



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.

# DeJOY MUST GO!



See pages 2, 3, 4, 10

# The PMG has declared war on the Postal Service



**Jonathan Smith**

**T**he new Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy, took office on June 15, 2020. He has wasted no time implementing new directives to appease President Trump's wishes to destroy (I mean "reorganize") postal policies and managerial leadership! The problem is that nothing in his plan is designed to make the post office better for the employees or the American public.

In less than a month on the job he has decided to eliminate overtime and penalty overtime. The post office problem is not overtime, it is staffing. We simply do not have enough employees to get the job done without overtime.

He has made it clear that he plans to replace many of the Area Vice Presidents, District Managers and Corporate Support. This is just a fancy way of saying he is bringing in his own team, many of whom have no postal experience but they do share his vision of privatization of the post office.

He says employees on Workers' Compensation will be reevaluated. Then they will either get back to work or find another line of work -- just like he forced pregnant women to work under strenuous conditions or be fired when he was at XPO Logistics and they lost their babies. If the plants run late they will keep the mail for the next day. This is his non-negotiable position. DeJoy knows this will delay the mail and

send a message to the American public that the post office is incapable of handling vote by mail. This is just the first wave of changes. In his second wave, I believe he will be going after employees with poor attendance. He will begin to excess junior employees outside their current installation as far as 50 miles away from their homes and he will severely limit his remaining supervisors' ability to settle any grievances without higher level management approval.

If I had to name this strategy, it's nothing we have not seen before. It is called FEAR and INTIMIDATION.

When PMG DeJoy addressed the Postal Board of Governors on August 7, 2020, he claimed he looks forward to working with the men and women of the Postal Service, the postal unions, and the postal customers. He should have said, President Trump called the post office a joke and I have been sent here to privatize it, for me and my rich friends, but first I must sabotage vote by mail in an attempt to invoke voter suppression in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. So, America's choice is either risk your life and go to the voting polls or sit at home and allow your voice to be silenced.

If the PMG truly wanted to fix the problems with the Postal Service, why has he never mentioned one word about the stimulus relief needed for the USPS to stay solvent? Instead, he brags about a deal he reached with Treasury Secretary Mnuchin for a \$10 billion loan. Not only would this put the

Postal Service further in debt, but it also gives the Treasury inappropriate access into internal operations of the agency. Why has he made not one mention of the PAEA that manufactured a debt by requiring the USPS to pay health and pension benefits 75 years into the future? -- a burden no other company public or private has had to bear. Why is there no mention of the severe staffing shortage which is the reason for needed overtime to move the mail?

DeJoy also tries to discount his relationship with President Trump but never mentions that Trump nominated his wife as ambassador to Canada after a fundraising dinner for which the couple paid \$580,000. This is a conflict of interest. DeJoy talks about his vast experience over

*(continued on page 8)*

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## LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT

# Who truly supports postal workers?

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

**T**his is put up or shut up time for our elected officials. What we have to do is learn to watch what they do, not what they say. It should be clear to all of us by now what President Trump thinks of the public Postal Service and postal workers. If you have any doubts, the unanimous selection of Louis DeJoy as the 75th Postmaster General of the United States by the Trump-appointed Postal Board of Governors should convince you. Don't listen to PMG DeJoy either, watch what he does to actively undermine the public Postal Service (see page 2). There has been an almost 50-year movement to privatize the Postal Service that has recruited elected officials to do its bidding, manipulated public opinion, and finally infiltrated the current administration in the White House to accomplish its goal (see page 4).

The White House threatened not to sign the CARES Act Stimulus package if there was relief in it for the Postal Service. The pending Heroes Act passed the House, including \$25 billion in relief for the Postal Service and a \$10 billion credit line for the USPS.

On July 19, in front of FDR Station, New York Metro Area President Jonathan Smith spoke at a press conference given by Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who is the Senate Minority Leader. They made a strong appeal on behalf of the Postal Service calling for \$25 billion in relief. The Senator made additional appearances around NY State during the next weeks.

On July 23, APWU National

organized a call-in day to Senators imploring them to pass similar relief to the Postal Service for financial relief. The APWU hoped for 10,000 calls, in fact there were almost 30,000 calls (over 28,000 on the APWU hotline alone!) including many, many calls from New York Metro Area members. It was a great effort and proved the support is there for needed relief.

Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Schumer had been meeting with Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin and White House Chief of Staff Meadows. Financial relief for the Postal Service has been on the table. Over and over, Pelosi and Schumer assured union leaders and the rank-and-file that they are standing firm on relief for the Postal Service.

Negotiations were going nowhere, and both the House and Senate adjourned for their summer vacation. They were doing this in the middle of a pandemic where millions of people are losing unemployment insurance, facing eviction, without childcare and healthcare; and with the public's Postal Service in crisis and under attack.

On August 13, President Trump admitted that he is denying relief to the American people because he doesn't want to give money to the Postal Service.

PMG DeJoy is carrying out the plan to weaken, damage or destroy the Postal Service permanently. His sweeping changes mean delays right before the election. DeJoy may be seen as Trump's operative. He is acting as a hatchet-man for the privatiz-

ers rather than honoring the oath he took when he was sworn in as the 75th Postmaster General.

With growing pressures both the Senate and the House returned from their vacations to deal with the growing Postal Service crisis. DeJoy's delay-the-mail plan was blowing up in his face and the legislators could not ignore it any further. On August 21st the Senate Homeland Security met to question DeJoy, but it basically followed party line questioning.

**On August 22nd, the House was called into a rare Saturday session to deal with Representative Carolyn Maloney's (D-NY) "Delivering for America Act" which would prohibit the removal of mail boxes and sorting machines, and reverse DeJoy's implemented mail delaying changes. It also carried \$25 billion in relief. The bill passed the House 257-150 with 26 Republicans voting with the majority. They bucked their party leadership and put their constituents first. This was truly a bi-partisan bill.**

As *The Union Mail* goes to press, Postmaster General DeJoy has yet to go before the House Government Oversight and Reform Committee. Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) says that he won't take up the bill, and President Trump has said that he would veto it. But nothing is in stone. If enough of the American people make their voices heard, things can change. For the good of the public Postal Service, they better. ☐

# The Eagle and the Kochtopus

By Nora Taggart

Last year several fishermen came across the unimaginable sight of an octopus that somehow had managed to wrap its tentacles around a full-sized eagle and was trying to drown it. The men were shocked! How could this majestic bird that symbolizes strength and freedom find itself in this predicament? The epic battle that ensued, (which was caught on a video that went viral), was like a prophetic warning.

Something just as inconceivable and sinister is also happening to the US Postal Service. The agency, that has an eagle as its logo, is being strangled by the strong tentacles of the Kochtopus.

## Background

Charles Koch and his brother David inherited Koch Industries, the second largest private company in the country. The brothers' combined net worth is over \$100 billion. They have used their massive wealth to build a very powerful right-wing political empire to advance the free-market ideology of limited government, deregulation, tax-cuts, and "defund and defang one of our freedom movement's most powerful opponents, the government unions." In 1980 David became the Libertarian Party's Vice-Presidential candidate. Charles had been the party's biggest donor since the 70's. Their platform called for the elimination of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, OSHA, the minimum wage, the FDA and "... the abolition of the governmental Postal Service."

After only getting 1% of the votes, the Koch brothers realized

that the best way to garner political muscle in DC was to build a network that would eventually control the Republican Party. The network includes special interest organizations such as Americans for Prosperity (AFP), FreedomWorks, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC); think-tanks like the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute; superPACs; the Tea Party and many more. In fact, there are so many that in political circles these groups are referred to as the Kochtopus' tentacles.

In conjunction with the Koch brothers, this network is bankrolled by other ultra-conservative billionaires, big banks and corporations such as FedEx and UPS. The new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy is part of the predatory elite that donates to this network for personal gain.

## The tentacles' death grip on the USPS

For decades, starting with the Reagan administration, key people from the Koch brothers' network began holding important government positions that oversaw the US Postal Service. Among them were Richard Fink, Charles Koch's right-hand man. He was appointed to Reagan's privatization commission, which urged Postal Service privatization; James C. Miller, (director and board member of several Koch groups) was a USPS Board of Governor from 2003-2012; Republican Congressmen John McHugh and Tom Davis, ALEC alumni who wrote and sponsored

nefarious postal reform bills; Republican Congresswoman Susan Collins (who received \$146,000 from UPS in 2006); and President George Bush (recipient of Koch political contributions). They all played a huge role in passing the infamous Postal Accountability Enhancement Act of 2006.

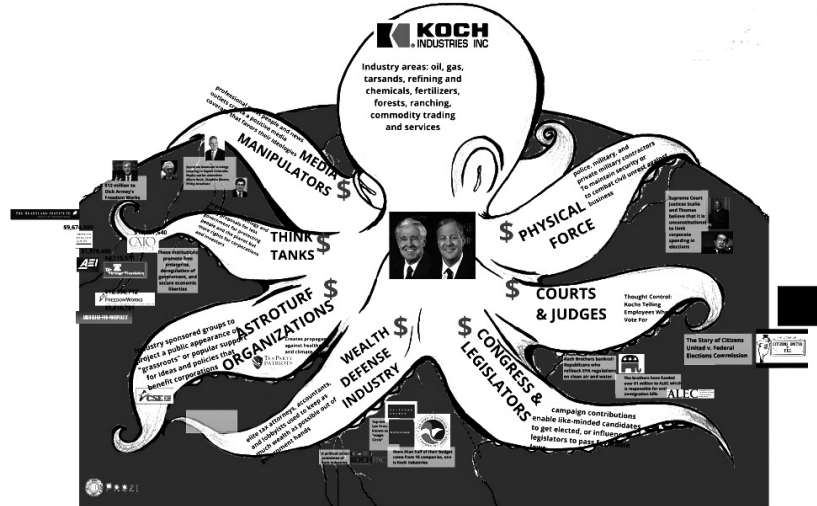
Robert G. Taub, who worked on the postal reform bill when he was McHugh's assistant is the current Chairman of the Postal Regulatory Commission. Robert M. Duncan, Chairman of the USPS Board of Governors (appointed by Trump in 2018), was chairman of American Crossroads, a right-wing superPAC that spends millions of dollars attacking public-sector unions.

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, owner of Dune Entertainment, a hedge-fund company that provides funds to several Warner Bros. Films has close business ties to the Koch brothers. In 2013 they struck a \$450 million investment deal.

And who can forget Tea Party Congressman Darrel Issa?

But probably the most dangerous "tentacle" of all is Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. DeJoy is an ultra-conservative multi-millionaire who is actively involved in the network. He has donated millions of dollars to the Republican Party and Donald Trump. He's a board member of The Fund for American Studies, a non-profit that teaches the principles of limited government and free-market economics. His company, LMD Properties LLC.,

## KOCHTOPUS Influence of Koch Cash



has contributed tens of thousands of dollars to American Crossroads. He has donated over \$140,000 to the RNC legal fund that is currently suing states across the country trying to block vote-by-mail. And he has investments in companies that are USPS contractors. This is a clear conflict of interest.

### How Trump became a KochSucker

It was no secret that Trump and the Koch brothers clashed during the 2016 presidential elections (Charles compared the choice between Hillary Clinton and Trump to that of voting for cancer or a heart attack), but this didn't stop the Kochs' political machine from seamlessly infiltrating the Trump administration. After winning the elections, Trump had the monumental task of staffing the government. As a political outsider, Trump was going to need help. Vice-President Mike Pence, who has very close ties to ALEC and other ultra-conservative groups, was put in charge of the transition team. Shortly thereafter, Trump's inner circle was inundated with folks who were gainfully employed by the Koch network and/or funded the Kochtopus: Scott Pruitt, Betsy DeVos, Mick Mulvaney, Rick Perry, Jeff Sessions,

Tom Price, Nikki Haley, Elaine Chao, Kellyanne Conway and many others.

Lisa Nelson, CEO of ALEC, told members and funders that the Trump administration "does have the potential to be an ALEC administration. It is full of the people and ideas we've advanced since 1973... Now is our time. And ALEC is ready."

Project to Restore America, an initiative from the Heritage Foundation created in 2014, also helped staff Trump's administration. They tapped into their 3,000-name searchable database of trusted movement conservatives who were ready to serve in a post-Obama government. Who knows how many advisors and staff members to officials that oversee the US Postal Service were hired from this database?

So, even though Trump gloated during his campaign that he was the only Republican candidate that refused to cut Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, it became apparent very quickly that the Kochtopus was now running the show. Trump, who in 2015 tweeted he would not be influenced by the Koch brothers, is now DC's top KochSucker.

### Trump's "Heritage" budget

Many of the organizations funded by the Kochs employ specialists who

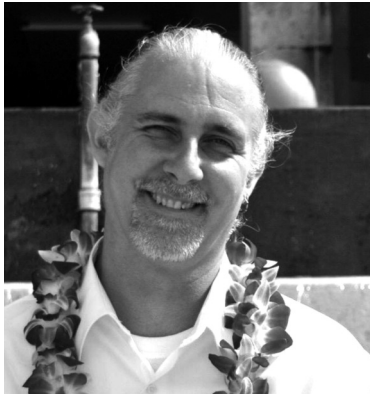
write position papers about the USPS that are subsequently quoted by politicians and pundits. These paid "experts" also publish op-eds in major newspapers which readers mistake as "news." But the most influential organization behind Trump's war against the Postal Service is the Heritage Foundation. Trump's first budget in 2017 proposed to reform the USPS by making changes to how rates are set. It also called for cuts in services and reducing postal workers' benefits. It eerily resembled the Heritage Foundation's budget "Blueprint for Balance." The Heritage Foundation gloated that Trump had adopted 61% of their proposals. Trump's director of budget policy Paul Winfree is a former director at Heritage.

### We must all save the Eagle

The video the fishermen shared last year had a happy ending. They used a pole with a hook on it to lift the octopus off the bird. Although the eagle had been submerged under water for a while, once released from the tentacles it was still able to get to shore. The fishermen had saved the eagle! What a perfect metaphor! Just like the fishermen, we too must do everything we can to save America's public Postal Service and we need to do it NOW! 🇺🇸

# Introducing the new officers of NY Metro Area Postal Union

## **Jeffrey Lizardi** *Director, NJI&NDC*



Jeff Lizardi has worked in the post office at the NJI&NDC for 24 years. From his first day on the job, he was a member of the NY Metro Area Postal Union and was never afraid to speak up when things were not right with either management or the union.

Jeff got motivated to run for Shop Steward after an encounter with three (3) MDOs who turned a minor incident into a big deal. Jeff felt the union had to be more aggressive on the shop floor, and, unlike many people who just complain, he decided to take on the job himself. His co-workers encouraged him to run for shop steward. When he won the position five years ago, Jeff immediately put his money where his mouth was, and stood up to abusive supervisors and managers. Although he was a new steward, Jeff learned the Contract and Manuals as fast as he could, always ready to read and understand what he was doing. During the contract campaign, he kept people informed and got them wearing their shirts on Union

Thursdays.

During the early months of the COVID 19 pandemic, illness and absence of many Tour 2 stewards left Jeff virtually alone to represent the Union. He never hesitated to pick up the baton, and was there answering the phones, meeting with management, and learning what he needed to know as he did it. He got advice from NY Metro officers when he could, but was never afraid to make decisions when he had to. These are the qualities of a leader and when Director Vito Fallacara decided to retire at the end of the summer, Jeff Lizardi was a natural choice to fill the position.

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## **Cassandra Black** *Assistant Director, NJI&NDC*



Cassandra Black started at the NJI&NDC in 1998 as a clerk. In 2004, she transferred to the Motor Vehicle craft as a VOA (Vehicle Operations Assistant) where she has been ever since. She explains that, “In 2009, our Steward had just stepped down and left our crew wide open for management to harass us on tour 1.” Because she had

always been vocal about injustice and contract violations, Cassandra was a clear choice to be appointed Shop Steward.

At first Cassandra was nervous because she had no idea how to apply contract language to grievances; she just knew how to argue her point LOUDLY. But that changed as she got guidance and training from fellow union reps. Cassandra Black participated and learned from BMC Conferences, State and APWU Conventions, and training classes. She jokes that, “I learned how to use my pen as my sword, and not my mouth so much!” Her skills at doing research and writing grievances enabled her to win cases that protected work in the Motor Vehicle Craft. In 2013, her efforts were key in the arbitration that saved the MV Department at the NDC from being annihilated. And in 2019, Cassandra was tenacious in fighting for management to post the Schedule Examiner position – a job that EAS had stolen from the craft and forgotten. Just this August, NBA Joe LaCapria told the NE Regional Conference how proud he was of Cassandra Black for this ground-breaking win. Other facilities will be able to build on this victory to get more jobs for the bargaining unit.

After her years as steward and craft rep, Cassandra is eager to broaden her scope to Assistant Director. She is proud to serve her co-workers and is ready to be “fierce” in defending our rights against management violations. ☑

# Honor John Lewis by passing the Voting Rights Advancement Act

By Flo Summergrad

**T**he equal right to vote is fundamental for democracy.

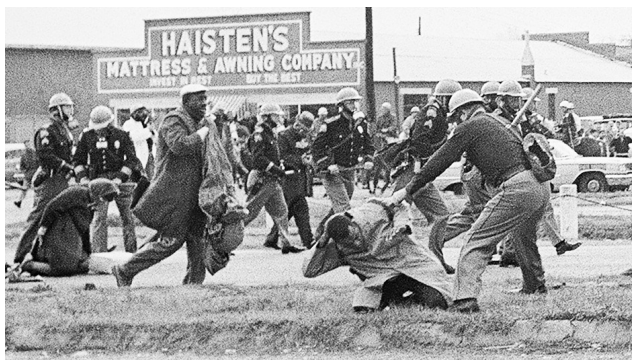
For 50 years, this right was ensured by the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 which removed the political tricks at the polls that were used to maintain segregation. Key to ending the racist barriers that kept black Americans from registering and voting, was Section 5, which mandated states to get federal clearance before imposing election rules that could be discriminatory. Presidents as diverse as Lyndon B. Johnson and George W. Bush praised the role of the VRA as key to fair elections. Johnson called this law “the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice” (1965). Forty years later Bush called it “a milestone in the history of civil rights.” (2006)

Key to achieving this victory was John Lewis, the Congressman from Georgia who passed away on July 17th at age 80. As a young man, he was one of the leaders of the historic march for voting rights over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Halfway across the bridge, the peaceful marchers were met by armed police who bludgeoned and teargassed them so badly that the day has lived on in infamy as “Bloody Sunday.”

The confrontation was televised. The image of John Lewis standing staunchly with his hands in his pockets while an officer beat him and fractured his skull was a wake-up call for many Americans. Like the murder of George Floyd, seeing

unarmed citizens subjected to brute force because of the color of their skin galvanized the public into demanding change. One week later, the Voting Rights Act was presented to Congress where it passed and was renewed regularly.

In his last days, John Lewis reminded us that “the vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic



**Bloody Sunday, Selma 1965**

society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.”

And in fact we did lose it! In 2013, a 5-4 majority of the Supreme Court turned back the clock by removing the heart of the Act, Section 5, the section that required federal enforcement of fair elections. In a case called *Shelby vs. Holder*, Chief Justice Roberts asserted that the anti-discrimination requirements of the VRA were “no longer necessary” because racism and injustice at the polls had been eliminated.

Clearly, that was not so. Within 24 hours of the *Shelby* decision, Texas and North Carolina instituted laws that made it harder to vote. Over the next year, the states previously constrained by the VRA took

steps to disenfranchise African Americans and purge tens of thousands from the rolls. The court decision flung open the doors for voter suppression as many states passed laws that kept people of color, students, the poor, the disabled, and the elderly from being able to register and vote. Polling place closures, prohibitive voter ID laws, and burdensome proof of citizenship

requirements decreased the percentages of registered voters. Alabama, Texas, Ohio, Florida, and many other states used various pretexts for cutting registered voters.

To turn back this tide of voter suppression, a proposed bill would restore the strictures of the VRA.

Named in honor of the civil rights hero, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement

Act, states would once again have to get pre-clearance from the Justice Department before making changes that would tend to burden workers of color unfairly.

In 1965, John Lewis and other freedom fighters put their lives on the line for the right to vote. Now it is our time. At age 80, John Lewis had faith in this current generation to defend justice. He was so inspired by today’s Black Lives Matter movement that he spent his last day before the hospital visiting the Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, to see and feel for himself “that, after many years of silent witness, the truth is still marching on.” Affirm his faith by fighting to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. ☐

Photo by Spider Martin

# The PMG has declared war on the Postal Service

(continued from page 2)

35 years, but that is experience as a master union buster and privatizer, which his history at XPO Logistics proves. He has spent zero (0) years in a union shop, zero (0) years in public service, and zero (0) years in the post office.

DeJoy focuses on election mail while ignoring the fact that his policies are delaying all of America's mail, mail which is desperately needed during this pandemic. And he has rushed to implement those policies with no input or permission from the Postal Board of Governors or any of the leadership of the national postal unions. Do not be fooled. DeJoy has no intention of building a vital Postal Service. His goal is to destroy the existing USPS to privatize it.

Make no mistake. PMG DeJoy and President Trump have just declared war against all postal workers, the middle class and America itself.

## Postal workers can win if we fight

My question is will you the members stand-up and fight back? Will you join with NY Metro Area Postal Union and reject the PMG's campaign of FEAR and INTIMIDATION? This is what we need you to do.

Delaying the mail is illegal but we need your help to build a case for Congress, the OIG and the American people. We plan to eventually sue the PMG for his willful and deliberate action in delaying America's mail, but we need the workers' help to gather evidence to support our argument.

NY Metro has started a campaign: "See Something! Say Something! Do Something!" This campaign is designed to get you, the membership, involved in the fight to protect our jobs, benefits, and prevent the public postal service from being destroyed by the greatest attack on the postal service in its long-storied history.

■ New York Metro Area Postal Union needs you to observe what is going on. If you see evidence of delayed mail, please write down what you see. Make sure you include the date, the time, and the location as soon as you are in a non-work situation.

■ If you are given a verbal Stand-Up Talk without a copy, that deals with procedures that you know will delay the mail, please write down what you have been told. Write down the information received and also who spoke to you, when, where and what time. This is important evidence for fighting for our survival. Do it as soon

as you are in a non-work situation.

■ If you overhear any discussions or talks from management that you feel impacts delaying the mail, follow the same procedure. Write down who was speaking, what was said, the time, date, and location as soon as you are in a non-work situation.

■ If you are given material from management—whether a copy of a Stand-Up Talk, notice, or flyer—please make sure that you send a copy to the union office or give it to your shop steward. Don't assume that someone else is going to do it. Don't be afraid to get involved.

Remember that postal workers are the troops in every post office. With our allies, the American people who need the Postal Service, we can win!

We need every postal worker to become part of the SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING, DO SOMETHING campaign. We need factual information to serve as evidence to counter the lies and misinformation that the Postmaster General is spewing forth to the media, elected officials, and union leaders. ☑

**SEE SOMETHING!  
SAY SOMETHING!  
DO SOMETHING!**

Send information to  
[delayedmail@nymetro.org](mailto:delayedmail@nymetro.org)

## CALL TO ACTION

The Postal Board of Governors (BOG) appointed Louis DeJoy. They can fix this mess by removing him. Let them know, **DeJoy MUST GO!**

Please email them to express your disgust with the present Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and his policies to slow mail delivery.

### BOG emails:

Robert Duncan [mduncan@inezdepositbank.com](mailto:mduncan@inezdepositbank.com)  
John Barger [barger.jm@gmail.com](mailto:barger.jm@gmail.com)  
Ron Bloom [ron.bloom@brookfield.com](mailto:ron.bloom@brookfield.com)  
Roman Martinez [roman@rmiv.com](mailto:roman@rmiv.com)  
Donald Moak [lee.moak@moakgroup.com](mailto:lee.moak@moakgroup.com)  
William Zollers [directoraccessmailbox@cigna.com](mailto:directoraccessmailbox@cigna.com)



# Great teamwork, NY Metro!

**J**une 23, 2020, was the APWU “Day of Action.” NY Metro members and retirees joined sisters and brothers around the country in getting the word out to the public about the precarious position the USPS is in. As we brave the pandemic, delivering medicines, packages, and hope, we have received no financial relief.

The hour for the action was 11am to 12 noon, and it was HOT in New York City! But our dedicated fighters were out there anyway, distributing fliers and talking to people in front of 16 stations in Manhattan and the Bronx. The post office is a service for the American people – a universal service to every address in the nation.

At Parkchester Station in the Bronx, Plynie L. Williams and Delphine McRae grabbed the attention of the local tv station, Bronx 12, and got the facts on record. Bronx 12 plays constantly on televisions in homes, drugstores, and delis. Our message got out round the clock to thousands of New Yorkers. (The story was also carried on Brooklyn 12 with the same round the clock coverage.)

At JAF in midtown, more than 20 NY Metro members, stewards and officers were spread out on 8th Avenue, 31st and 33rd Streets, as well as the post office steps. Although with the City closed down, there were not as many people in the area as usual, there was a lot of good conversation and support from pedestrians coming by. President Smith was interviewed by the media, including NY 1 News and The Chief/Leader. At the 16 stations we covered (JAF, Stuyvesant, Planetarium, Morningside,

Lincolnton, Church Street, Inwood, West Village, Canal Street, Old Chelsea, Manhattanville, Fort George, Wakefield, Parkchester, Woodlawn, and Adelphi in Brooklyn), the response was positive. People want the Postal Service to stay alive and well.

**More than 28K calls to Senators!**

**July 23, 2020**, was another kind of

action. This was the date designated for phone calls to the 100 US Senators asking for them to support S 4174, the Postal Emergency Assistance Act that will provide the USPS with the funding needed to survive. Unlike the \$10 billion loan that will put the USPS even further in debt, this would come to the USPS the same way other companies (like FedEx, UPS) were given stimulus money.

More than 28 thousand calls were made! This is almost triple the goal set by the APWU leadership of 10,000 calls. Every state participated. Clearly, people are getting involved in the fight to save America’s Postal Service. It belongs to all of us! 🇺🇸



**Planetarium Station**



**James A. Farley Building**



**Church Street Station**



**Church Street Station**

## POSTAL PRIDE

### Workers enraged at delayed mail

Postal workers take pride in delivering the mail to customers as promptly as possible. The familiar creed -- "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" -- has real meaning to workers who have been struggling to get needed mail out during the pandemic. All crafts are enraged at instructions to leave mail behind. Letter Carriers are being told to stop delivering letters and flats after a certain time and only deliver parcels. Drivers have been instructed to leave mail on the dock. Clerks and Mail Handlers, valiantly trying to keep up with the pandemic volume despite short staffing due to illness, deaths and child-care problems, are told that overtime hours are cut so the mail will sit.

This affects all the mail, and while some think this is designed solely for mail-in voting, it is also designed to destroy the trust the American people have in the Postal Service to facilitate postal privatization. Customers are waiting for checks, statements, and other time sensitive items. Vets' organizations and the Department of Veterans' Affairs are pressuring Senators about delays in mail-order prescriptions that are "causing veterans to miss doses of vital medications." Our own NY Metro Area Postal Union has begun a "See Something! Say Something! Do Something!" campaign for members to report mail delay.

Hundreds of people protested outside PMG DeJoy's apartment complex on Saturday, August 15, and again on Sunday at his palatial home in Greensboro, NC. An angry crowd wore masks and respected social distancing. It was loud and angry. Banging on pots and pans and blaring horns, the protestors disrupted the posh residential neighborhood. "Resign! Resign!" resounded over the Greensboro Country Club golf course, forcing play to stop. Leaflets printed like ballots said: "Save the Post Office! Save Democracy!"

On MSNBC, Rachel Maddow commented, "The post office is an earnest, beloved, all-American, non-partisan, practical part of our lives. You mess with it, and you're messing with a lot of Americans--who apparently are in the mood to push back." And the pushback is starting to work. On Monday, August 17, public outrage pushed Nancy Pelosi to call House members back from vacation to deal with the Postal crisis. On, August 18, DeJoy announced that he is suspending his operational changes to the Postal Service until after the November election. 📧

## Postal News Briefs

### VETERANS' BILLS IN CONGRESS

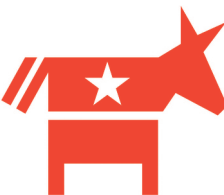
Bills to protect veterans' health are currently in Congress. HR5516 would add 6307 Title 38.63 to improve outreach and assistance to vets and their families for benefits. It would authorize the VA to enter into contracts with state governments to improve health and suicide prevention programs. HR5616 would require reporting from the VA to Congress on patient safety and quality of care. Most timely is HR 6591 which would ensure prompt and effective health care for vets during the COVID-19 emergency. Vets would be covered by the VA for emergency and COVID-19 care, regardless of whether it is related to a service-connected disability. [Full coverage in July/August 2020 *American Postal Worker* magazine]



### DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE REJECTS HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

Although it was no surprise that the call for Medicare for All was voted down by the platform committee of the Democratic National Committee, it was disappointing that four national union leaders who had verbally supported healthcare for all voted against it. These were Randi Weingarten of the AFT, Lily Eskelsen Garcia of the NEA, Mary Kay Henry of the SEIU, and Lonnie Stephenson of the IBEW.

Many of their members complained that their leaders were afraid to offend Party bureaucrats instead of representing the needs of working people during this pandemic.



### NALC FILES GRIEVANCE ON USPS DELIVERY "INITIATIVE"

The USPS unilaterally started a test at nearly 400 stations by which carriers would no longer case mail in the mornings. Mail will be left behind. The Letter Carriers Union filed a grievance showing that this violates sections of the manuals governing carrier duties. Calling it a "test" does not allow management to change practices without meeting with the union. +



## CALENDAR

### Wednesday, September 16

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Via Zoom

### Wednesday, October 21

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

**ALL COVID-19 MOUs extended through September 25, 2020!**

### Retirement & Federal Benefits Seminar

Members (Spouses/Partners) Union Office, 8th floor, September 22/23 OR 24.

To register CALL 212-563-7553 or see your steward

## APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of June 1, 2020	\$1,520,544.68
Total Revenue June 2020	\$ 180,957.19
Operating Expenses June 2020	\$ 78,728.68
Total Net Income June 2020	\$ 102,228.51
Closing Balance June 30, 2020	\$1,622,773.19

## APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2020	\$ 1,622,773.19
Total Revenue July 2020	\$ 194,100.54
Operating Expenses July 2020	\$ 238,957.58
Total Net Income July 2020	\$ (44,857.04)
Closing Balance July 31, 2020	\$1,577,916.15

**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*: "In light of the COVID 19 Pandemic, P.O.W.E.R. meetings are canceled until further notice. Stay tuned for more information."



# Congratulations!

**N**Y Metro is proud that Kevin Ahrens, son of our member, Robert Ahrens, ET at Morgan Station, is the winner of the prestigious APWU E.C. Hallbeck Scholarship. Only 10 of these are awarded nationally! The scholarship is \$2000/year for four years, applied to his college tuition. NY Metro congratulates Kevin and wishes him happiness and success. 📧



(L to R)  
**Secretary/Treasurer Joe Martir, Director of Organization Diane Erlanger, ET Robert Ahrens, winner Kevin Ahrens, President Jonathan Smith, Director of Industrial Relations Ed Dalton**



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