



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.

## *New York Metro members celebrate the holiday season.*



## *Now let's prepare for the struggle ahead.*

*Holiday Party photos on page 8*

# Stop putting profit over people!



**Jonathan Smith**

**Y**es, it's December and time to move holiday mail. Yes, extra PSEs can be hired to do that work. But NO, that does not mean we throw out basic safety and health rules and common decency.

NY District Management did just that when they opened a temporary annex in the Bronx, staffed it with the most vulnerable workers (PSEs on probation), and totally disregarded safety. The neighborhood is isolated and dangerous but there is no security. The place reeks of garbage from indoor dumpsters that are a breeding ground for rats and bugs. There is no hot water. The only bathroom on the work floor is supposed to serve 50-70 workers. Everybody else must use the Porto-potties where human waste only gets flushed out twice a week! (Oh, except for the clean bathrooms on the second floor for the exclusive use of the five supervisors and managers.)

It is disgusting, unsanitary, and inhumane.

Initially, there were outdated fire extinguishers and no safe egress from the facility in case of fire. This was until NY Metro Area Postal Union Executive Vice President Tiffany Foster went in there and called OSHA (the Occupational Safety & Health Administration). The fire safety violations at least got fixed.

Then she met with management and said the facility should be closed until it was safe. Their response was to call, email, and run across the street to demand that she report for a Pre-Disciplinary Interview! This was

just a tactic to intimidate us and stifle protest. It was a personal attack on our EVP, but also an attack on our entire union and all the people we represent. No one should be threatened for wanting safe and healthy working conditions.

NY District management's aptitude and attitude towards safety, the CBA (Collective Bargaining Agreement), and the Union were clearly reflected in an email sent to me on November 26, 2018. This stated in part that the Executive Vice President was "not given permission" to enter the Bronx Annex. I responded that we will never seek, nor do we need, management's permission to enter any postal facility under our jurisdiction. Article 23 of the contract only requires "reasonable notice to the Employer." The JCIM says a phone call to management meets this requirement.

Since management wants to wrongly lecture the union on the contract, let me help them out on what the CBA demands:

**Article 5:** Management is required to meet with the union when there is a change in hours, wages or working conditions. They opened this allegedly "temporary" facility without notification or meeting with the union.

**Article 14:** Management is responsible for providing safe working conditions. Since the state of this facility is atrocious and there were no 1767s available to report hazards, obviously safety not a concern or priority for NY District management.

**Articles 17 and 31:** The Union has the right to information needed for the enforcement of the Agreement. NY District management's only

"answer" to the union's questions about the unsafe work conditions in this facility was to attack Executive VP Foster with a bogus PDI.

Under the National Labor Relations Act, the union has a responsibility to police and enforce the contract. Management's responsibility is to comply with its rules. Their email shows they don't get it.

Management, let me be clear. The union will never negotiate with employees' safety and health. We don't and won't ever negotiate with the members' lives. This annex needs to be shut down. Stop putting profit over people. Especially when it comes to the safety and health of our members, the union will NEVER give up, NEVER give in and NEVER give out, because that is our DNA! ☒

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Cover photo by Chuck Zlatkin

# Knowledge is Power

By Tiffany Foster, Executive Vice-President



**Tiffany Foster**

**H**ow can you stand up for yourself and with the union, when you don't know your rights or what's going on around you?

The work is getting harder. Management is demanding more from the workers. The struggle continues. Times are changing. There are some employees that believe it is the responsibility of only the union representatives to know what the contract says about their rights and benefits. This is far from the truth. We all have a responsibility to know what our contract says. What governs us. Have you ever heard the saying, if you want to hide something put it in a book? No one wants to read anymore. This is the age of do it for me. No, tell me about it. I am not old but I've always heard the saying knowledge is power. It still rings true today, because it is true. The issue I see is how much knowledge do people want to have?

Do you know what a union is and its function? A union is an organization of workers who join together to advance their common interest for better pay, benefits and working conditions. An organization of workers not union representatives. We all must work together to continue to make strides in bettering our work conditions, wages and benefits. Without the collective of work-

ers how do we move forward?

Your contract is available on the APWU.ORG website, along with other very important information. You can download the APWU App to your phone. This way you always have your contract on hand when needed. Imagine if the workers knew some of the basic rights achieved for them through the contract how minor issues could possibly be resolved at the time they happen.

Below are just some basic contract provisions the workers should know.

The Joint Contract Interpretation Manual (JCIM) is a mandatory interpretation and application agreement between the APWU and USPS. If the issue in dispute is addressed in the JCIM, the union should not have to file a grievance; the issue is to be resolved in accordance with the JCIM.

Article 15 deals with the Grievance-Arbitration procedure, you don't need to know how to process a grievance, but you do need to know what is required of the worker when a grievance needs to be filed. Taken from JCIM Article 15 page 1, "The grievant (worker) must discuss the grievance with the employee's immediate supervisor within fourteen (14) days of when the grievant (worker) first learned or may reasonably have been expected to learn of the alleged violation."

A grievance is defined as a dispute, difference, disagreement or complaint between the parties related to wages, hours and conditions of

employment. Don't let what you believe are contractual violations go unaddressed for more than 14 days. Always bring the matter to your immediate supervisor's attention as soon as you are made aware of the issue or alleged violation.

If there is no resolve after discussing the issue or alleged violation with the immediate supervisor, Article 17 (Representation) in the JCIM says that the employee has the right to request a steward. Don't wait, request a steward immediately.

Did you know that our brothers and sisters who work in federal agencies had their collective bargaining rights under attack? Trump signed Executive Orders to strip their union of the right to represent the workers on the clock. These attacks to break the union were beaten back through a federal lawsuit. But union-busting is still at the top of Trump's agenda. What would happen if the Executive Order affected APWU? What if APWU couldn't file your discipline grievances? What if that discipline was a notice of removal? You'd be out of a job. No ifs, ands, or buts about it. What if the union couldn't negotiate or bargain the staffing, schedules or work rules? We would be a worker at will. We are still fortunate to be able to have the contractual ability to request a steward and process grievances on the postal clock. Times are changing. The struggle continues. Are you willing to change and to help build a stronger union? An injury to one is an injury to us all. ☐

# Legislative and political review of 2018 and what it means for 2019

By Chuck Zlatkin, Director of Communications

**W**hen it comes to preserving a public Postal Service, 2018 was an historic year both politically and legislatively. The year ended with the release of the Report from the Task Force on the United States Postal System ordered by President Donald J. Trump, which is the greatest attack on a public Postal Service since the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA). It wages war on postal workers, calling for the elimination of collective bargaining on wages. (See Postal Privatization on page 6.)

## Mid-term Elections

In the November mid-term elections, the Democratic Party regained control of the House of Representatives. The 116th Congress is one of the most diverse in history. There are 100 new members of the House, 66 Democrats and 44 Republicans. 42 are women and 23 are people of color and many of them will be representing majority white districts. There are no guarantees. In 2009, when the Democrats controlled the White House and both Houses of Congress nothing was done to correct the damaging impact of the PAEA on postal workers and the people we serve. We must remain eternally vigilant.

In the 2018 elections, New York Metro Area Postal Union endorsed three candidates.

■ In the 14th Congressional District, (part of the Bronx and Queens), Democrat Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, an outspoken advocate of postal banking and keeping a public

Postal Service, was endorsed by the NYMAPU Executive Board. On August 8, 2018, NYMAPU President Jonathan Smith was a featured speaker at an extraordinary event held in the Parkchester section of the Bronx -- "A Community Conversation with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Andy Barkan." (Barkan is the 34-year old activist with the Center of American Progress who was stricken with ALS.) President Smith was the lead-off speaker and gave a rousing speech on the importance of postal banking to the people of the Bronx and the whole nation. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez won an overwhelming victory and New York Metro looks forward to working with her.

■ New York Metro's Executive Board also endorsed Letitia "Tish" James for Attorney General in New York state. Tish James has been a friend to this union for years. New York Metro endorsed her in her initial bid for Public Advocate and was pleased to endorse her again for statewide office where we look forward to her bringing her pro-labor focus to her new job.

■ The third endorsement by the Executive Board was on behalf of our long-time ally and honorary member John J. Dennie, the Green Party candidate in the 63rd Assembly District in Staten Island. Dennie has had a distinguished record of public service to his community, to labor and to postal workers. Unfortunately, because of illness John was unable to campaign during

the final six weeks of the campaign. He did manage to receive 4.4% of the vote in the mostly conservative district.

## Postal Banking Campaign builds

In July, there was a big victory for this union and our allies with the defeat of an attempt to prohibit the Postal Service from expanding financial services as a first step in the establishment of postal banking. The amendment to the government appropriations bill made by right-wing Patrick McHenry (R-NC) was rejected by a bipartisan vote of 212-201. APWU President Mark Dimondstein said, "The defeat of this concerted effort to curtail financial and other innovative services is an important victory for those who believe that the Postal Service exists to serve the people of this country."

For New York Metro, 2018 was a landmark year with the work that has been done on moving towards postal banking in the Bronx. The four Congressmen who represented the Bronx: Representatives Serrano, Espaillat, Engel and Crowley signed on to a letter to Postmaster General Megan Brennan calling for the institution of postal banking in the Bronx and expressed their support for the Campaign for Postal Banking. New York Metro has played a major role in the collection of over 7,000 petition signatures to "Make Postal Banking in the Bronx a Reality Now!" The struggle continues. ☰

# Postal Banking: 2018



*By Chuck Zlatkin, Director of Communications*

2018 has been a remarkable year for New York Metro and the Campaign for Postal Banking as the drive to educate and mobilize people in support of postal banking has been a great success. Our petition drive to gather signatures for the Bronx Postmaster and the Postmaster General of the United States has reached over 7,000 people who have signed on to the “Make Postal Banking in the Bronx a Reality Now!” petition.

On November 15, the Executive Board of the New York City Central Labor Council, after hearing a presentation from New York Metro Area Postal Union President Jonathan Smith, passed a resolution that the CLC supports the Campaign for Postal Banking, including the ongoing efforts to compel the Postal Service to provide basic financial services such as paycheck cashing and electronic funds transfer as a step toward establishing nonprofit, public postal banking. The New York City Central Labor Council (NYCCLC) is a non-profit labor membership organization devoted to supporting, advancing, and advocating for the working people of New York City. As the nation’s largest regional labor federation, the NYCCLC brings together 300 local unions from every trade, occupation, public and private sector of the New York economy. The NYCCLC represents 1.3 million workers.

President Smith had been the guest speaker at a meeting of the New York City Chapter of Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) on postal banking. His presentation was such a

success that the NYC Chapter went to the National Convention of LCLAA and the NYC Chapter presented a resolution on postal banking that was adopted by the National. LCLAA was founded in 1972 and represents 2 million Latino trade unionists in the United States and Puerto Rico. At the October 16 Hunts Point Rally for Postal Banking, the four Congressional Representatives for the Bronx, Congress Members José E. Serrano, Adriano Espaillat, Eliot Engel, and Joseph Crowley unveiled a letter that they had co-signed to the Postmaster General of the United States, Megan Brennan, detailing their support for postal banking in the Bronx and the Campaign for Postal Banking.

In June, a Postal Banking Information Session was held at Bronx Community College and was sponsored by Congressman Serrano’s office. The presentation was given for elected officials and community groups and featured President Smith, Katherine Isaac of the CPB, and the New Economy Project. It was attended by our sister postal unions: Local 300 of NPMHU and Branch 36 of NALC and locals from the Communications Workers of America (CWA) who are members of the Campaign for Postal Banking.

In July, an attempted attack on postal banking orchestrated by right-wing Congressman Patrick McHenry (R-NC) as part of an amendment to the appropriations bill was beaten by back a bipartisan vote of supporters for a public Postal Service. The vote of 212-201 to defeat the regressive, anti-postal banking amendment

included 28 Republicans! It was a genuine victory for the movement for postal banking and showed how much grass roots support there is for postal banking nationally!

In August, President Smith appeared at a Community Conversation with then candidate for Congress Alexandria Octavio-Cortez in the Parkchester sections of the Bronx. President Smith gave a rousing speech on the importance of Postal Banking for the people of the Bronx and the nation as well. In November, Octavio-Cortez was elected and will be the youngest member of Congress in the history of the United States. She will be a dynamic leader and a true ally of postal banking.

On December 4, with the release of the Task Force on the Postal System that was created by an Executive Order by President Trump, the true power and success of the Campaign for Postal Banking was shown. The Report, which supposedly is designed to find ways of improving the Postal Service, comes down against postal banking. The billionaires, bankers, and predatory lenders who would be hurt by having a true public option designed to help working people and not exploit them, are against postal banking and made sure that the Report made that clear.

2018 was truly a banner year for postal banking, and as we begin 2019, the education and mobilization of people across the country will continue. New York Metro will continue to lead the effort to bring postal banking to the people and to make that a cornerstone in the fight to protect our public Postal Service. ☐

# KEEP A PUBLIC POSTAL SERVICE: STOP PRIVATIZATION PART 1

## Trump to postal workers: Drop Dead

By Chuck Zlatkin, Director of Communications

On December 4, 2018, the President's Task Force on the Postal Service finally released its report. The 70-page report details an attack on the public Postal Service that includes elimination of the collective bargaining for postal employees regarding wages, rejection of postal banking, cutbacks in service for the American people and businesses alike, increasing privatization, gutting the universal service obligation, increasing prices on "non-essential" services. The report which was almost four-months late, was published just three days before the collective bargaining deadline was to be reached by APWU and the USPS and comes out when postal workers are at their busiest. The destruction of unionized postal workers is the main plank in this report.

The report was originally supposed to come out on August 10th as detailed when President Trump issued Executive Order 13829 on April 12, 2018. The word that came out of Washington, DC, is that Republicans in rural states in no way wanted a report that could be recommending the privatization of the United States Postal Service to be issued prior to the mid-term elections. Elected officials know how much their constituents rely on a public Postal Service. Privatization of the Postal Service will do as privatization always does, cut service and raise prices. A privatized Postal Service will not be providing service to 157 million addresses every day

for the same price, no matter where you live.

It is clear where the Trump administration stands by reading the release of "Delivering Government Solutions in the 21st Century Reform Plan and Reorganization Recommendations." This report, prepared by the Office of Management and Budget in June of 2018, targets the Postal Service and makes its intentions very clear: "This proposal would restructure the United States Postal System to return it to a sustainable business model or prepare it for future conversion from a Government agency into a privately-held corporation." It references Trump's Executive Order 13829 and says the Task Force "will conduct a thorough evaluation of the operations and finances of the Postal Service and make recommendations for reform consistent with this reorganization proposal."

At the time of the announcement of the Task Force, Trump had detailed his belief that Amazon was getting too good of a deal from the Postal Service. Some felt that he was looking for a way to attack Amazon owner Jeff Bezos. Bezos was also owner of The Washington Post, which was critical of Trump. There is no way to know how much Trump's animus toward Bezos added to the motivation for the Postal Task Force.

Trump's fascination with privatization of the Postal Service goes beyond wanting to punish Amazon.

Trump is also being influenced by a history promoting postal privatization that goes back decades. Right-wing think tanks such as the Cato Institute,



American Enterprise Institute and the Heritage Foundation have long promoted postal privatization. The report is a realization of a dream by right-wing think tanks and the billionaires who finance them. While the media says that the report doesn't call for the full privatization of the Postal Service, if implemented, it would bleed the service to death opening the door for a total takeover by Trump's cronies and benefactors. The report is a culmination of the work by the Cato Institute, the American Enterprise Institute and especially the Heritage Foundation.

The Heritage Foundation has unparalleled access in the Trump White House to filling staff positions throughout the administration. It has its greatest influence on an administration since the Reagan administration. The Heritage Foundation was begun in 1973, promoting the interests of the wealthy, protecting their position at the expense of working people. ☞

[Look for Part 2 of this series: "The Heritage Foundation is the stalking horse for Postal Privatization"]

# Stop privatization! "The U.S. Mail is Not for Sale!"



By Flo Summergrad

**T**he very existence of the public mail service is under the greatest threat in its 243 years. (Yes, the post office is older than the United States of America!) Our theme for 2019 must be a constant drumbeat of: **"The U.S. Mail is NOT for Sale!"** We have to talk it up everywhere we shop, pray, study, and socialize.

Make no mistake. These are dangerous times with unions and public sector workers under attack at every level of government. But, as President Dimondstein says, "They will have to come through the APWU and our allies"—including the American people, who overwhelmingly choose the post office as their most trusted government agency. During disasters like hurricanes and forest fires, it is postal workers who know where people live; they have been able to locate missing customers and keep them in communication. Postal workers protect the

public by screening suspicious parcels, and during the 2001 anthrax attacks and the recent pipe bomb mailings, they continued to move the mail even though they were in harm's way. They are truly public servants.

The APWU and sister union NALC have begun a campaign of video ads on the social media to illustrate the looming disaster of privatization. The Flight Attendants Union has also made a video on the importance of a public postal service. It is up to all of us to circulate these short ads to encourage opposition to privatization.

USPS employees are truly a network of the American people. The Postal Service has a national work force that employs over 113,000 of our nation's veterans—more than 20% of the work force. Equal employment regulations in hiring mean a very diverse work force,

with over 40% women and the highest percentage of African-Americans, Latinos, and Asian-Americans in the federal system. The national contracts enforce equal pay for equal work—a rarity for labor.

It is time to get involved in the effort to save the public postal service—not just for our own union jobs with benefits, but also for the American people who depend on an affordable, universal mail service. Behind the leadership of the APWU, strides are being made to expand and enhance what we are able to offer. Postal banking is an idea whose time has come! Last July a bill vetoing expanding postal financial services was defeated in a bipartisan vote.

2019 has to be the year you get involved—on whatever level you can—in fighting to save what we have and improve our lives.

Say it loud. Say it proud. **"The U.S. Mail is NOT for Sale!"** ☐

## *In Memoriam* ☞

### *Bill Kreutter ~ Irreplaceable!*



**F**or over 20 years, Bill Kreutter was our expert on Maintenance Craft issues, dealing with the complex rules about staffing and occupational groups. He filed literally hundreds of class grievances on wrongful con-

tracting out our work, posting, bidding, and safety issues.

It often seemed like Billy never slept. He worked Tour 1, but stewards and maintenance members could reach him with their questions at any time of the day or night and get a clear answer. He had the details of Article 38 and the Maintenance Handbooks at his fingertips. Bill

Kreutter was also trained as an APWU maintenance staffing specialist, which meant forcing management to comply with the MS-47 rules on custodial staffing. Bill was never afraid to confront arrogant managers with his superior knowledge of the postal contract, manuals, and maintenance work.

*continued on page 9*

# Holiday party 2018

**N**Y Metro's annual Holiday Party was fun for members with food, music, and a chance to relax in the postal busy season. The "Ugly Sweater Contest" brought laughs. Penny Guzman (Church Street) and Diane Crespo (Rockefeller Station) tied for first place by applause from the partiers. 📷





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# Canadian Postal strikers ordered back to work

By Flo Summergrad

**W**hile U.S. postal workers represented by the APWU extended the drop dead date of negotiations with the USPS in hopes of a decent contract, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) had a legal strike alternative. With the aim of pressuring the profits of Canada Post without harming the customers who depend on the mail, the CUPW began a series of rotating strikes in different cities.

In negotiations, Canada Post refused to address key issues of understaffing, safety, and equal pay for the rural carriers, who are mostly women.

One union, the CUPW, represents workers in the processing plants, as well carriers. More than 94% of the members were ready to walk out and have participated actively when their post office was on strike rotation.

By setting up a rotating strike in different cities, the union wanted to keep serving the public while putting pressure on Canada Post management. However, on November 26, 2018, the government issued a back to work order. The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) condemned this, reminding the government that the last such order was ruled unconstitutional.


CLC President Yussuff stated “The right to strike is an integral part of collective bargaining. Without it, an employer has no incentive to bargain in good faith, and workers have no recourse to demand a fair process.”

So far, the back to work order is being enforced by the police as workers continue to agitate in front of post offices. When the law comes up against profits, even the legal right to strike does not protect the

workers against greedy management.

CUPW President Mike Palecek said that “Back-to-work legislation has serious long-term impacts on the work environment and on labour relations. Once contracts are imposed that don’t address our core concerns around unsafe working conditions, equality for rural carriers, and access to secure full-time middle-class jobs, that’s just more ground we’ll continue to struggle to regain.”

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*[Note: President Palecek spoke at the national APWU Convention in August and strongly supported the U.S. brothers and sisters in our campaign against privatization of the public postal service. In support of the CUPW, APWU President Dimondstein issued a statement (APWU Web News Article #113-2018) in “unbreakable union solidarity” with the CUPW: “An injury to one is an injury to all. Their fight is our fight.”]* 

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## Bill Kreutter ~ Irreplaceable! *continued from page 7*


For the last few years, Bill Kreutter suffered with health problems that kept him out of work. But he never let the union down, soldiering on, doing grievances at home, and always there to give information and mentor shop stewards in the Local and elsewhere. In the APWU around the country, Bill was respected for his encyclopedic knowledge and understanding of maintenance issues and arbitrations.

From 2000-20003, he was the Assistant Director at the NJ Bulk

Mail Center, overseeing all the crafts. But his main love was Maintenance. He was elected Assistant Director of Maintenance for the NY Metro Area Postal Union and then served as Maintenance Craft Director for the Local until his retirement in November of 2017.

Bill had 43 years in a loving marriage to Colleen, his childhood sweetheart. With his three daughters and their husbands, they formed a close-knit family unit. He was so

proud of his five grandchildren and enjoyed every moment of being “Pop-pop.” He shared their pictures and stories with all of us – at work and on Facebook.

And Bill brought that love and loyalty to his postal “family” as well. His co-workers and union colleagues could trust him with their problems and find a caring friend. Many of us will miss being able to pick up the phone and talk to Bill. **Bill Kreutter is irreplaceable. We will never forget him.** 

## Salute to Tuskegee Airmen Station

Over the decades veterans have made up one of the largest groups of postal workers. They have reason to be proud of their service. A unit with special pride is the Tuskegee Airmen, whose Black flyers overcame deep racism and ignorance to get into one of the best bomber escort squadrons of World War 2. The Tuskegee Airmen were known as ‘the Red Tails’ for the distinct markings on their warplanes. Serving in Europe from 1942-1945, they never lost a bomber.

On November 19, 2018, the former Colonial Park Station was renamed for the Tuskegee Airmen. One of the Airmen, now retired from USPS, was an honored speaker. He was also a former manager of what is now Tuskegee Airmen Station. He is Wilfred Defour, who last October celebrated his 100th birthday. He was accompanied at the renaming event by his daughter, Darlene Defour, Ph.D. Mr. Defour began his career in the old Post Office Department shortly after the end of World War 2. He started as a clerk and eventually rose to become Superintendent of Special Delivery and Parcel Post. Mr. Defour died on December 8, 2018. New York Metro salutes him, all the Tuskegee Airmen, and the new Tuskegee Airmen Station. 📧



**Tuskegee Airman, Wilfred Defour**

### COMMISSION APPROVES USPS RATE CHANGE REQUEST

The Postal Regulatory Commission on November 13 approved the United States Postal Service's request for planned changes to numerous postage rates for letters and packages. The changes will take effect as the Postal Service requested on Jan. 27, 2019.

The cost of a first-class forever stamp will increase to 55¢, up from its current price of 50¢. At the same time, the current 21¢ charge for an additional ounce will decrease to 15¢, which means the overall price of a 2-ounce letter will go down by 1¢ to 70¢. The rates for domestic postcards and outbound international 1-ounce letters will not change, remaining at 35¢ and \$1.15, respectively.



### OWNER OF BULK MAILING COMPANY DEFRAUDS USPS

Anthony L. Bucolo, the owner and operator of a Gloucester County bulk mailing company admitted defrauding the U.S. Postal Service. With the assistance of one of his employees, Bucolo defrauded the USPS of more than \$1.5 million in postage while billing clients as if such postage had been paid. Bucolo and his conspirator underreported the volume of mail pieces actually mailed, altered USPS forms, and added mail onto pallets, trays, tubs or sacks after the mail had been accepted and postage assessed and collected by a postal employee.

Bucolo agreed to make restitution for the full amount of the loss, \$1.5 million, which was paid in full. Sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 22, 2019

### FRANCE EXPANDS POSTAL SERVICES TO AID ELDERLY

Loneliness in older adults contributes to health problems. Using the fact that postal workers are a connection to everyone in the community, the French post office, La Poste, began a program in May, 2017, to keep in contact with seniors. Mail workers drop in on elderly people every week, then send updates to concerned relatives.

Called “Veiller Sur Mes Parents” (“Watch Over My Parents”), the service costs 19.90 euros (\$22.50) a month. The program is growing, now up to about 6000 seniors (ages 82-96) getting visits paid for by their children or grandchildren. This is an innovative way to allow an aging population to stay in their homes while increasing revenue and work for the postal service. 📧



## CALENDAR

### Wednesday, January 16

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Hotel Pennsylvania

401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)

Paris/Zurich Room, 6th Floor

(check calendar in lobby for room change)

### Wednesday, February 20

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Hotel Pennsylvania

401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)

Paris/Zurich Room, 6th Floor

(check calendar in lobby for room change)



### **SISTERS!** Come to NY Metro P.O.W.E.R.

**meetings!** (As an APWU member, you are automatically a member of Post

Office Woman for Equal Rights—P.O.W.E.R.)

Union Office, 350 W. 31st Street, 3rd Floor

1:00 pm, the 4th Wednesday of every month:

**Jan. 23, Feb. 27**

### APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of September 1, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,246,300.44

Total Revenue September 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 154,645.41

Operating Expenses September 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 125,757.05

Total Net Income September 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 28,888.36

Ending Balance as of September 30, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,275,188.80

### APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of October 1, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,275,188.80

Total Revenue October 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 190,647.60

Operating Expenses October 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 116,102.46

Total Net Income October 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 74,545.14

Ending Balance as of October 31, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,349,733.94



### New York Metro Area Postal Workers Union was there.

It was a great day for labor in support of Spectrum strikers at a mass rally in front of Spectrum Headquarters in NYC. We must defend our sisters and brothers whether they are workers in the public sector or in the private sector

**Chuck Zlatkin, left, Dir. of Communications; and Kevin Walsh, Dir. of Industrial Relations, with banner.**

## Thanks to our stewards

**N**Y Metro Area Postal Workers Union officers took the opportunity of the Second Annual Shop Steward Appreciation Dinner to honor four deserving stewards for their special contributions to the members. All four were presented with plaques to “A Loyal and Devoted Union Representative.”

**Deborah Bethea**, now Coordinating Vice President, has held many union offices during her long postal career. Regardless of changes in union or management, Debbie has staunchly represented the members. She is a terrific organizer. At every union event, Debbie is there with a united and enthusiastic crew.

**Daisy Degout**, Director of the Bronx, was commended for her outstanding efforts in signing members up for COPA contributions. In a short time span, Daisy enrolled over seventy (70!) Bronx members in the payroll deduction plan to give to COPA. This voluntary donation protects workers’ rights by supporting elected officials who take pro-labor positions.

**Denise Holland**, Director of the Motor Vehicle Craft, has been a strong representative as shop steward and director. She is a tough sister who has been able to provide leadership in a predominantly male craft.

**Sharon Tyrrell**, Assistant Director of the DVD facility, has

served the union in many capacities—from filing grievances to handling the local finances. She was thanked for her tireless work, her dedication, and her deep and loving heart. ☺



**Deborah Bethea and Sharon Tyrrell receiving Appreciation Awards**



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

Periodicals class  
POSTAGE PAID  
at New York, NY



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## ***The Union Mail Needs You!***

**2**019 is the 62nd year *The Union Mail* is publishing as the voice of this local. Long before there was an APWU or New York Metro Area Postal Union, the members of the Manhattan-Bronx Postal Union (MBPU) were getting their stories out, communicating with each other through *The Union Mail*. Back then as now, *The Union Mail* was written and produced by members. Articles were written and edited, pictures were taken and published, cartoons and artwork were created by members for members. ☰

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*Will you share your voice, your ideas, your photographs, or artwork?  
If you would like to become part of The Union Mail team, please send an email to  
**unionmail@nymetro.org** and let us know how you want to help.*

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