentieth anniversary of the industrial accident that took the life of our brother, Eddie Domingo, at the NJI&BMC on October 7, 1994. The investigation into Tito's death is not over, but we do know exactly what happened to Eddie.

Blame the Victim

Before any investigation of the accident, postal management immediately began the cover-up technique of blaming the victim. At the hospital, a supervisor who knew nothing of maintenance work or the layout of SSM 4, was sent to tell Eddie's distraught fiancée that he was killed while sleeping on the job. This was the story given to the press by the postal media spokesman and was published by the Jersey Journal with total disregard for the fact that his body was crushed in an upright position.

OSHA and Unions Investigate

Ed Domingo was working alone, in a machine high off the ground, and hidden from sight. It took OSHA's forensic scrutiny of the drag marks, the machinery, and the area to determine what had occurred.

In order to free a jammed sack on SSM-4, the mechanic had to climb down a ladder under the sack sorter. The machinery was being stopped for lunch, but as Eddie stepped off the ladder, a combination of loose belting, plastic ties, and debris caused him to trip into the unguarded machine. Even though it had been shut off, the torque kept the SSM moving for another second. As Eddie tripped, the knob of the last sack bucket caught him and compressed his chest into the space between the rail and the track. The required machine guard was not there to save him.

OSHA cited the Postal Service for several serious violations in connec-

tion with the fatality. These included tripping hazards and lack of machine guarding.

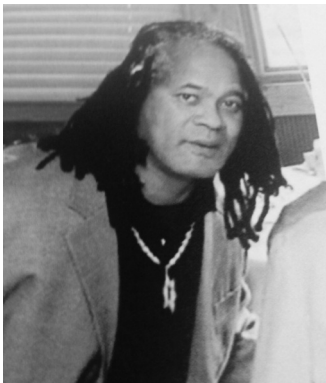
Enforce the "buddy system"!

Maintenance understaffing creates unsafe conditions. When MPE Ed Domingo was crushed and killed, the APWU was in 1994 Contract negotiations. The Union insisted on language for a "buddy system."

Article 14A5 states that the Labor/Management Safety and Health Committee has the responsibility of "identifying areas in which it is appropriate to require the presence of an additional person while maintenance work assignments are performed in hazardous areas to ensure adequate safety precautions."

With postal management making every effort to cut needed maintenance staffing, this provision is really important. NYMAPU has pledged to always remember what happened to Eddie. His legacy is our ongoing fight for a safe workplace. ☐

Tito Jordan
REST IN PEACE



Brother Ernesto (Tito) Jordan, a Maintenance employee fell two stories from a scissor lift while performing window washing duties at Mid-Town Station. His injuries turned out to be fatal, and he was laid to rest on October 3, 2014.

Tito was a long-time union brother, who served NYMAPU for several years as Sergeant-at-Arms, as well as performing maintenance duties in the 31st Street union office. We will miss this tall, good-looking co-worker who should have had many more years to enjoy his life. He was a quiet man who was able to make his presence felt without a lot of bluster and drama.

Until the accident investigation is completed, it is premature to draw conclusions. But, this tragedy is a reminder to maintenance workers. Under Article 14, you have the right to demand safe working conditions: adequate training; proper PPE (protective gear); well-functioning equipment; and help of a "buddy" when needed. ☐

Our union will fight the attack on Maintenance jobs

By Flo Summergrad

On October 21, 2014, President Jonathan Smith received an email from Postal Management regarding the implementation of a package of cuts in Maintenance Staffing that they had promised to hold in abeyance. We know these maintenance cuts are a planned attack on the craft, because the cuts in staffing are being imposed on Morgan, DVD, and the NDC at the same time. President Smith sent out a blast to the members, saying, "As you can see, it's an all-out war against maintenance. Note: we are doing our best to circumvent this attack on Maintenance Staffing, THIS WILL BE GRIEVED!"

It is clear to everyone who works in a postal station or plant that we need more maintenance, not less. Our health and safety depend on the conscientiousness and skills of the workers who keep the place clean, well-maintained and the equipment operating in an efficient and safe manner. Our ability to move and track the mail also depends on our maintenance staff.

While the USPS continues the attack on maintenance staffing, we have to use our contractual weapons to fight back. Despite their claims, postal management will not be able to do more with less. Their plan is to use contractors to do the work of the jobs that are cut. This means any and all suspicion of subcontracting has to be brought to the attention of the union immediately.

Article 32 of the Collective

Bargaining Agreement explains the general principles of subcontracting, as well as the requirement to notify and discuss such contracting out with the Union. On August 13, 2013, Arbitrator Shayam Das (Q06C-4Q-C 08228294) upheld the APWU argument that "Article 32.1.C requires notification to the local union of decisions to subcontract bargaining unit work at local installations made at the local, as well as district or area, level." Article 19 covers the ASM (Administrative Support Manual). ASM subchapter 530 has written regulations intended to control and limit contracting out maintenance work.

One of management's tricks in the past has been to cut the staffing in higher level jobs while getting the work done by using the excessed workers to perform their old duties. Arbitrator Das put a stop to this in his national arbitration award (Q00Y-4Q-C 06082523) of August 6, 2014. The matter had been pending since 2006. The arbitrator refuted the Postal Service's contentions that it could multi-rate maintenance employees at will rather than paying overtime to those in the occupational group needed.

Question: Is there a violation of the National Agreement when an employee from a different occupational group is assigned higher level work on straight time, rather than assigning overtime to an employee within the same occupational group?

Answer: Yes!

Question: Must management use overtime to cover a temporary vacancy in the maintenance craft instead of detailing an employee to a higher level assignment under the provisions of Article 25?

Answer: Yes!

National APWU Maintenance Craft Director Steve Raymer praised the Das award for upholding Article 7.2 of the contract. Raymer said, "The significance of this award should not be understated. It provides enforcement for the distinctions in our occupational groups which would be meaningless without the job security of knowing that the occupational group will perform its work, even at the overtime rate. . . . This award puts an end to management's ill-conceived attack on our wages and job security."

The USPS will attempt to get around this by "detailing" people into higher level jobs. Such details must be grieved; the rationale for cutting the job is that the work does not exist when clearly it does. Since the excessed employees will already have save grade pay, this does nothing for them; it just helps management disguise the holes in staffing.

When maintenance staffing is attacked, the safety of all workers is attacked as well. Defending the jobs in our facilities is important to everyone. Workers of all crafts must keep the union informed about any delays and problems due to maintenance cuts. ☐

LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT

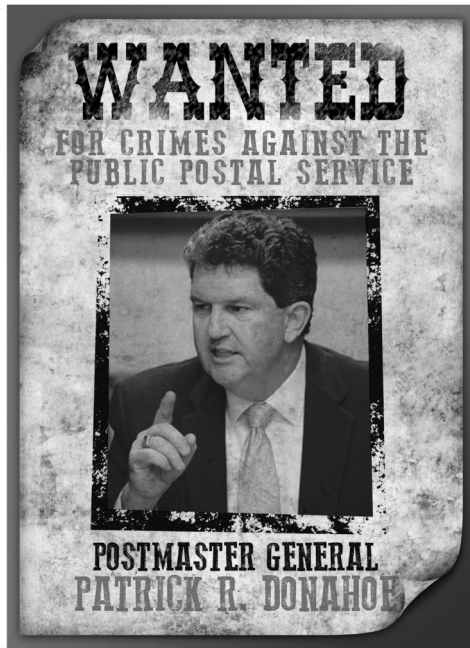
Degrading service standards — the PMG's final dagger

By Nora Mendez

Soon after the 2014 midterm elections, Congress will reconvene during their lame-duck session to consider various items of business. It was during a lame-duck session that the Postal Accountability Enhancement Act of 2006 was passed, which is the main cause of the Postal Service's financial crisis.

Just how much gets done during the session will depend on the outcome of the elections. One of the items on the agenda is the government funding bill. At the moment, most of the federal government is operating under the autopilot of a "continuing resolution."

It is important that during this session, language be included in the continuing resolution bill that would maintain the current service and delivery standards. As you already know, the USPS announced this past summer that in January 2015 they were going to lower service standards and close and consolidate 82 plants. So far 51 Senators and more than 160 Members of the House of Representatives have signed a letter to the leaders of the Appropriations Committee in their respective chambers calling for a one-year moratorium on Postal Service plans to close mail processing plants and slow down mail delivery. This would put the brakes on PMG Patrick Donahoe's foolhardy actions and buy Congress time to pass a meaningful postal reform that would not only preserve this national treasure, but would also



expand it to provide more services to the American people.

"If the Postmaster General's plan to cut service standards is implemented in January 2015, it will end overnight delivery of first-class mail throughout the country. Slowing down the mail is an issue that affects every congressional district in the country—it drives away postal patrons, denies essential services to communities, and harms small businesses." "We must reach out to our representatives and ask them to stand up for a vibrant, public Postal Service," APWU President Mark Dimondstein said.

Call your representative today and ask them to sign on to this important letter!

Pending BOG nominations

The USPS Board of Governors is supposed to have nine governors, but there are currently five vacancies. The postmaster general serves at the pleasure of the board and could be replaced at any time. PMG Donahoe's preference for job-cutting and privatization over new revenue options like postal banking reflects poorly on President Obama and Congress. It also exposes the existing members of the Board's agenda: to privatize the USPS.

Six years into the Obama presidency, the Board has a conservative majority, with three Republicans and one Democrat. The four existing members were appointed by George W. Bush.

The 113th Congress remains on track to be arguably the least productive Congress in modern history. They are referred to as the "most do-nothingest" Congress. Because of the gridlock in D.C., there remains a backlog of executive branch nominations, including the pending nominations of five Postal Board of Governors members. The nominees are James Miller III, Stephen Crawford, Michael Bennett, Victoria Kennedy and David S. Shapira.

It is unlikely that these nominations will be confirmed during the lame-duck session; however, we will keep you posted on any activity or information regarding the nominees or on any movement in the process. ☐

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

National Day of Action: Stop Delaying America's Mail!



All four postal unions are calling for a National Day of Action on November 14, 2014, the day the USPS Board of Governors are scheduled to meet. We have to tell them: *Stop Delaying America's Mail!*

Patrick R. Donahoe and the Board of Governors intend to ruin the public's mail service. The union presidents explain that, "The Postmaster General is poised to make devastating cuts in service to the American people—cuts so severe that they will forever damage the U.S. Postal Service."

January 5, 2015: the USPS plans to lower "service standards" to virtually eliminate overnight delivery—including first-class mail from one address to another within the same city or town. All mail (letters, periodicals, packages) throughout the country will be delayed.

January 5, 2015: the USPS will begin to close or "consolidate operations" of 82 Mail Processing and Distribution Centers.

"These cuts will cause hardships for customers, drive away business, cause irreparable harm to the U.S. Postal Service, and lead to massive schedule changes and reassignments for employees," the presidents said.

It is now or never for each of us to stand up to Save America's Postal Service! ☐

NY Metro declares war on Staples

By Nora Mendez

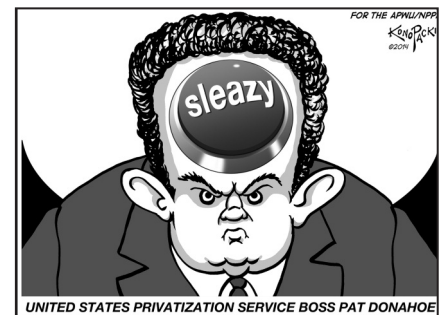
On October 7 USPS management notified the APWU they were expanding their dirty deal with Staples from 82 sites to over 1,500 Staples stores across the country. The mini post offices inside Staples will be operated by lower-wage Staples staff instead of U.S. Postal Service employees.

Following the announcement, NY Metro launched a series of ongoing protests in Manhattan in October. For the past couple of weeks postal activists and members of the Moe Biller Retiree Chapter have been outside Staples stores in Midtown and Harlem passing out flyers and urging shoppers to buy office supplies elsewhere. Plans are underway to expand the protests to new locations in The Bronx and New Jersey.

The 'Don't Buy Staples' movement will go forward until Staples gets out of the postal business.

"These protests are very important because the Staples deal is a direct attack on not just our members, but the American public," said NY Metro President Jonathan Smith. The move to put postal counters inside Staples is a step toward privatization of the Postal Service, which will shutter standalone post offices and wipe out decent paying jobs.

"The people of this country should have their postal services provided by postal employees—well trained, in uniform, under the code of ethical conduct and accountable for protecting the sanctity and security and privacy of the mail," APWU President Mark Dimondstein said.



"That doesn't happen when the mail is not in the mail system."

The expansion of the program demonstrates the need for even greater activism by NY Metro members and allies. It is important that our members join the fight to defend the public Postal Service and our jobs. Weekly schedules can be found on nymetro.org and our Facebook page [Stop Staples NYC](https://www.facebook.com/StopStaplesNYC). ☐

NY Metro provides scholarships with help from Union Plus

New York, NY – APWU New York Metro was presented with a check for their participation in the Local Rewards Project Wednesday, October 13, during their October membership meeting.

Union Plus developed the Local Rewards Project to explore unique ways to promote union benefits while simultaneously raising scholarship money for local union members. APWU New York Metro was selected by APWU international to participate in the Local Rewards Project, sharing information with their members about the Union Plus Credit Card program.

The Local Rewards Project focuses on locals using a variety of communication methods to inform their membership about Union Plus benefits. For their participation, as well as completing a series of milestones, each participating union would receive money for scholarships that can be taken advantage of by their members, spouses, and dependent children. The Local Rewards Project will end December 31, 2014.

The scholarship funded by the Local Rewards Project is open to APWU Local 10 members, their spouses, and dependent children. Scholarship recipients must attend a U.S. accredited college or university, community college or technical or trade school at the time the award is issued. The scholarship is open to undergraduate and graduate students for a one time award

which must be used in the 2015-2016 school year.

For each member of APWU New York Metro that is approved for the APWU Credit Card, Union Plus will donate \$25 to the APWU New York Metro scholarship fund. The APWU Union Plus Credit Card program offers three different credit cards eligible to apply for. After just three months, eligible cardholders will have access to exclusive assistance grants*, including:

Job Loss Grant of \$300 provides assistance to eligible cardholders who have recently been laid off.

Strike Grant of \$300 provides assistance to eligible cardholders who are on a union-sanctioned strike or experiencing a lock-out.

Disability Grant of \$1,600 to \$2,700 helps eligible cardholders who have lost significant income due to a long term disability illness or disability.

Hospital Grant of \$1,200 aids eligible cardholders with large, unreimbursed hospital expenses.

All approved grants are paid to the cardholder by check – and they never have to be paid back.

All three cards continue to offer benefits like U.S.-based customer service and \$0 fraud liability protection if the card is lost or stolen.

The APWU Union Plus Credit Cards are issued by Capital One, a U.S.-based bank. Union Plus offers over 40 programs to union members, including a mortgage program that helps members facing hardship stay in their homes, a 15% discount



President Jonathan Smith and Director of Organization Kevin Walsh receive check from Union Plus representative Brea Ellis

on select AT&T wireless services, insurance protection, travel and entertainment discounts, and more.

For information about all the APWU Union Plus Credit Card programs, including the three credit card choices, visit APWU10Card.com

To apply for a Union Plus scholarship, visit UnionPlus.org/Scholarship. Applicant deadline is January 31, 2015. 12pm EST. ☑

**The AFL-CIO created Union Privilege in 1986 to provide union members and their families with valuable consumer benefits. With Union Plus benefits, your union membership “pays” at work and at home.*

Scholarship applications can be filed from now until January 31, 2015 at noon Eastern Time. On the internet, go to unionplus.org/scholarships, then scroll down to “Apply for Union Plus Scholarship” and click on Apply Now.

OPEN SEASON: NOVEMBER 10 – DECEMBER 8, 2014

Training seminar on APWU Health Plans

By Flo Summergrad

One way to build our Union is to get into the APWU Health Plan. The APWU held training for representatives to explain our Health Plan in the field during Open Season. Our Local's reps will be available from November 10 through December 8 to answer questions and share information about both APWU health plans. They returned from the training excited about many new features offered by both the high and low option plans.

- Maternity covered at 100%
- Preventive care and screenings covered at 100%
- Secure on-line access to health care data
- Almost 1 million providers
- Get care nationally and abroad
- No referral needed

There are two choices: High Option (Cigna) or the Consumer Driven Health Plan (United Health Care). At this time, PSEs with over a year of service are eligible for FEHB. For PSEs, the Postal Service contributes 75% of the cost per Pay Period to the APWU CDHP but nothing for the other plans. For career employees, the USPS contribution goes up to 95%—making it the most affordable of all the Federal Employee plans.

This is an excellent choice for anyone who enjoys relatively good health. Personal Care Account (PCA) in the Consumer Driven Health Plan sets aside \$1200 in your account. This is like a credit, so instead of a co-

pay at the doctor, this money gets debited from this PCA. You don't have any out-of-pocket expense until that is exhausted. Any left over money can be carried over into the next years up to \$5000. So if you have a serious illness in the future, you already have that in the bank.

The people from NY Metro Area Postal Union learned about the plans, the incentives, and how to direct health care questions to get answers.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

APWU Health Plan Coordinator, J. Renee Bost
212-563-7553 ext. 103

APWU Health Plan Representatives

NJ: Rowena Galang and Barbara Harris-McKenzie

Bronx: Genevieve Gardner

Morgan and Manhattan: Jacquelyn Owens and J. Rene Bost

APWU HIGH OPTION

Self Only 471	Family 472
Bi-weekly \$42.65	Bi-weekly \$105.20

APWU CONSUMER DRIVEN

Self Only 474	Family 475
Bi-weekly Career \$9	Bi-weekly Career \$20.84
Bi-weekly PSE \$46.31	Bi-weekly PSE \$104.18



Together.
Better Health.

The ebola health crisis: a direct link to congressional budget cuts

By Flo Summergrad

While racist fear-mongering depicts Mexicans crossing the U.S. border to bring in the ebola virus, or people of color flying it in from overseas, the fact is that our vulnerability to disease can be directly tied to Congressional budget cuts. On October 10, 2014, Dr. Francis S. Collins, head of the NIH (National Institute of Health) said that there would have been an effective Ebola vaccine and treatment if funding had not been sliced. “NIH has been working on Ebola vaccines since 2001. It’s not like we suddenly woke up and thought, ‘Oh my gosh, we should have something ready here.’ Frankly, if we had not gone through our 10-year slide in research support . . . we would have been a year or two ahead of where we are, which would have made all the difference.”

During the same time period, the Center for Disease Control's emergency preparedness budget has been sliced by about 50%. This means that local health departments in the U.S. don't have the funding or staff to do proper training and response to an incursion of any infectious disease—not just Ebola. In the latest issue of *Scientific American*, Dr. Judy Stone, a specialist in infectious disease, calls it “shocking.” She states that “annual funding for the CDC’s public health preparedness and response efforts were \$1 billion lower for 2013 fiscal year than for

2002. These funding decreases have resulted in more than 45,700 job losses at state and local health departments since 2008.”

While the health crisis makes daily headlines, the United States has not had a permanent Surgeon General since July 16, 2013. We don't have one because the GOP blocked President Obama's nominee, Dr. Vivek Murthy. Their opposition had nothing to do with the doctor's medical credentials, which are excellent. Murthy has the ideal background for the job: “Currently he is a doctor at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, one of the best hospitals in the nation. He is also an instructor at Harvard Medical School. Murphy has a medical degree and an MBA from Yale University and an undergraduate degree in biochemical sciences from Harvard.”

Why would they turn down this ideal choice? The answer is simple. The National Rifle Association (NRA) hates Dr. Murthy for seeing guns as a public health hazard so they have been playing politics with the nomination. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) blames Obama for this failure: “Instead of nominating a health professional,” Cruz told CNN, “he nominated someone who is an anti-gun activist.”

This type of straight-up lie has put us on the road to health disaster. The Alliance for Retired Americans spoke out in their October 17, 2014,

Alert with the headline: “Health Experts: Sequester and Other Budget Cuts Left us Vulnerable to Ebola.” Frontline put out a video last year on how profit hungry drug companies have stopped all research into developing new antibiotics as the older ones are becoming drug resistant. Because people do not need regular doses of antibiotics, their sale is not lucrative; the goal of major pharmaceuticals is making money, not saving lives.

For postal workers who handle mail and customers from all over the world, exposure to disease is a concern. APWU national Industrial Relations Director Tony McKinnon has called on USPS management to take proactive steps to protect us. He held a meeting on October 21, 2014, to address these issues. So far, that has resulted in the Postal Service renewing its defunct program to offer the flu vaccine to its employees at work and other measures will be announced. ☐



Dr. Francis S. Collins, Director of NIH

CALENDAR

Friday, November 14

National Day of Action
"Stop Delaying America's Mail"
(times and sites to be announced)

Wednesday, November 19

5:30 pm
General Membership Meeting
Hotel Pennsylvania
401 Seventh Avenue (between 32 and 33 Streets)
Paris/Zurich Room, 6th Floor

Friday, December 19

3:00 pm – 11:00 pm
NYMAPU Holiday Celebration!
AFSCME Building
420 West 45 Street, 1st Floor
(between 9th and 10th Avenues)

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of 09/01/2014	\$366,082.51
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 82,132.56
Total Operating Expenses 09/2014	\$ 59,980.27
Deferred Leasing Commissions	\$ 4,923.80
TOTAL NET INCOME	\$ 22,152.29
Closing Balance as of 09/30/2014	\$383,311.00

November/December

Don't Buy Staples! Rallies

will be scheduled throughout our area in New York and New Jersey

Keep your eyes out for emails, Flashes, or call the Union office for times and locations.

Call Kevin Walsh 212-563-7553 ext.105 with any ideas for a rally at a Staples near you.



 You are cordially invited to join
New York Metro Area Postal Union officers
 in Celebrating the Holidays

 Friday, December 19, 2014
 3pm – 11pm
 AFSCME Building, 420 West 45th Street, 1st floor
 (between 9th and 10th Aves.)
 NYC

Food, Beverages, Music!

This is for our members! Please present membership ID at the door.
 RSVP by December 12, 2014

 Return to Union office (350 W. 31st St, 3rd floor, NY, NY 10001) by December 12th:
 NAME _____ STATION _____
 Approximate time you'll be coming _____



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



Periodicals class
POSTAGE PAID
at New York, NY

NYMAPU RAPID RESPONSE NETWORK

2014 is election year for every member of the House of Representatives. With nearly 5,000 members, NYMAPU should be able to play an active role in determining our representatives in Congress. If you haven't already joined the NYMAPU Rapid Response Network, now is the time to do so. Ask your shop steward to sign you up for the RRN. This will help us mobilize the members quickly by phone.

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: _____
