



The Union Mail

Vol. 63 No. 3 | March/April 2020

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.

Some of our heroes from The 1970 Great Postal Strike



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

See pages 3 & 6

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The community you save could be your own!



Jonathan Smith

The requirement to conduct a census is outlined in the US Constitution. Article 1, Section 2, mandates that the country conduct a count of its population once every ten years.

The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790.

The census counts everybody living in the United States. It counts the population in every state, the District of Columbia and the US territories (Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam). Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire, online, by phone, or by mail.

The census provides critical data for lawmakers, business owners, teachers and many others that provide daily service, products and support for you and your community. Census results affect planning and funding for health care (programs such as Medicaid, Medicare part B, and treatment for substance abuse). They also affect planning and funding for education programs, employment and training, highway construction, vocational rehabilitation, housing, disaster relief, etc. Billions of dollars in federal spending goes to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other resources based on census data. The data also determines how many seats each state will have in the US House of Representatives.

Getting a complete and accurate Census count is critically important; your response is required by law. The

law also requires the Census Bureau to protect your answers and your privacy. The census should not be asking for identifying information like your social security number, political affiliation, bank account, etc.

The census will be mailed to your homes between March 12, and March 20, 2020. The census will ask some very basic questions, such as How many people stay in your home? Is this a house, apartment or mobile home? What is your name, sex, race, date of birth etc.

How can I make my state better? **Fill out the census.** How can I make my community better? **Fill out the census.** How can I make my neighborhood better? **Fill out the census.**

Don't lose your piece of the American pie because you were too lazy to fill out the census. The community you save may be your own!

You have a right to be safe and feel safe!

On February 11 and 25, 2020, the Postal Service had a USPSNEWS-BREAK and mandatory stand up talks to inform postal workers how to prevent the spread of flu and respiratory diseases, including the coronavirus. There is information about the Voluntary Use of Filtering Facepiece (FFP) Respirators.

It has come to my attention that there are managers who are refusing to issue the FFPs and telling workers they can't wear them. Maybe they should read their own policy! The Management Instruction on Personal Protective Equipment and the Respiratory Protection Program says: "Any Postal service employee may voluntarily wear a filtering facepiece (FFP) as long as the FFP itself does not cause a hazardous condi-

tion. Local management will provide an FFP upon request or an employee may use their own."

The talk says avoid sick people, but sick citizens come to the customer service window every day. Management says there is a very low risk of contracting viruses from mail, but they are careful not to say there is NO RISK!

Let me be clear: NY Metro's position is Better Safe than Sorry. The Postal Service should be supplying gloves and masks to all employees who request them and those who purchase their own masks should not be discouraged from wearing them.

If management refuses to allow you to wear gloves or a mask, please inform your union representative immediately. You have a right to be safe and feel safe! ☑

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.

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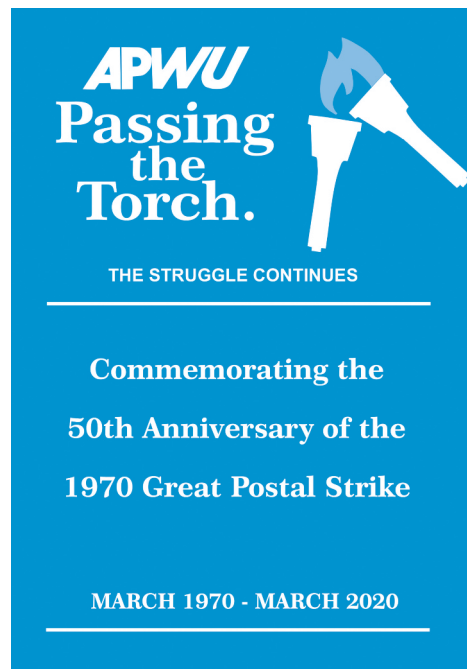


The 1970 Great Postal Strike 50-Year Commemoration

Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

If you are an active duty postal worker or a retired postal worker, you really owe it yourself to be at the Manhattan Center, 311 West 34th Street in Manhattan on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 1pm for The 1970 Great Postal Strike 50 year Commemoration. It will be a spectacular event with guest speakers and videos. There will be a FREE commemorative tee-shirt. The admission is also FREE. The event is produced by the APWU and hosted by New York Metro Area Postal Union.

What you will be a part of is a lot more than speeches and films. You will be a part of your own history. You'll be there to honor the brave men and women, who risked it all to strike for better wages and working conditions. They didn't know if they would have their jobs after taking this action (it was illegal to strike), but they went on strike anyway and miraculously were triumphant. Their victory was far greater than the increase in wages and better working conditions they won for themselves. Their victory was ours too, because what they won made possible gains for postal workers for generations to come. They transformed the reality, where to get a raise postal worker, you had to go with their hats in hand to Washington, DC for a process that was described as collective begging into one where they were now part of a national union that had the rights to collective bargaining. The birth of the APWU and the rights of postal workers to collective bargain were won because of the successful



strike. This gave generations of future postal workers the rights to have the means of protecting themselves on the job from a hostile management. What a gift to us all! We all need to keep that in mind on March 28, when we get a chance to say thank you to these postal heroes! APWU members from all over the country will be attending, including those who participated in the strike. We are proud that there will be veterans of the strike who are currently members of the Moe Biller/Eleanor Bailey Retirees Chapter here in New York City. Be there to feel the excitement and be part of the commemoration of this momentous time. Be there in person to thank the stalwart unionists who took the risks for all of us. We are, indeed, all standing on their shoulders.

Weather permitting, at the conclu-

sion of the event, we will march over to the front of JAF, an iconic strike site, make our presence felt and take a massive group photo.

Be there on March 28th! ☑

Pass the Torch!

The responsibility to keep the struggle going passes to the current generation of postal workers. ☑

1970: There had never been a strike against the United States government by government workers, but that changed in 1970 when postal workers launched the wildcat strike that is now known as the 1970 Great Postal Strike.

Postal workers were getting fed up with the way they had been treated. "Collective begging" (lobbying Congress, hoping to get a raise) was futile. In 1970, the members of Congress voted themselves a 41% raise in salary while offering postal workers a 5.4% raise, which to workers working full time and qualifying for public assistance was an insult. It was unacceptable. Add that to the growing dissatisfaction with benefits, working conditions and the treatment of postal workers by management, even though illegal, and the loss of jobs a reality, postal workers went on strike on March 17, 1970.

When the postal strike spread from NYC, nationally involving over 210,000 postal workers, it became one of the largest strikes in American history. After the failed attempt of President Nixon to bring in the military to move the mail, serious negotiations began. The strike ended within eight days as negotiations continued concluding with postal workers winning mostly everything they went on strike to achieve. With not one striker losing their job, the 1970 Great Postal Strike became one of the most successful strikes in United States history.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT

Who we are and what we must do

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

Postal workers win one!

It was a great victory for NY Metro Area Postal Union, APWU, and our allies when on February 5, 2020, the USPS Fairness Act (H.R. 2382) passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming, bipartisan support – 309 to 106. Congratulations to NY Metro members who called in to their Congressional representatives urging them to vote for H.R. 2382. It does matter. When we act together, we can accomplish important work.

Now we have to continue the effort. With the House's passage of this bill, we have taken the first step in correcting the pre-funding mandate for retiree healthcare -- the atrocity of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) of 2006.

"Passing this legislation in the House is a positive step toward relieving the Postal Service of the manufactured financial crisis caused by the prefunding mandate," said APWU Legislative & Political Director Judy Beard.

New York Metro members, retirees and APWU members from all over the country made over 7,570 calls to Congress. Now we must make the same kind of effort as the bill moves to the Senate. The companion bill in the Senate is S. 2965.

Time for more action!

The USPS Fairness Act S. 2965 will remove the unfair burden created by the PAEA. By repealing the prefunding mandate, the

Postal Service would then be able to focus on investing and innovating services in order to better meet its mission to service every American household and business. On February 25, 2020, APWU had a day of calling Senators in support of S.2965. Congratulations to you if you participated. If you didn't, the numbers are still in effect and you can still make these valuable calls. If you live in New York, call Senators Charles Schumer and Kirstin Gillibrand. If you live in New Jersey, call Senators Cory Booker and Bob Menendez. If you live in Connecticut call Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy. Pennsylvania Senators are Bob Casey, Jr. and Pat Toomey.

Trump's new budget reaffirms his attack on postal workers

When President Trump issued his budget in February for the next fiscal year, it contained proposals for the Postal Service. It included all the recommendations of Trump's Task Force on the United States Postal System from last year. This means lower pay for postal workers, more service cuts and a massive increase in outsourcing and the eventual pri-

vatization of all postal work.

"The President's Budget is another broadside attack by this White House on postal workers, our union and our customers' well-deserved right to a public Postal Service that meets their needs," said APWU President Mark Dimondstein.

The budget calls on the USPS to resume prefunding payments despite the action of the House's passage of H.R. 2382 which showed the overwhelming bi-partisan support for a public Postal Service.

The budget also proposes slashing social safety net programs, eliminating or reducing CSRS and FERS cost of living increases, increasing employee retirement contributions, and changing the way retirement is calculated. The White House doesn't value the work of postal workers, nor respect the contributions to the Postal Service's popularity with the people of this country over the decades by the work of its retirees.

We need to be ready to act by keeping on top of our elected officials, communicating the importance of a public Postal Service to our friends, neighbors and family members. It also means speaking with our co-workers on a regular basis to make sure that they are aware of the attacks on our jobs, benefits, working conditions and retirement and what they can do about it. As we have proven, when we act together, we can win! ☑



Health insurance: Saving lives or destroying them

By Nora Taggart

Imagine being thrown in jail for unpaid medical bills. It's happening across America. In Kansas, Tres Biggs was arrested and jailed for unpaid hospital bills. Biggs' six-year-old son was diagnosed with leukemia and his wife developed seizures from Lyme disease. Although Biggs worked 70 hours a week at two jobs, he didn't make enough to afford health insurance yet he didn't qualify for Medicaid because he made too much. Biggs eventually found a job that offered insurance but it required him to pay the first \$5,000 before it covered medical expenses.

Also in Kansas, Crystal Dyke was jailed while pregnant because she missed hearings after her radiologist sued her for an unpaid \$230 bill. In Indiana, Denise Zencka, while recovering from thyroid cancer, was arrested in the middle of the night in front of her three small children. She spent the night in a men's mental health unit because she was too weak to climb the stairs to the women's area of the jail. Melissa Welch, a single mother of three, spent three days in jail for an unpaid ambulance bill; her car was impounded and her bail was set at \$1,500. All for committing the crime of having a heart attack five years prior while eight months pregnant.

Imagine sleeping in your car overnight just to see a doctor. Year after year Americans flock to one of Remote Area Medical's



2017 Medicare for All rally in Los Angeles

(RAM) free pop-up clinics. These events are staged nationwide. RAM offers free dental, vision, and medical services to underserved and underinsured individuals. According to their website, they have treated more than 800,000 individuals for free thanks to the volunteer work of doctors, nurses and other licensed professionals.

Imagine if your health insurance flew you to Mexico to buy medication. That's what a health insurance in Utah that covers public employees does. According to the program, after paying for each patient's flight and giving them a \$500-per-trip bonus, they still managed to save hundreds of thousands of dollars. Other states are looking into doing the same due to the excessive cost of medications here in the U.S.

Imagine filing for bankruptcy because of medical debt. A recent study in the American Journal of Public Health found an estimated 530,000 families turn to bankruptcy each year because of medical issues and bills. That is because the insurance that is available and affordable

to people, or that most people's employers provide them, is not adequate protection if you're sick. Since the Affordable Care Act of 2010, prices for medical services have ballooned. Deductibles have tripled, premiums and copays were raised while coverage declined.

Imagine your employer canceling your insurance without warning. Two days after

49,000 members of the UAW went on strike against GM's dismal wages and two-tier contract, the auto company, whose CEO makes \$22 million a year, canceled their insurance.

Now imagine a program that would prevent 68,000 deaths and save \$450 billion PER YEAR.

According to a new study published in The Lancet, one of the most prestigious peer-reviewed medical journals, researchers at Yale University, the University of Florida, and the University of Maryland, found that Medicare-for-all saves money by eliminating the premiums paid by individuals and employers. It would also eliminate Big Pharma prices, copays and all other fees.

A single-payer system frees up unions from having to waste capital fighting to preserve health benefits. It also protects workers and their families from unscrupulous employers.

But best of all, everyone would be covered. No more arrests, no more bankruptcies, no more sacrificing lives on the altar of profit.


It's no wonder 70% of Americans support Medicare-for-all. 

Photo by Molly Adams

Women's History and The 1970 Great Postal Strike

By Flo Summergrad

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of The 1970 Great Postal Strike, we remember the vital role that postal women played in that effort. The big influx of women as permanent postal workers happened in the 1960's, leading up to the huge wildcat strike of 1970.

Women were hired into the post office as temporaries during both World Wars but were laid off and replaced when male veterans returned. Although the civil service exam was opened to women in 1883, the post office maintained separate hiring registers for males and females. Very few females actually did jobs handling the mail; "women's work" was confined to secretarial duties.

Women began to enter the postal work force in numbers in the 1960s, when Attorney General Robert Kennedy invalidated the gender segregated hiring registers. Executive Order 10988 and the Equal Pay Act of 1963 banned gender-based wage discrimination. The 1964 Civil Rights Act banned race and sex discrimination in hiring. Women workers could not get pay equity in the private sector, so federal employment at the post office was enticing.

Between 1959 and 1967, the percentage of women working in the post office (most of them as clerks) rose to 17.4%. Facing the challenge of breaking into a "male" job, they became activists in fighting for their rights. This became a working women's movement, led in New York City predominantly by black women. Their struggle for basic accommodation, like bathrooms and

locker rooms, pitted the women against management.

In 1966, Phil Seligman, EVP of the Manhattan Bronx Postal Union (later, NY Metro) wrote in *The Union Mail* that there were over 3400 women in the NY post office (up from 550 in 1960) with many more to come. He credited the role of the influx of mostly black women in the 1960s with transforming the NY post office and its unions. "And they brought a new force with them, a dramatic change. . . The change was a more aggressive change, they wouldn't take abuse, they fought back, they hit back, and it was good."

The late Eleanor Bailey was among those women, a rank-and-file leader and shop steward who advocated for all postal workers. The energy of the civil rights movement, the feminist movement, the struggles around the Vietnam War, created a militancy among postal workers who were fed up with "collective begging" for pay, filthy working conditions, and abusive supervision. Postal union activists were resisting both management and reluctant union leaders.

Eleanor and other sisters participated in dramatic labor protests. In Manhattan GPO, they held a sit-down in the manager's office until he agreed to provide female bathrooms. In 1967, postal workers blew whistles while demonstrating in front of the Capitol Building. In May, 1969, Eleanor Bailey remembered "we went down there [to DC] with 200 pounds of peanuts . . . We talked about the post office and said, 'no more peanuts, no more peanut

salaries'. . . We were eating peanuts, the security guards were upset with us, we were eating peanuts while passing them out."

By the time the NYC Letter Carriers threw up picket lines in the early hours of March 18, 1970, the women clerks and mail handlers were ready to support the strike. Most of them were young and fearless and took on the task of ensuring that workers did not cross the lines. Seeing the sisters out there risking jail and firing, was an inspiration.

Eleanor Bailey, a shop steward at GPO (now "JAF") patrolled the picket lines. This included confronting her own father, a longtime postal mail handler in Manhattan. As a WWII veteran, he was proud that the government had given him a postal job and did not want to strike. Eleanor recalls saying, "Dad, I promise you—cross the picket line and I will break your legs!" He ended up calling out sick and later took great pride in his courageous daughter.

200,000 postal workers from around the country ended up on strike, which crippled the movement of the U.S. mail. President Nixon and Postmaster General Blount were forced to the table. The largest wildcat strike in US history succeeded in winning collective bargaining and solid contracts for postal workers in all crafts and is still the basis of what we have today. Although the media made male postal workers the face of the strike, women's role was crucial. They have passed the torch to the sisters of today. ☐

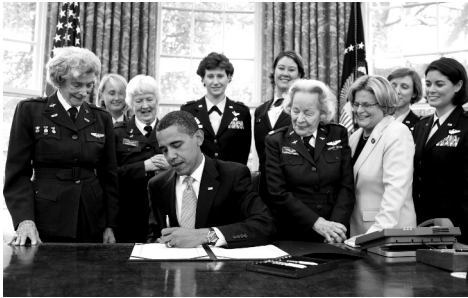
Women's History: Brave aviation pioneers

By Flo Summergrad

It took nearly 70 years for the Women Airforce Service Pilots—(WASP) to get official recognition. These women were civilian federal workers who became trained pilots in order to assist the war effort during WWII.

The plan was to free male pilots for combat roles by using qualified female pilots to deliver aircraft from the factories to military bases and do testing. 1100 WASPs at 122 bases flew over 60 million miles for the US Army Air Force.

They received no military pay or



benefits. Burial costs for the 76 who died on duty were the responsibility of their families, not the government.

In June, 1944, a bill to provide the WASP with military status was

narrowly defeated in Congress. The WASP was disbanded, but its legacy was not forgotten.

On March 10, 2010, President Barack Obama and the US Congress honored the WASP with the Congressional Gold Medal. The President said: “The Women Airforce Service Pilots courageously answered their country's call in a time of need while blazing a trail for the brave women who have given and continue to give so much in service to this nation since.”

Postal banking is alive & well



By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

New York Metro Area Postal Union has been working with the Campaign for Postal Banking and the APWU on postal banking for some time. In the Bronx, a campaign was started to educate and mobilize the community in support of postal banking, specifically calling upon the Postmaster General (PMG) to institute a pilot for postal banking and to have it in the Bronx. In support of that campaign, a petition drive was started in the Bronx getting residents, business owners and people who work in the Bronx to sign on to the call to both the PMG of the US and the Bronx PMG.

Through the committed work of members of the Moe Biller/Eleanor Bailey Retiree Chapter and other allies, nearly 15,000 petitions have been collected. But the work isn't

done. It is still important to continue to educate people on the benefits of low-cost, stable financial services that the Postal Service, could and should offer them. There is also more work to do on reaching out to elected officials (and those who want to be elected officials) about the importance of postal banking to the well-being of the people they want to represent.

Studies show that the USPS is among the most trusted institutions in the country. That is a key element in the future success of expanded postal financial services. More than a billion people in 39 countries around the world have accounts with a postal bank. The United States had a successful Postal Savings System from 1911 to 1967. This is not a new idea.

One of the allied groups that was a great help in collecting petitions signatures in the Bronx is the members of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). The Campaign for Postal Banking, APWU, and New York Metro along with DSA and other groups are planning to have a major event for postal banking this spring. The details of the event haven't been set as yet, but it is most likely to take place in April. You will be kept posted via notices and flashes as the details are announced. Postal banking is an exciting concept, a beneficial service, and something that is win-win-win for the people in the neighborhoods we serve, the Postal Service itself, and our members' jobs. When it comes to postal banking, be informed and stay involved.

USPS forced to pay costs for needless arbitration

By Kevin Walsh, Executive Vice President

New York Metro Area Postal Union received another tremendous award from Arbitrator Michael J. Pecklers, Esq., # B15C-4B-C 17418182, NY17280. This was a grievance on a reversion of a mail processing job at Cathedral Station Post Office filed by then-Executive Vice President, Tiffany Foster.

In the award, Arbitrator Pecklers applied collateral estoppel, which is a doctrine that prevents a person from relitigating the same issue. On November 29, 2017, Arbitrator Pecklers had memorialized a Consent Award concerning a reversion at Gracie Station. Not only did Pecklers award the posting of the reverted duty assignment and out-of-schedule premium to the successful bidder, the award was precedent setting and citable in the N.Y. District. This award set the table for future

reversion grievances (collateral estoppel). National Business Agent Pete Coradi was the author of the Consent award and the U.S.P.S. never controverted the award. Pete did a fantastic job in getting this award.

Reversion grievance score: NY Metro 30 – USPS 0!

Although NY Metro has prevailed over and over on the same reversion violation, the Postal Service keeps forcing the cases to arbitration. Arbitrators are increasingly weary of arbitrating the same issue repeatedly. For this reason, Arbitrator Pecklers directed the Postal Service to pay the Union (APWU) all reasonable costs associated with the preparation and presentation of the grievance at arbitration.

This reasonable cost came to \$20,000 that the USPS must pay the

union: \$10,000 to national APWU, and \$10,000 to N.Y. Metro! In addition to this monetary award, the reverted duty assignment must be posted for career employees to bid and the successful bidder will be paid out-of-schedule premium for all hours and days, if that is applicable. Since this grievance was filed in February 2017, this amounts to 3 years of out-of-schedule premium to the successful bidder. In the event of no successful bidder the position will be filled with the MOU RE: The Filling of Residual Vacancies. This is a huge victory for N.Y. Metro and a black eye to management!

Congratulations to Northeast Region Coordinator, Tiffany Foster and NBA Bernie Timmerman on another successful arbitration award. As is always said: “The Northeast Rocks!”

Workers’ Memorial Day

By Flo Summergrad

April 28, 2020, we remember all workers killed on the job. Our Local will never forget our own members who died due to management indifference to safety:

1979–MH Mike McDermott was mangled in the portable conveyor on the Bulk High Volume docks at the NJI/BMC (NDC). When Mike got caught, the belt should have stopped immediately. Instead, his entire body got pulled into the gears. The stop button was out of reach. Limit switches and safety

devices had been disabled to keep the mail moving.

1993–Bronx truck driver Willie Gonzalez had told management he was being followed on a remittance (money) run and was ignored. But when he was hijacked and shot, law enforcement was able to find the perpetrators because Willie had reported the license number on PS 1767.

1994–MPE Ed Domingo climbed down a ladder under the SSM machine to break a jam. The area was dark; the catwalk was covered

with loose belting and debris which tripped him. Due to no machine guard, Eddie was crushed.

2016–Clerk Nadiya Assad was struck and killed in the parking lot of the DVD P&DC. For years, workers had complained about the poor lighting and lack of stop signs. But nothing was done.

These postal workers did not live to see their families again. The lack of simple preventative measures caused the needless loss of life. On April 28: **Stand up for safe jobs!**

Training empowers new stewards

NY Metro has certified eleven (11) new Shop Stewards as of February 17, 2020. They attended training from February 10-14, 2020, at the Union office in Manhattan, and are now ready to hit the ground running in their various stations.

The 11 are from all three APWU crafts; 3 Maintenance, 2 Motor Vehicle, and 6 Clerks. They are from facilities in the Bronx, Manhattan, and the New Jersey NDC*. Maintenance: Edward Correa, Morgan P&DC; Travis Greaves, Labor Custodian, Radio City Station; Bernadette Klaiber, Labor Custodian, Planetarium Station. Motor Vehicle: Michael Cinelli and Mikhail Hall, MVOs at Manhattan VMF. Clerk: Francina Dennis, Morgan P&DC; Tamika Edwards, Gracie Station; Matthew Lebron, Baychester; Plynie Williams, Parkchester; Elwillie Graham and Floria Washington, NJI/NDC.

The first three days of training were led by National Business Agents (NBAs). These are representatives we elect to advocate for us in arbitration, the highest and final step of the grievance procedure. As advocates, they have an excellent understanding of the contract and how to prepare grievances for successful arbitration.

NY Metro President Jonathan Smith brought in these experts because he knows that educated stewards are strong stewards. He invests in training because this is the way to arm the frontline troops. Liz Swigert and Bernie Timmerman, Clerk Craft NBAs, and Dave Sarnacki, Maintenance Craft NBA, educated



the class about the basic contract articles concerning the grievance procedure, discipline, and steward rights. They taught that postal stewards have many manuals, handbooks and other “tools of the trade” to strengthen grievance arguments. Stewards also have the authority to investigate.

This was an energetic and vigorous group. Everyone felt they learned a lot that they hadn’t known before. NJI/NDC Clerk Floria Washington said she had never realized how much effort and paperwork went into winning griev-



ances. She had expected things to just “get done” and was impatient with the union for taking so long.

The NBAs made it clear that the essence of winning a case in arbitration is based on what the steward

has documented and argued at Step 1 and Step 2. The illusion that “a lawyer” or someone is going to fix things down the road is just not true. Being a frontline steward is a lot of responsibility, but it is also empowering. When a union rep meets with a supervisor, they are on the same level – not worker to boss. Armed with only a week of training, many of our stewards will find that they have more knowledge of contract rules than the managers they face.

Bronx SSSA (“window clerk”) Matthew Lebron said he loved that the officers spent time to spread their knowledge with the new stewards. “It was such an honor to get nuggets of knowledge from the best.” He learned that a big part of a steward’s responsibility is to listen.

On the remaining two days of training, President Jonathan Smith and Executive Vice President Kevin Walsh had the new stewards do “role-playing” exercises to begin practicing what they learned. It was fun defending Jonathan (the “grievant”) against Kevin (the “supervisor”). This was a good way of getting ready to put their skills into practice.

Of course, management is getting ready to challenge the new stewards. This tough group is ready for them. Gracie Station Clerk Tamika Edwards said when she came back to work after training, the supervisor said, “Hello, steward.” She just said, “Hello, supervisor,” and kept it going. Matt Lebron put it in a nutshell: “Management fights hard, but we will fight harder!” ☑

**A group of new DVD stewards will be selected and trained in the near future.*

Top photo by Katrina Pinckney / bottom photo by Kevin Walsh

POSTAL PRIDE

US postal worker finds lost toddler

There were cheers and tears when postal worker Keith Rollins came into the Howard County, MD, Command Station, carrying the two-year-old child who had been lost all night. A search for the boy had been going on for over ten hours since the child had wandered out of his home about 10pm the night before.

Over a hundred officers, firefighters, and volunteers had been searching unsuccessfully for little Ethan Adeyami all night. Residents of Elkridge, MD, were told by television news to turn on their outside lights and check their property for the child, who does not talk, but claps at hearing his name. Even with K9 dogs and drones, the rainy weather prevented the searchers from finding him.

It was only when Keith Rollins was driving north on I-95 to pick up mail just after 8am, that he saw a barefoot child in in pajamas curled up on the side of the highway. The postal carrier pulled over and took the boy into his mail delivery van. He comforted the child, covered him to keep him warm and called the police. He had seen reports earlier about the missing boy and was happy to have found him alive and safe.

Rollins, who sings in the choir of New Covenant Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in Brentwood, MD, expressed thanks to God for leading him to the boy. "He was blessed," he told the officers.

This is one of hundreds of cases a year where postal workers have saved lives and property in emergency situations. As public servants who know the communities they serve, they are able to observe any change in normal conditions and act on it. It is this deep link to the community that makes people trust the Postal Service more than any other federal agency. ☐

Postal News Briefs

THOUSANDS OF CCAs WILL BECOME CAREER

Nearly 5,000 CCAs will be converted to career in settlement of a national grievance between the NALC and the USPS. The grievance was originally filed because the USPS violated the contractual caps on the use of City Carrier Assistants (CCAs) Those CCAs who had worked 30 months by February 15, 2020, will be converted either to Full Time or Part Time Flexle Carriers depending on the size of their office. (More than half will be PTFs.) This settlement helps combat the USPS push to decrease the career work force.



R-E-S-P-E-C-T FOR ARETHA FRANKLIN: POST OFFICE NAMED IN HER HONOR

The Michigan Congressional delegation unanimously signed a piece of legislation to honor the beloved "Queen of Soul" by naming the post office at 12711 E. Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, "The Aretha Franklin Post Office Building." Showing how much the public post office means, Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence (D-MI) called this "an accolade at the federal level to extend her legacy."



VOTE BY MAIL WORKS!



In the 27 states which already allow voting by mail through no-excuse absentee voting, there has been less expense and more voter participation. This type of voting does not favor any political party and creates a paper trail that reduces the chance of fraud. No more long lines, intimidation at the polls, broken machines or "hanging chads."

The APWU supports The Vote by Mail Act (S.26 and H.R.92) which would require states to allow voting by mail in federal elections. It is a Win-Win for the USPS since postal employees would benefit both as voters and workers..

HIGH TURNOVER AMONG USPS NON-CAREER

The strength of the Postal Service has always been the commitment of its career employees. Not surprisingly, there is a high turnover for non-career—42.8% last year to 38.5% currently. The IG's online survey found the top reason was "supervisors not treating employees with respect/poor management skills." No set schedules, poor pay and no benefits were also cited. Clearly the lack of job security plays a big role. ☐



CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 18

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, April 15

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

Wednesday, May 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)

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$1,480,362.01
Total Revenue January 2020	\$ 91,804.40
Operating Expenses January 2020	\$ 141,671.97
Total Net Income January 2020	\$ (49,867.57)
Ending Balance January 31, 2020	\$1,430,494.44

WINNERS! February 19

General Membership Meeting
 1. COPA 50/50 winner was **Deborah Bethea** (Church St. Station) \$48 (COPA contribution \$48)
 2. \$100 gift card winner was **Allison Ward** (Morgan P&DC)
Come be a WINNER at the next meeting!

SISTERS! Come to NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. meetings! (As an APWU woman, you are already a member of P.O.W.E.R.)

Where: Union Office, 350 W. 31st Street, 3rd Floor
When: (1:00 pm, the 4th Wednesday of every month)
 March 25 • April 22 • May 27



March 25 —the 109th Anniversary of the Triangle Factory Fire

By Flo Summergrad

March 25, 1911 – Fire swept through the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. 146 young people—most of them immigrant women—died in pain and terror. There was no fire protection plan. Emergency water buckets were dry. Sweatshop doors were kept locked.

New York City was shocked into enacting workplace safety laws. Frances Perkins, who was shaken to

her core by the horrible sight of women jumping from the windows, became active in this fight. In 1932, she took this cause to the national level when President Roosevelt appointed her as Secretary of Labor, the first female cabinet member.

109 years later, commemorate the lives lost and continue the fight. ☑

Come Commemorate the Triangle Fire
 Wednesday, March 25, 2020 11:30 am–1:00 pm
 Greene Street and Washington Place in lower Manhattan
 Site of the Triangle Fire
REMEMBER THE TRIANGLE FIRE COALITION





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



Pictured on cover are veterans of The 1970 Great Postal Strike. Fom left to right: Beatrice Christian, Norma Bennett, Anna Lucas, Randy Salley, Barbara Rice, Rose Greene, Ernest Collington, Howard Abramson, William Moore, Delores Young, Betty Reid

Photo by Chuck Zlatkin

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