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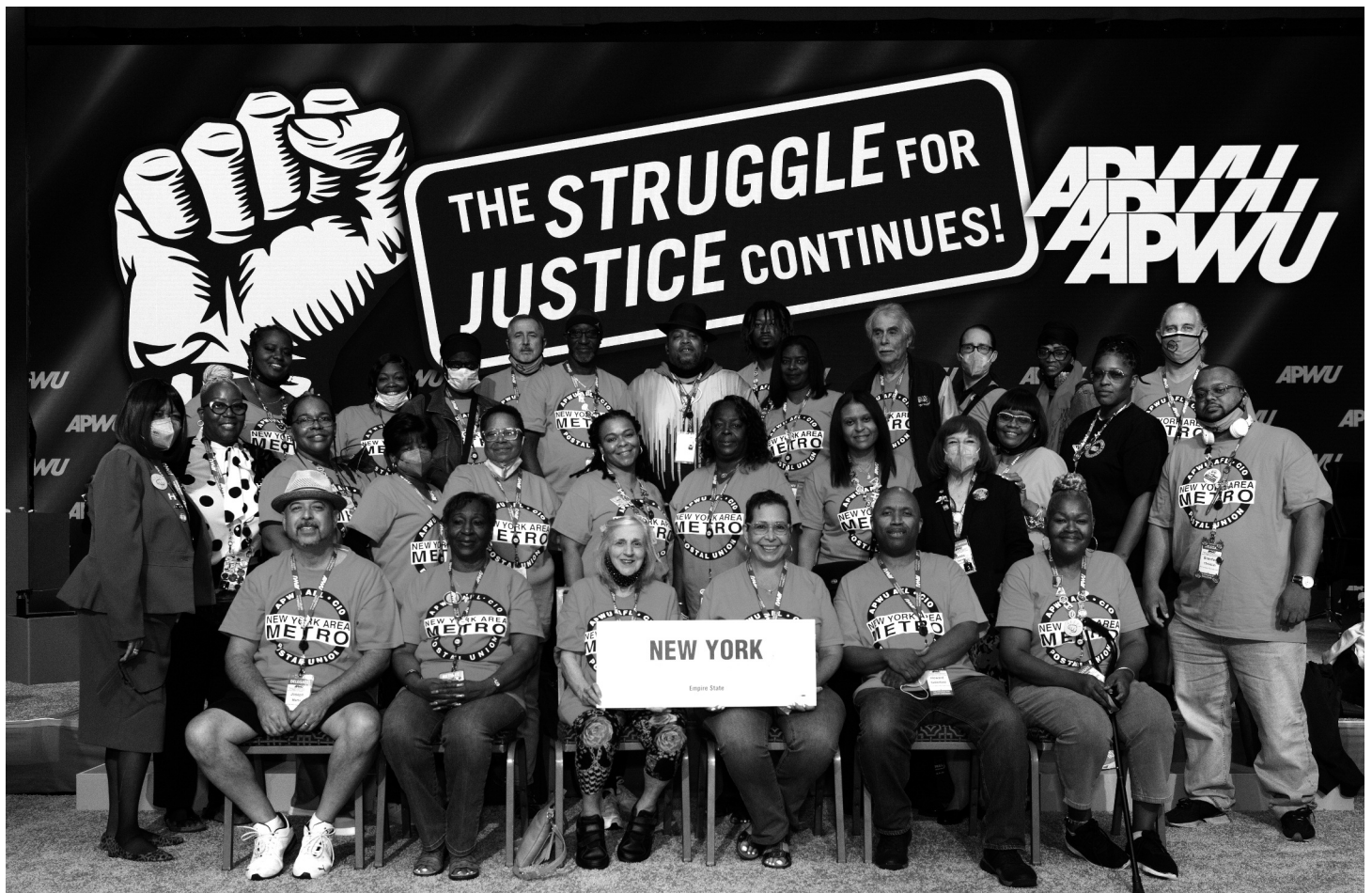
Union Mail

Vol. 65 No. 6 | September 2022

Published by the NY Metro Area Postal Union

"The Labor Movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress."—Martin Luther King, Jr.

New York Metro Area Postal Union Delegates attend 2022 APWU National Convention



APWU PASSES "DUMP DeJOY" RESOLUTION / VOTE IN 2022 APWU ELECTIONS (PG 6) / NEW YORK METRO ENDORSEMENTS (BACK COVER)

Voting: for some a privilege; for postal workers an obligation



Jonathan Smith

Last week in an Executive Board meeting to discuss the upcoming Union elections, I heard a statement that deeply touched me: “For some people voting is a luxury, but for others it’s an obligation.” I remembered my ancestors talking to me about how much achieving the right to vote meant to them.

My identification with slavery was through family stories and books. Through those stories told to me as a child, I could feel the slaves’ despair, hopelessness, frustration, and pain. Reading about my ancestors risking, and in some cases, giving their lives, not for themselves but for the hope of a better America for their children and grandchildren/me, I find my eyes welling up with tears.

I remember my grandfather telling me he was voting for the candidate that was less racist, hateful and discriminatory. “You see, grandson, a ballot is much stronger than a bullet.” Most of the elections he voted in, he was choosing the lesser of the two evils, but those small steps created progress and the opportunities we enjoy today, not only as citizens but as postal workers. My grandfather said we should never stop fighting for progress; don’t get frustrated by expecting perfection.

I can remember as a child my grandparents’ stories of the Jim Crow South. I can remember not being allowed to swim in the com-

munity pool, not because it was illegal, but because it was understood colored children were not allowed to swim in that pool. I can remember seeing “colored” and “white”-water fountains that still stood to remind me I was in the South. I can remember being called the N word like it was my god given name, and if I’m being completely honest, even though I didn’t understand what I was feeling at the time, I just knew life would be better if I was white, so I wished to be white.

Those memories reminded me that for many of us, voting is an obligation. It is the ultimate respect I can show to those who sacrificed so much so I can have the opportunity to be the President of NY Metro Area Postal Union.

My grandfather voted for the first time in his life at 51 years old. He never missed an election, whether it be local, state, or federal, or an election of Union officers. He believed this was an opportunity that his ancestors died to make happen. John R. Lewis and civil rights fighters left blood on the ground for us to have the right to vote. This included the right to be in a Union and vote for its leadership. And, by the way, as a custodian working in Newark, he took particular pride in voting for Moe Biller as APWU National President.

Today there is a concerted and vicious attack on voting rights. It is aimed at people of color, at the old, the young, and at working people. Voter suppression laws are taking away what my grandfather was so proud of—Black people’s access to

the ballot.

I had to be reminded that nothing changes if I don’t do my part and vote. Now I am reminding you. Vote in the important elections coming up. My grandfather would say that voting has results, but not voting has consequences.

As postal workers, we enabled America to vote during the pandemic. We have an obligation to VOTE ourselves -- in person or by mail. And our Union election has always been Vote by Mail. NY Metro has endorsed candidates in the upcoming APWU National Election. [See back cover]

VOTE! Fulfill your obligation to the postal workers that came before you. People like my grandfather. ☑

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2022 is an important year to vote

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

While it doesn't have the excitement of a presidential election year, 2022 is an important year for voting. All members of the House of Representatives are up for election. Many local elections are also taking place. It is always important when voting in any election to find out the record of candidates on postal and labor issues. It is always appropriate to question candidates on these issues. We have learned that in struggling to keep post offices open elected officials can be a big help in our fight.

In New York State, Senator Charles Schumer (Democrat/Working Families Party) is up for re-election. In addition to being the senior senator from New York State, Schumer is also the Senate Majority Leader. His main opponent is Joe Pinion (Republican/Conservative/Independence). Pinion has been an entrepreneur, talk show host, and a youth development director at a Bronx health center.

In New Jersey neither of its two U.S. Senators is up for election in 2022. In addition to elections for members of the House there are municipal and school board elections in the state as well as ballot initiatives.

Postal workers' involvement in all levels of elections are critical for preserving a public postal service and for improving the lives of all working people. Stay involved, stay educated, and most of all remember to vote!

Register to vote!

■ In New York, you may register to vote at your local board of elections or any state agency participating in

the National Voter Registration Act, on any business day throughout the year but, to be eligible to vote in the General Election, your application must be received no later than October 14, 2022.

■ In New Jersey, the registration deadline for the November 8, 2022, elections, in person, online and through the mail (postmarked) are all October 18, 2022.

■ For those members living in other states, look up the registration rules and deadlines on the internet or call the local League of Women Voters for information.

Service standards

A top priority for APWU is the returning of Service Standards in the USPS to the standards in place in 2012. The APWU was instrumental in getting language into the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, which was signed into law by President Biden on March 15, 2022. The language requires the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) to hold a study investigating and examining the potential benefits for the Postal Service when Service Standards would be returned to 2012 standards.

The reason why this is so important in the fight to provide our customers with fast and reliable service is that it will remove the Postal Service as the source for data provided to members of the House and Senate. The likelihood for accurate data presented is increased dramatically.

Vote by mail

In the 2020 election, the USPS processed 65 million ballots. This was a tribute to the Postal Service

and especially to postal workers. A National Election Task Force was established between the Postal Service and the postal unions. It is a victory for postal workers and the American public that the continuation of the Task Force was included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. At the latest public meeting of the Postal Board of Governors, postal management loved to take credit for the success of our handling of election mail. The fact is that the unions, state attorneys general, and public interest organizations had to force the Postal Service to prioritize the handling of election mail and it was the dedicated work of postal workers that made it happen.

The importance of legislative and political work

On Wednesday, April 6, 2022, when President Biden signed the Postal Reform Act (PSRA) into law, two of the guests invited to attend the signing were APWU Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard and APWU President Mark Dimondstein. This was an acknowledgement of our union's work in getting this essential legislation passed and signed into law. The PSRA contains important aspects that the APWU has been fighting to achieve for years. It couldn't have happened without your support, including contacting your elected officials, attending meetings and demonstrations and giving to COPA. Collectively our actions are powerful and can be translated into law that benefits postal workers and the people we serve. ☐

PART 1

Postal history—a second look

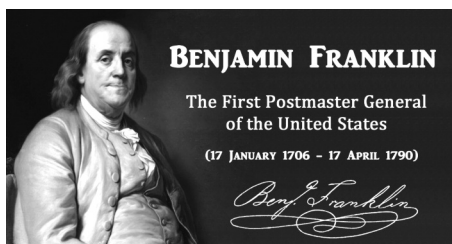
By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

To most people the post office is an institution that they don't think much about. They usually take it for granted, until something they were expecting to receive is delayed. To postal workers and people with an interest in history, there is an understanding that the Postal Strike of 1970 was a seminal moment in time. Postal workers were federal employees who did not have collective bargaining rights on economic issues. It was a low paid job. Any time that postal workers wanted to get an improvement in their pay, they would have to lobby Congress. Instead of collective bargaining, postal workers participated in "collective begging."

The patience of postal workers was growing thin. Inflation brought about by the Vietnam War was accelerating. The failure of the Kennedy-era "Employee-Management Cooperation Executive Order," which provided exclusive rights to unions to bargain on non-economic issues, was nothing more than window dressing to rank-and-file postal workers who were having a hard time paying their bills on the meager wages they were earning.

The post office was in a rundown condition. The '70s were a volatile time, with much of the same unrest that had taken place in the '60s, but fueled by inflation and exacerbated by the shock and horror of the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King and the growing unpopularity of the Vietnam War.

Many returning Vietnam War



vets were gaining employment at the post office. The hostile treatment they were receiving from postal supervisors and the paucity of their paychecks were not taken lightly. There was a growing militancy among postal workers that was not foreseen by either management or the unions. Understand that since the starting salary for postal workers was around \$6100 and it would take a postal worker around 21 years to reach the top step of \$8400, small pay increases were not a solution.

But that's what postal workers were offered. While postal workers were given a 4.1% increase by Congress, those same Congressmen had voted themselves a 41% raise! Shortly after the raise was received, clerks at the Kingsbridge Post Office in the Bronx staged a sickout and were all fired by management. The leaders of the Manhattan Bronx Postal Union, who represented the clerks, and Branch 36, who represented the letter carriers, interceded on their behalf, getting their terminations reduced to 2-week suspensions.

President Nixon was planning to postpone an anticipated comparability raise that was projected for July 1970, for six months, to stem the tide of inflation. This announced plan may have been the proverbial straw. Momentum for a strike was growing

among the rank-and-file. The power of the people was evolving to become an historic tide, while the federal government and the leadership of the unions were remaining blind to it.

Within a short time, the largest strike against the United States government in history would take place, an illegal strike, a victorious strike, beginning March 18, 1970. Enough was enough! Postal workers were standing up and their actions would be felt throughout the nation.

The Great Postal Strike of 1970 would earn its place in labor history. It would spawn the United States Postal Service and bring about the birth of the American Postal Workers Union. These were major events in the history of postal workers.

But to understand the whole story of postal workers, it is necessary to go back to the beginning, July 6, 1775, when the members of the Second Continental Congress decided that a Postmaster General would be appointed. Benjamin Franklin was appointed as the Chairman of the Committee of Investigation to Establish a Postal System. The Committee recommended Ben Franklin be appointed as the first Postmaster General and he was so appointed on July 26, 1775. ☐

[More to come on the history of postal workers and how that history evolved from Benjamin Franklin to Louis DeJoy – See Part 2 of this article in the next issue of *The Union Mail*.]

NY Metro Area Postal Union Scholarship Awards

In June, NY Metro Area Postal Union was pleased and proud to award scholarships to six of our members' children to help fund their college educations. We take joy in their success!

These young men and women are the promise of the future. Their union parents have set them an example by working hard while providing loving support. President Jonathan Smith said, "One of the union's greatest achievements is investing in the youth. We hope that these scholarships will give the next generation a small idea of labor's contribution to America and workers' future."

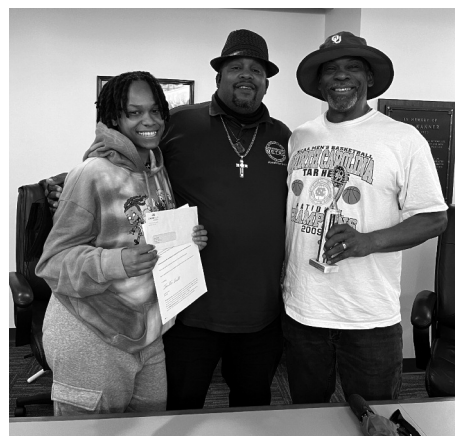
Each winner received a check for \$2000 and a trophy to celebrate their achievement. They and their parents are part of our strong NY Metro family. ☑

2022 Scholarship Winners

Mussab Ali – Father Muhammad Akbar, Transportation Morgan
Vincent Phan and Mary Phan – Mother Chi Nguyen, Clerk NDC
Melbourne Tang – Mother Yueming "Ming" Zhong, Clerk NDC
Madison Kellier – Father Ernal Kellier, Transportation Morgan
Rayna Smith – Father Kevin Smith, Mail Handler (MEO) NDC



Front row (L to R):
Yuenming "Ming" Zhong
(Dock Tech at NJI&NDC),
mother of Melbourne Tang.
Chi Nguyen (Mail Processor
at NJI&NDC), mother of
Mary Phan and Vincent
Phan Back row (L to R):
winner Mussab Ali, son of
Muhammad Aktar, (Morgan
transportation); NY Metro
President Jonathan Smith;
winner Mary Phan, winner
Vincent Phan; Hieu Phan,
father NOTE: Winner
Melbourne Tang and win-
ner Madison Kellier and
her father, Ernal Kellier,
(Morgan transportation),
are not pictured.



Winner Rayna Smith and her father
Kevin Smith (Mail Handler at
NJI&NDC).

Stewards and Members!

URGENT! UPDATE YOUR CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS!

We are receiving an excessive amount of "Return to Sender" mail from the Postal Service. This is not acceptable. We pride ourselves with providing our members with information. In addition, as you may be aware, the APWU National Officers election is coming up soon and we need to ensure that all members are provided with a ballot. Without a ballot, you can't vote!

Therefore, I am requesting that you reach out to our members and advise them to update their current mailing address in either APWU.org, joseph.martir@nymetro.org or Jacquelyn.owens@nymetro.org or mail their information to New York Metro Area main office. ☑

–Executive Vice President, Joseph Martir

APWU passes “Dump DeJoy” resolution

On Thursday, August 18, 2022, the American Postal Workers Union at their 26 Biennial Convention at National Harbor, MD, overwhelmingly passed a resolution to Dump Postmaster General Louis DeJoy by calling for him to either resign or be fired by the Postal Board of Governors. The final resolution was a combination of three separate resolutions including one from the New York State Postal Workers Union that originated from our Local, New York Metro.

New York Metro also took the lead at the Convention where President Jonathan Smith introduced an amendment to ensure action on the decision. This amended the original resolution to mandate the APWU National to publicize this resolution within 30 days.

The importance of this resolution being passed is that it is the first call by a national postal union to remove Louis DeJoy as Postmaster General (PMG) of the United States. At last the APWU is on board with the many organizations, politicians, and the public, who have been mak-



ing this demand for over a year. A similar resolution was voted down at the recent NALC (National Association of Letter Carriers) Convention, and none was raised at the NPMHU (National Postal Mail Handlers Union) Convention, so the APWU is in the vanguard of the Union opposition to DeJoy.

Chuck Zlatkin, the Legislative and Political Director of New York Metro, spoke in support of the resolution. He stated that a major reason that DeJoy was still in power, despite the fact that elected officials, major media outlets, national organizations, postal customers and postal workers have been calling for his removal, is that none of the four national postal unions had called for the ouster of this PMG. It was essen-

tial for the APWU National Convention, the highest authority in the union, to call to Dump DeJoy.

DeJoy’s 10-year plan, which includes the slowing of the mail, raising postal prices, cutting back hours and closing post offices and processing plants, was moving forward. Recently, DeJoy told business leaders that he will eliminate 50,000 postal jobs in the next few years. DeJoy’s arrogance knows no bounds. He intimated that the unions were on board with his plans.

What next?

It is only the Postal Board of Governors (BOG) that hires and fires the Postmaster General of the United States. We have to make sure that the White House fills the two upcoming vacancies on the Postal Board of Governors with appointees who will move to Dump DeJoy.

It has been a long struggle for New York Metro to get to this point, but it is a major victory. There is work ahead of us, but one thing is clear we are on the road to finally Dump DeJoy! 🗳️

VOTE: APWU National Elections!

**Ballots will be mailed out between September 10 and 15, 2022.
APWU is one of the few unions where you elect officers directly.
These are the officers who will be leading our union into the future.
You have a right and a responsibility.
Your ballots must be in by 2 PM October 5, 2022, so mail it right away.**

VOTE!

[Instructions will be posted as to what to do if you don't get a ballot.]



Delegates attend APWU Convention

Over 2,000 delegates attended the 26th Biennial APWU National Convention. NY Metro sent 26 delegates to represent our members. This included four full-time officers: Jonathan Smith, President; Joseph Martir; Executive Vice President; Edward Dalton, Director of Industrial Relations; Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization; and Jacquelyn Owens, Acting Secretary-Treasurer. Part-time officers and stewards made up the rest of the delegation. They were from all crafts and installations and are listed here in alphabetical order: Deborah Bethea; Cassandra Black; Tyrone Blount; Peter Boyer; Brandon Christian; Daisy DeGout; Denisha Dobbins; Heywana Fitzgerald; Denise Holland; LaTonya Kindall; Jeffrey Lizardi; Che Magwood; Glenda Morris; Naimah

Mustafaa; Howard Satterfield; Kim Smith; Shayna Smith; Flo Summergrad; Sherell Taite-Pridgen; Phynie Williams; Chuck Zlatkin. We were joined by NY Metro member Leona Draper, who is serving as the NE Region Retiree National Convention Delegate.

YOUNG MEMBERS ARE OUR FUTURE

The NY Metro delegation included several new young stewards: Peter Boyer, Heywana Fitzgerald, Che Magwood, and Shayna Smith. There was a special Young Members (35 and under) meeting on the Sunday morning before the Convention started. About 100 APWU young members discussed what the Union needs to do to involve young people. Answers ranged

from educational opportunities for members to addressing hostile work environments.

DVD Shop Steward Che Magwood told *The Union Mail*, "It's hard to place into words how truly an honor it was to be chosen as a new delegate to attend the 2022 APWU Convention. You get to see the inside structure of how the Union works, this is parliament at its finest. Something every NEW steward should attend at least once; this experience will change your views on being a shop steward for the best."

Peter Boyer, a young steward from Morgan Station, brought this back from the Convention: "New York Metro is proud to support our younger members as they learn and lead the next generation. We have faith that the future of our union is in good hands." 📧



Congressperson Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez with President Smith



Photo courtesy of Keith Mellnick for APWU National

Management disrespects NY postal workers and our Union

Local negotiations in New York reflected postal management's disrespect for the Union and the negotiating process. Under the direction of Lorraine Castellano, Manager of the NY1 District, management attacked LMOU Item 1 Wash-Up Time. In both the Bronx and Manhattan, management wants to cut the wash-up to three (3!) minutes for the Clerks Craft.

Chief Negotiators for the Union, Daisy DeGout* in the Bronx and Joe Martir* in Manhattan, found this completely outrageous. Management would have to show that the current language (in place for many years) is either in conflict with the National Agreement or

places an unreasonable burden on the Postal Service. Clearly, the unreasonable burden would be placed on the workers by taking away their right to a period to wash up after hours of doing dirty work in one of the dirtiest cities in the country. This is particularly offensive in a period when they are at risk of contracting serious disease, a time when the COVID pandemic is not over and fears of monkey pox and the flu are rising.

Joe Martir pointed out: "We went from being 'essential' to being treated as 'disposable.'" From "heroes" to "zeroes."

This is disgusting and shameful. Because NY Metro Area Postal Union is a Local that has defeated

management again and again, we have respect from other Locals. It seems that management is going after basic rights that our members have held for years in order to create an atmosphere of fear in the Union.

Well, it ain't going to happen.

If this has to go to Impasse arbitration, we will fight to our last breath! ☑

**Also participating in Local negotiations: Glenda Morris assisted Daisy in the Bronx. In NYC were Deborah Bethea, Diane Erlanger, Jacquelyn Owens, Kim Smith, Tyrone Blount, Denise Holland, and Naimah Mustafaa.*

[See October Union Mial for Local Negotions at the NJI&NDC]

Convention Rally to Protect the Right to Vote

The 26th APWU Biennial Convention was conducted with the slogan: The Struggle for Justice Continues! In 2022, the struggle for justice means protecting the right to vote.

A spirited rally of our Convention delegates proclaimed the importance of keeping democracy alive by guaranteeing Vote-by-Mail. They waved signs saying: "Hands off our voting rights!" chanted and yelled. Sara Nelson, President of the Association of Flight Attendants, told us this is a safe and secure way to get our ballots in. Our Revolution's Paco Fabian called mail-in voting an "antidote to voter suppression." Our votes now can protect our right to vote in the future. The threat of authoritarianism, of outright fascism, is real. Every union member must register, vote, and get out the vote.

Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard ended the rally with the words: "The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is disappearing. They're stealing our voting rights. And we're going to stand up and fight back! ☑"



Photo courtesy of Keith Mellnick for APWU National

COVID-19 outbreak ignored by NY Management

In April, Postal management put the APWU on notice that from their perspective, this will be the last extension of the continuing COVID MOUs. The APWU let them know the Union “will continue to monitor COVID-19 for any future spreading, or any new variant.”

Sadly, COVID is on the rise again. In mid-July, NY Metro’s Bronx Director, Daisy DeGout, reported that at least 5 employees at the Throgg’s Neck Station tested positive for COVID-19/OMICRON. Management was silent on this outbreak, increasing the chances of exposure and spread.

The Union did not keep silent. Director DeGout sent an URGENT email to all the stewards, apprising them of the situation. She concluded: “Apparently, management is not giving the employees any SERVICE TALK, not having the station disinfected, not contacting the OHNA, not reporting any COVID-19 POSITIVE cases, misinforming employees, instructing employees when they are to report back to work without any medical clearance. In other words, management is now playing DOCTORS in the name of the SERVICE.”

This is appalling disregard for the health and safety of the work force.

By 2022, all of us know that COVID-19 is contagious. Keeping positive cases secret increases risk for co-workers and their families. That was the whole point of requiring reporting, contact tracing through the OHNA, and informing

the union via regular meetings and conference calls. Yet after May 6, 2022, postal management in the NY District has ignored any COVID protocols to keep people safe. To address the COVID-19 outbreak at Throgg’s Neck and Cornell Stations, NY Metro President Jonathan Smith requested information from the NY1 District. In an email to District Manager Castellano, he wrote: “There has been no response to the union’s request to get the daily COVID-19 reports so the union can monitor management’s required response as per your own policy which still exists.” He then lists the USPS policies as follows:

- Policy:** Close Contact Tracing
- Policy:** Return to work process
- Policy:** Social distancing
- Policy:** Notice of Positive Case Talk (Stand-Up Talk)
- Policy:** Customer Service
- Policy:** MMO-031-20 (Cleaning and sanitizing)

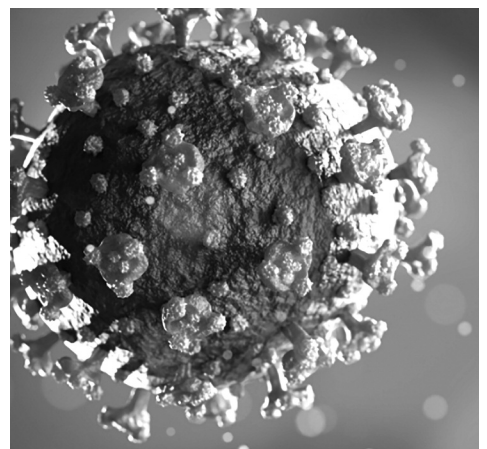
In fact, President Smith reported that he “inquired throughout Manhattan and the Bronx, and there have been no service talks or COVID-19 clean-up being done.” Also, management claims that since they are giving status reports to the Regional Coordinator, they don’t need to give information to the Local Union.

The Local has filed a Safety & Health grievance under Article 14, which places the obligation on man-

agement for a safe workplace. Further, Article 14 requires that Postal management address safety and health in cooperation with the Union. Their disregard of basic policies for protection from an infectious disease, a disease that has killed over a million people in this country alone, and made thousands of postal workers ill, is shameful.

Postal workers in Manhattan and the Bronx have to step up to protect themselves. They have shared news of positive tests with their co-workers and the Union. They must file Hazard Reports (Form 1767) about the failure to sanitize infected work areas and hold service talks.

For over two and a half years, management carried out the USPS COVID-19 policies. They regularly reported illnesses and deaths from the disease. How dare they now act like it is too much time and trouble to comply with the Union’s request for basic information when there is a cluster of positive tests. This is a danger to workers and their families. ☒



POSTAL PRIDE

Thank you, postal workers, for saving democracy!

This was the heartfelt message from every speaker at the APWU Convention. Delivering 65 million ballots in the 2020 election was a heroic accomplishment. In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, the huge Vote-by-Mail effort enabled Americans to have their voices heard. They could vote simply and safely.

Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) welcomed APWU delegates to Maryland by praising our work to make Vote-by-Mail succeed. Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence (D-MI), herself a postal worker for 30 years, said, “During COVID, the Postal Service showed the world how important and critical we were when it came to our democracy. . . .”

Our NY-District 14 Congresswoman, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC), told the delegates, “You saved our elections by processing millions of mail-in ballots in 2020, through today, despite impossibly hostile conditions. You did that. You saved our elections.” And 5 speakers at a panel on The threat to democracy and how we fight back, from groups like Public Citizen and the NAACP and LCLAA, are relying on postal workers as a major defense against voter suppression.

Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) President Elise Bryant inspired our rally by interspersing her call for voting rights with songs of solidarity and power. She used her praise of 2020’s mail-in ballot success to demand an even greater effort in 2022 in the face of intensifying voter suppression. Carrying signs saying “Vote-by-Mail Works!” and “Union Strong All Day Long!” APWU members marched to show our postal pride. ☑

Postal News Briefs

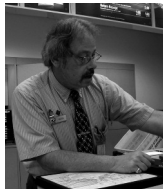
HAPPY 247TH BIRTHDAY POST OFFICE

On July 25, 2022, the U.S. post office celebrated its 247th birthday. The post office was born before the United States itself! Benjamin Franklin, a colonial postmaster for twenty years, was fired by the British for his revolutionary activities. On July 25, 1775, the Continental Congress named him the Postmaster of the Confederation. Franklin used his skills to set up a system of routes to move the mail throughout the 13 colonies. Although the forms of mail delivery have changed over the centuries, the need for a universal and affordable communications network continues to exist.



2,404 PSEs TO BE CONVERTED

More than 2,400 PSEs in plants will be converted to career in the next weeks. Based on additional Function 1 staffing, there will be another conversion to career in 157 installations no later than September 10, 2022. For NY Metro, the table shows that 13 of the conversions will be at the NJI&NDC! The letter from the Postal Service says that “the corresponding number of duty assignments will be created and posted,” which will add to the clerk complement.



STARBUCKS AND CHIPOTLE UNION BUSTING

As chains like Starbucks and Chipotle are facing successful union organizing campaigns, they have begun to choose unionized stores for closure. Although Starbucks is using excuses like concerns about crimes and safety, workers believe that this is a form of union-busting. Out of 16 US stores being closed are two that are unionized and one where a union election is scheduled. Starbucks CEO posted a video on Twitter, warning that “this is just the beginning.” Chipotle is closing a store in Augusta, Maine, which is the first of its restaurants to attempt to organize a union.



Although these companies have closed and opened stores before, these closures are directed at union activity. This has been a common company tactic against organizing. The intent is to sow fear among workers all along the chain. Yet these unfair labor practices may generate more anger than fear among young and increasingly militant organizers.

APWU DEMANDS FORCE DATE FOR RETRO PAY

All new contract payroll changes were completed as scheduled by June 4th. But where was our Retro pay? On July 29, enough was enough! The APWU threatened demands for interest, cash advances, legal action and collective actions. Management responded to the pressure by announcing that the payments will be processed on October 11 and appear on the paychecks October 28, 2022. A national grievance is seeking a remedy for the long delay. ☑



CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 21

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Via Zoom

Wednesday, October 19

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

via Zoom

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

Members Only!

- Download Zoom App
- Open link
- Enter Meeting ID #548-304-2304
- Mute audio
- Video must be on

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of May 1, 2022	\$ 1,233,760.00
Total Revenue May 2022	\$ 190,020.83
Operating Expenses May 2022	\$ 137,214.64
Total Net Income May 2022	\$ 52,806.19
Ending Balance May 31, 2022	\$ 1,286,566.19

Beginning Balance as of June 1, 2022	\$ 1,286,566.19
Total Revenue June 2022	\$ 157,261.98
Operating Expenses June 2022	\$ 155,774.16
Total Net Income June 2022	\$ 1,487.82
Ending Balance June 30, 2022	\$ 1,288,054.01

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, the 4th Wednesday of every month.

Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization and Chairperson of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R, told The Union Mail: "Moving Forward, the NY Metro P.O.W.E.R." meetings are now held via ZOOM on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Next Meetings: September 28, 2022 at 5:30 pm and October 25, 2022, at 5:30 pm. [Follow the ZOOM instructions outline for the Membership Meetings on this page.]



Diane Erlanger honored with 2022 COPA Leadership Award

NY Metro Area Postal Union's Director of Organization, Diane Erlanger, was kept extra busy during the APWU Convention. Because of her outstanding success in convincing members to sign up for COPA, Diane was asked to be a rep among the delegates to get people to enrol in COPA's automatic contribution plan. COPA is a voluntary nonpartisan fund, which gives the union the ability to support those candidates who will stand with us on political issues important to

postal workers.

Sister Diane used her high energy and enthusiasm to explain COPA and get members to contribute. For signing up the most members, Diane Erlanger was given the 2022 COPA Leadership Award—a beautiful glass trophy with the words: APWU Raising Our Voices and the name of our Local. This was an honor, not just for Diane herself but for the NY Metro Area Postal Union. Our delegates in attendance were pleased and proud.



Diane Erlanger receives award at COPA "Western Night" (APWU officers with Diane: L-R Liz Powell, Judy Beard, Mark Dimondstein)



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350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10001
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NY METRO ENDORSEMENTS FOR APWU NATIONAL ELECTIONS

On June 21, 2022, the NY Metro Area Postal Union General Membership Meeting proposed and voted on a motion for the Executive Board to interview candidates running for APWU National office and endorse candidates based on those interviews. Accordingly, the Executive Board interviewed and then endorsed the following candidates:

PRESIDENT Mark Dimondstein
LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL DIRECTOR Judy Beard
HUMAN RELATIONS DIRECTOR Daleo Freeman
NE REGION MVS DIRECTOR Rick White
RETIREE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR Nancy Olemukor

VOTE!

unionmail@nymetro.org