



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 to Workers: *Don't worry! Be happy!*

This is the theme of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's video message to postal employees. As the first pilots of his consolidation plan begin to roll out in the next few weeks, DeJoy tells us to think of the efficiencies for the agency instead of our own inconveniences. He says: "I realized that change is never easy, so I don't want to minimize it. However, I do ask you to put the changes that might impact you in perspective since I can assure you that the changes we are proposing are vitally necessary, and will significantly improve the long term prospects for the Postal Service as a great American institution."

Instead of picking up packages and mail from delivery units, the carriers will travel



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# PMG DeJoy is a clear and present danger



**Jonathan Smith**

**A**PWU delegates stood-up at the National Convention and sent a message to the PMG that it is time for him to go. Our patience has run out! This message was sent to our National

President Mark Diamondstein and the National Executive Board as well. The time for excuses is over. Part of the Dump DeJoy Resolution set a time frame that it be publicized within 30 days. This was a demand for aggressive action, the same type of attention we gave the Stop Staples and Postal Banking campaigns.

Let me start by outlining the language in the APWU Constitution ‘ARTICLE 13 National Executive Board, Executive Council, and Committees

SEC. 1. The National Executive Board of the APWU shall consist of the President, Executive Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Industrial Relations Director, Clerk Division Director, Motor Vehicle Service Division Director, Maintenance Division Director, Support Services Division Director and the five (5) Regional Coordinators.

The National Executive Board shall be the highest ranking governing body of the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, in between conventions. . . . “The reason this says “in between conventions” is because the highest governing body of the APWU is the bian- nual national convention. In the

words of the current Director of Industrial Relations, Charlie Cash, explaining the importance of Convention Resolutions coming from the rank and file: “. . . The APWU belongs to you, the mem- bers of the APWU. . . [Making reso- lutions for the national convention] is your right as a member to be a part of the most democratic union in the country!”

This means the APWU National Executive Board is obligated to carry out the will of the delegates at the national convention. Clearly, this was understood, as the APWU website explains: “The 26th biennial convention of the American Postal Workers Union was held August 15- 18, 2022, in National Harbor, MD. The convention, the **highest gov- erning body of our union**, dis- cussed, debated, and voted on many resolutions regarding collective bar- gaining demands, constitutional reforms, and political priorities for the union.” [emphasis added]

The website specifically cites the resolution on Louis DeJoy: “APWU CONVENTION ADOPTS RESO- LUTION TO REMOVE POST- MASTER GENERAL DEJOY” and acknowledges that “The resolution was overwhelmingly passed by the convention.”

So why is it when I talk with my Congressional and Senatorial repre- sentatives, I’m told that APWU has not taken a position on what to do with PMG DeJoy. Does the will of the APWU leadership outweigh the will of the APWU. The website membership? The answer is hell no!

I have heard many people say that the resolution to get rid of

DeJoy which passed overwhelmingly at the APWU National Convention was just “a suggestion.” I absolutely refute this thinking! Once passed by our highest body, it was a mandate to our national leadership that required swift and immediate action. This should have been much more than just an article posted on the APWU website, The media all over the country should have been talk- ing about this. The APWU’s posi- tion should have made headlines and inspired the effort to defend the people’s Postal Service. Where are the press releases, the petitions, the post cards the posters, the t-shirts, the buttons? – all the things our national union has done so well in mounting campaigns to involve the

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# Trust Louis DeJoy at your own risk

Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

On October 12, 2022, a town meeting was broadcast on Andover, MA, public television on Postmaster General DeJoy's Delivering for America Plan, that was of great value to postal workers and the public we serve. It is the kind of presentation that should be coming from the national postal unions, but it is not. The meeting was put together by a retired Andover teacher, William Kolbe, who had written an op-ed for The Eagle-Tribune, "Commentary: USPS sorting center unduly taxes Andover carriers." The panel included retired letter carrier Jamie Partridge from Portland, OR; Peter Blunt a retired city carrier; Dave Stager, a rural letter carrier from Michigan; and Scott Hoffman, the Boston Area APWU president. The meeting confronted DeJoy's plans to centralize carriers' locations and what else is taking place under the reign of Louis DeJoy. A video of the program is available and should be watched by all.

People are not taking PMG DeJoy's outrageous behavior quietly. When the USPS notified the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) of its planned price increases which will go into effect in January, 2023, Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA) introduced H.R. 8781, the Ensuring Accurate Postal Rates Act, which is a bill that requires a reassessment of the authority that PMG DeJoy has used to hike prices during his reign as the PMG.

U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan stated that Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's actions

delayed mail deliveries and that he acted without obtaining an advisory opinion from the Postal Regulatory Commission. DeJoy's restriction of overtime payments for postal workers and his stoppage of the USPS's practice of allowing late and extra truck deliveries in 2020 reduced costs, but meant that mail was left behind to be delivered the following day.

Noah Bookbinder, president of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington had written, "There were already enough reasons to fire Postmaster General DeJoy, but Sullivan's court ruling was yet another reason." Bookbinder continued, "DeJoy's conflicts of interest and attacks on a basic government function means he has to go."

In case you think that assessment of the PMG might be too harsh, please pay attention to what he has in mind for you. His latest "All Employee Message" details his plans from changing the Postal Service into a package delivery business. DeJoy's changes will reflect his long-time history of being an anti-worker, anti-union employer who exploited workers for the financial benefit of his cronies and family members. The transformation of the Postal Service will impact negatively on you -- from changes in your work location, increased travel to work and the type of work you will be doing. But DeJoy wants you to feel good about all this negativity because it will represent the "contributions" that you are making to the future of the Postal Service. So even though you will be in turmoil during this time, DeJoy and his leadership team promise you

"long, stable and successful carriers." Of course, DeJoy is counting on your poor memory so that you won't remember that just short time ago, he told you that the future couldn't be guaranteed because it was impossible to make such predictions.

### House Committee wins push for USPS electric vehicles

DeJoy's original plan to invest in gas powered vehicles met with anger from the administration, the EPA and the American people. His financial ties to trucking were considered suspect in the planned purchase and there has been progress in moving toward a cleaner fleet.

On July 11, 2022, Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), the outgoing Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, released the following statement after the USPS announced that it will more than double the initial purchase of electric vehicles, "I am pleased that following my Committee's transition to electric vehicles, the USPS has announced that it will more than double its initial purchase of EV's. Our Postal Service fleet of the future must be clean, affordable, and electric. This is the fleet that the American people deserve. I am pleased by this progress, but I will continue to fight for the Postal Service fleet to fully transition to electric vehicles."

While Maloney was endorsed by the four postal worker unions, she was defeated by Congressman Jerold Nadler (D-NY) in the newly gerrymandered district. ☐

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# PMG DeJoy is a clear and present danger

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members and the public.

Instead of turning the demands of the delegates into an aggressive campaign to defeat DeJoy's business model of the post office, the National APWU leadership is choosing to give only the barest of lip service to our strong resolution. Meanwhile DeJoy continues the Ten Year Plan with absolutely no legitimate deterrent from any of the postal unions. In fact, our inaction has made him bolder and braver to carry out his plan of destruction.

For example, on October 6, 2022, a federal judge ruled that the rules that PMG DeJoy put into place before the 2020 Election hurt mail delivery. This ruling is in response to mail across the country not being delivered and at higher rates. DeJoy's response? An announcement that he is raising the price of the stamp from 60 cents to 63 cents in January and will continue to raise rates twice a year to fund his Plan. What arrogance!

DeJoy has also announced his plans to close many carrier delivery stations and consolidate them into one facility, basically creating a postal Walmart, further degrading the service and eliminating the term "visit your local post office." He is determined to make post offices harder to find while making the

service less reliable and more expensive.

The PMG has also stated publicly that he intends to make our staffing shortage worse by eliminating 50 thousand postal jobs in the next 3 to 4 years "to break even."

APWU President Mark Dimondstein responded to this threat in the September *American Postal Worker*. In conclusion, he says

"When PMG DeJoy was hired, we made it clear that our union would judge the PMG based on his actions. When he degraded service in the summer of 2020, we opposed this action and led the fight back which forced management to abandon the worst of those policy changes. . . .

"We will oppose future job reductions that affect the lives of the postal workers we represent, good living wage union jobs for future generations and diminishes the good service the people deserve. Rest assured that any such management actions will be met with unbridled opposition of the APWU— the same kind of fightback, allied with the labor movement and the people of our country, that won the 'Stop Staples' campaign, defeated the privatization plans of the White House in 2018 and compelled the USPS to do right in relation to vote by mail during the 2020 election."

The delegates at the 2022 national convention showed that the time for action is here when they cheered for the Resolution to Remove Louis DeJoy. PMG DeJoy is like cancer -- the sooner it is treated the better chance we have for recovery. APWU has allowed this cancer to spread and if we don't wake-up it will be too late.

There will be two vacant seats on the postal Board of Governors (BOG) in December it is imperative that Biden fill these seats with people who support a public postal service and is willing to remove PMG DeJoy. This means a full court press on the White House to appoint people who will defend the public post office. This may be our last shot to save the postal service from internal destruction. We must Urge our APWU leadership to be more aggressive than a few words on the website.

PMG DeJoy is a clear and present danger that is on a one-track mission the complete privatization of the postal service and the elimination of our good postal jobs and benefits. APWU must act now before it's too late. ☑

*[To read the entire text of the original Resolution passed by NY Metro and NY State, see the July/August 2022 Union Mail.]*

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***"The National Executive Board shall be the highest-ranking governing body of the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO in between conventions. . ."***

**– The Constitution and Bylaws of the American Postal Workers Union Article 13 Sec. 1**

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# APWU's Judy Beard wins labor award

On September 29, 2022, at the 8th Annual New York Amsterdam News Labor Awards



**APWU Legislative and Political Director, Judy Beard (left) receives 8th Annual New York Amsterdam News Labor Award from publisher Eleanor Tatum**

Breakfast there was a celebration of women of color in labor where the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and the National Officer Council Women Leaders of Color were feted. One of the women honored was Judy Beard, who in addition to being the Treasurer of CLUW since 2004, is also the National Legislative and Political Director of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), the first ever woman elected to that position.

Early in her career she worked for the University of Michigan School of Industrial Relations and served as the Detroit APWU District Area Local Vice President. Prior to becoming National Legislative and Political Director, Sister Beard was the APWU's Retiree Director.

In her remarks, Judy Beard commented on her early years as a union member. She said that her parents had suggested that she get a job where there was union representation. She followed their advice, but had little understanding of what union representation meant. When the postal workers went on strike in 1970, she was going to school full-time and working full-time. One of the older workers came over and explained to her the situation that postal workers were facing. Many full-time postal workers were able to qualify for public assistance because their wages were so low. Immediately, Ms. Beard grasped the importance of the postal workers' action. With this understanding, Judy Beard became an active unionist and her career as a fighter for workers' rights began. Within a short time, she ran for her first office, Sergeant of Arms, at the Detroit Local. When friends asked her why she was taking on such a responsibility with her busy schedule, she said that for the union to be

strong, members had to get involved. Over the years, Sister Beard has been a living example of active involvement in her own Local, in the national APWU, and in the fight for labor unions through CLUW.

At the Awards ceremony, the APWU was proudly represented by New York Metro Industrial Relations Director Ed Dalton and Legislative and Political Director Chuck Zlatkin. Mr. Zlatkin said, "Judy Beard has done a miraculous job as APWU's Legislative and Political Director. Her hard work, accessibility, and understanding of all the nuances and complexities of the job are unmatched." 📧



**Director of Industrial Relations, Ed Dalton; Award Recipient Judy Beard; Legislative and Political Director Chuck Zlatkin**

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to a big "sorting and delivery center" and then take the mail out from there. Mega-centers will take on more work in less space and will be "more efficient" than community-based delivery stations. Although the carriers will have to travel farther to work and farther to the final destination, the plan is to save money on the contracted trucks that the USPS hires to bring mail between facilities.

The change will completely distort the people's post office as we know it. But DeJoy touts this as improvement. So, while your commute and your route lengthens, do as the song says: "Don't Worry. Be Happy!" 📧

## PART 3

# Postal history—a second look

Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

When looking at the history of the post office in this country, it would be a mistake not to look at the impact that the railroads had on mail delivery. By 1850, more mail traveled on the railroad than on stagecoach and steam ship combined. Initially, bags of mail were transported from one location to another. But the needs of the service became greater because of two elements. The first was that since postage was relatively inexpensive, letter writing exploded in volume. The second was the special problems presented by the Civil War.

With more people sending mail, the initial method of transporting mail to a primary location for mail sorting was just not working. Postmaster General Montgomery Blair tasked an assistant postmaster in Chicago to run the first postal mail train route. Train routes between major U.S. cities were then well established and the Railway Mail Service was born. Within 20 years, it became nationwide. The RMS not only sped up the delivery of mail nationwide, but also decentralized operations, reducing cost.

The Railway Mail Service was considered the elite of postal work. Only two in five who passed the test for the post office could qualify for the RMS. Sorting mail while domiciled on moving trains was considered to be the most difficult job in the post office. RMS clerks worked for hours and hours on high-speed



trains in cramped quarters, lifting mail bags up to 200 pounds, while memorizing hundreds of routes. RMS clerks worked for a week straight on the railroad, working 13-hour days, spending nights in rooming houses. It was an unsafe atmosphere. The wooden cars were lit by either oil or gas lamps and heated by burning stoves. The mail cars were located right behind the engine and before the passenger cars. 143 RMS workers were killed and 3,887 were injured between 1890 and 1925. The trains became safer to work on when the steel cars replaced in the wooden ones in the 1900s.

Postmaster General John Wanamaker said of the Railway Post Office clerk, “On his memory, accuracy, and integrity hang the engagements of the business and social world. An idle minute on the railway post car may be felt across the continent.” Besides the vast memorization required of the job, RPO clerks needed to be able to make quick decisions. If a train missed a connection, the clerk had to come

up with the best alternative route for that piece of mail on the spot.

What the Railway Mail Service meant to the post office was enormous growth. In 1860, the RMS had 600 employees; by 1891, it had 6,000 employees. In the same time period, the number of registered letters went from 275,000 to 15 million. The Railway Mail Service reached its peak in the

1920s. In the 1940s with a reduction in trains, the post office department began to experiment with the sorting of mail on buses. This was called the Highway Post Office and was a success from the start.

But as the reduction of the Railway Mail Service continued it impacted the Highway Service as well. The last Highway Mail Service was in 1974, and the last Railway Mail Service was a train between New York City and Washington, DC, which ended in 1977. But while most people considered the job difficult and to some extent dangerous, those who gravitated to the RMS loved it. The excitement of the work, being on the road, and the extended stay the RMS Clerks received once getting home made up for the long separations while on the job. When the RMS was eventually abandoned, the clerks who couldn't retire had to find other jobs in the Postal Service, and none of them matched the experience of being a Railway Mail Service Clerk. ☐

[Look for Part 4 in the next issue of *The Union Mail*.]

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# Meet the new New York Metro officers

## Jackie Owens, *Secretary/Treasurer*



**Jackie Owens** has been a postal worker and member of the NY METRO Area Postal Union for 37 years. She spent 7 years in Customer Service at JAF and 30 years in Automation at Morgan P&DC. In October 2012, she decided to take her union commitment to a higher level and ran for the position of Shop Steward. From there, she served as Assistant Director and Director of Morgan Station. Whenever there has been a rally, a meeting, or labor demonstration, Jackie has shown up to represent postal workers. She has carried the union banner in the campaigns to Stop Staples, win postal banking, and save our post offices from being closed.

When a leader was needed to fill the position of Metro's Secretary/Treasurer, Jackie Owens stepped up. This is an office that requires dedication, responsibility, and intense training. The entire Executive Board endorsed the President's recommendation for her to be our Secretary/Treasurer. Jackie told us: "I take this position seriously and felt honored when the Executive Board unanimously concurred with President Smith's recommendation. Every day is a learning process but I will be up for the opportunity to carry out my fiduciary duties to the Executive Board and the Membership. Thank you all for the confidence that you have in me. I will always do my best." ☐

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## Kim Smith, *Director of Morgan*



**Kim Smith** began as a PTF on the LSM that was lovingly known as the "Green Monster." As a full time regular, she worked in various operations, finally becoming a Madison Square Flats Operator. In 2002, Kim bid to a SSA position (window clerk) at Hamilton Grange PO. Working with customers was a highlight of her postal career, but in 2004, she wanted to return to processing mail. She bid back to Morgan, where she worked Tour 3 and then found a home on Tour 1.

In 2014, a co-worker told Kim she would be a good shop steward. Her grandmother had always called her an advocate because she spoke up for people who wouldn't speak up for themselves. This skill is exactly what she needed to represent employees on the work floor. By 2018, she took this to another level as the Assistant Director of Morgan. She then covered the Director's job. Since she proved herself up to the challenge, President Smith and the Executive Board made her the Director.

Kim said, "Being a Steward means that I get to be a lawyer for my members. I get to be a Director of the largest mail processing facility in the world. As I was once told and I wholeheartedly agree, I am a Steward first and Director second. The titles and the accolades mean nothing if you are not willing to stand up and face management head on. My motto is the following: I am my members' keeper and One team One Purpose. That's the Union Creed." ☐

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## Tyrone Blount, *Assistant Director of Morgan*



**Tyrone Blount** worked for the Postal Service for 37 years. About seven years ago, he just didn't like how things were changing on the work room floor and how management was taking advantage of the employees without a shop steward being present on the tour.

First he was just frustrated and angry. He says, "I had heated conversations with then Director of Morgan Jackie Owens and Industrial Director Kevin Walsh about issues on the work floor." Then he decided to shut up and step up. After further discussions with President Jonathan Smith & Vice President Tiffany Foster, he decided to become a shop steward. "I was convinced to learn the contract to combat management."

Tyrone is a fighter. He realized fighting management is more satisfying than complaining! He says, "Now as the Assistant Director of Morgan, the expectations are greater than of a steward because the members and the stewards look for me to lead them and that's a great responsibility I accepted, and a challenge to learn and to do the best job possible." ☐

# APWU files dispute on USPS failure to allow/display voter registration forms in post offices

On March 7, 2021, in the face of mounting voter suppression, President Biden issued an Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting. In direct conflict with this Order, there are post offices which are not making voter registration forms available. APWU has filed a national dispute on the USPS failure to allow/display Voter Registration Forms in Post Offices. Under federal law, 52 U.S.C. Code 20506 and many State election codes, Voter Registration applications can be displayed in the lobbies of all postal facilities. In places where there is not adequate space for display, the forms are available to customers upon request.

Historically, the Postal Service has maintained certain forms for the public. This includes Change of Address forms; Draft Registration forms; and Voter Registration forms. The display of blank Voter Registration forms has been routinely approved by both postmasters and Installation Heads. These forms are covered under “Election Mail,” which is non-partisan, rather than “Political Mail.”

In the filing, APWU Clerk Craft Director Lamont Brooks stresses that the Post Office is a government agency where such forms are avail-

able to the public. He says, “Many citizens don’t have access to public libraries or government building, while the government post offices allow for citizens to easily obtain voter registration forms allowing them to vote by mail or in-person



and even complete the change of address form to update their voter registration.”

During the national elections in 2020, when the APWU made complaints regarding those post offices where such forms were not displayed, the USPS corrected the matter locally. In August of his year, despite past practice, the nonpartisan League of Women Voters of Texas said their volunteers were barred from leaving basic voter materials in post offices. This is particularly disturbing because the State of Texas does not allow online voter registration, so the paper forms are needed both for registration and absentee ballot applications. Voters

are told to go to libraries, high schools, and government offices. For many people, the Post Office is the visible and accessible government office. Post offices are in 31,000 locations, both rural and urban. This is one of the many reasons of the importance of maintaining retail post offices throughout the country.

The mission of the United States Postal Service (from the USPS website 10/12/2022) is “to serve the American people, and, through the universal service obligation, bind our nation together by maintaining and operating our unique, vital, and resilient infrastructure. To provide trusted, safe, and secure communications and services between our Government and the American people with each other.” This is the USPS as a “trusted face of the U.S. Government in every community and provide all levels of government with access to our network and services.”

The dispute filed by APWU against USPS failure to allow/display Voter Registration Forms in Post Offices is critical. There are two main dangers from the suppression of these forms. This limits access to voting and also degrades the importance of community post offices as government locations to carry out the USPS mission. ☐

## WELCOME NY METRO’S NEW TRUSTEE

On October 19, 2022, **Denisha Dobbins** was nominated by Jonathan Smith as a Trustee. She was unanimously endorsed by the NY Metro Executive Board. Congratulations, Denisha! Trustee Alison Ward has moved on to another job and we wish her well! ☐



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# We protect your rights. You protect your job!

If you have a problem on the job or receive discipline, YOU must ask your supervisor for a shop steward. Once you ask, our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) requires the SDO/SMO/STO to get the steward. You can't stop working while you wait. Conversely, the representative must be gotten "within a reasonable amount of time."

The steward can represent you against management. But only you can protect your job. If you are chronically late or take a lot of unscheduled leave, that's something only you can fix. If you don't like your assignment, but it's part of your job, the steward may not be able to fix it. His/her job is to police the contract, not to make everyone happy.

We protect your rights. But not everything you want is a "right." Some people yell at the steward if they're told they're wrong. This plays into management's hands. Supervisors and managers love to blame the union for everything.

## Discipline cases

In disciplinary cases, the steward can be with you at a Pre-Disciplinary Interview (PDI). It is in your best interests to have a steward there because the supervisor often distorts what you said during the PDI. You need to request that the steward be there and management must get the steward. It is not on you to search for your representative.

Once a disciplinary action is taken, you must ask for a steward to represent you. You do not get to select which steward you prefer. If your steward is new, help is always available. We make a collective effort to get it done right. Please understand. Arbitrators have been getting very finicky about "the steward of record." The Union has actually lost cases because a steward from another area or tour filed the case!

## Contract cases (like leave, pay, OT, etc)

The supervisor can't tell you that you don't have a grievance. You can't tell the shop steward that you do have a

grievance. It is the shop steward's job to investigate and determine whether or not a grievance exists.

## Work with your steward

No one has to become a shop steward. This is a job that people take on voluntarily. More than once, NY Metro Area Postal Union has put out a call for members in each craft to step up and get the training to be the shop steward for your area.

Yet, people who did not answer that call for whatever reason, often criticize and complain about the women and men who are representing them. Think about it.

The steward is a postal worker, just like you, who is given tools and training by the Union to be able to represent you. But the steward's real strength comes from your cooperation. Write statements. Give facts. If you are always busy complaining about the union, it weakens all of us. If management sees that the steward is backed by the workers, s/he has power. Together, we have power! ☑

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## APWU NATIONAL ELECTIONS:

**The GOOD NEWS:** The candidates endorsed by NY Metro won by a substantial margin\*!

*President Mark Dimondstein  
Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard  
Human Relations Director Daleo Freeman  
NE Region MVS Director Rick White  
Retirees Department Director: Nancy E. Olumekor*

**The BAD NEWS:** The election turnout was appallingly low. This shows a sad state of apathy among our union members at a time in history when we have to step up to meet dangerous challenges from the Postal Service. WAKE UP!

\*details are on the APWU website.

## POSTAL PRIDE

# Solidarity for disaster relief


**S**olidarity means standing together as workers against management. But there are other ways of showing solidarity with each other.

In the face of devastating events like storms, tornados, wildfires, and other disasters, all of us are vulnerable to loss of life and property. When this happens to fellow postal workers, our union and our members step up to help.

In August, at the biannual national APWU Convention, the delegation from the state of Kentucky made an appeal to the Convention for assistance for those impacted by the terrible flooding in the eastern part of the state. By “passing the hat” around the Convention floor, over \$5000 was quickly raised, which was matched by the national APWU.

Our Local, NY Metro Area Postal Union, responded to the devastation experienced by our sisters, brothers, and siblings in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Ian. After President Smith spoke with the President of the Puerto Rico APWU, our Executive Board voted to donate \$5000 to help out in their time of need. The same contribution will be made to the Local in Fort Myers, Florida.

We urge all our members to give to PERF – The Postal Employees’ Relief Fund. While there are many organizations that collect money for disaster relief, this one is earmarked for our postal family. You can make this a donation through the Combined Federal Campaign (CDC #10268) or send directly to Postal Employees Relief Fund, P.O. Box 41220, Fredericksburg, VA 22404-1220.

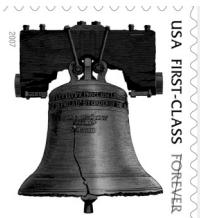
Since its founding in 1990, PERF has provided more than 3,000 grants totaling nearly \$15 million to active and retired postal employees impacted by natural disasters or home fires. A few years ago, when the apartments of some of our PSEs were ravaged by fire, we learned that they too were eligible for PERF grants. Now they themselves donate through CDC. For information: [www.postalrelief.com](http://www.postalrelief.com) 

# Postal News Briefs

## “FOREVER” STAMP GOING UP TO 63¢

On January 22, 2023, postal rates are going up again! This means Forever stamps will go from 60¢ to 63¢; domestic postcards will rise from 44¢ to 48¢; and there will be other domestic and international rate increases, including higher fees for custom stamp orders.

The higher rates were proposed on October 7, 2022, and are subject to the approval of the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC). This is part of PMG DeJoy’s Ten-Year Plan which will include postage hikes twice a year. The Postal Board of Governors has okayed seeking the maximum return on postal rates allowed – 4.2% for first class mail. The 63¢ Forever stamp goes over the cap by a raise of 5%. This gives the PRC clear grounds to stop it.



## HOLIDAY MAILING FOR MILITARY ABROAD


To send packages to military and diplomatic addresses outside the US, the Postal Service offers a discounted price on its largest Priority Mail Flat Rate Box. There is a discount of \$1.50/box going to Air/Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/ Diplomatic Post Office (APO/FPO/DPO) worldwide.

USPS expects to process 10.1 million pounds of mail to these destinations this holiday season. Check in the post office or online for deadlines to mail for December 25 delivery. For presents and Care Package, use the free Military Care Kit with mailing items : 2 Priority Mail APO/FPO flat rate boxes; 4 Priority Mail Medium flat rate boxes; Priority Mail tape; Priority Mail address labels and 6 Customs forms envelopes.

To order these kits or flat rate boxes with the “America Supports You” logo, call 800-610-8734 or visit the online Postal Store.

## USPS DELIVERING NEWS

Local print newspapers are turning to the Postal Service to deliver. As fewer publications need daily delivery and gas prices rise, outlets find that mailing a newspaper across town is cheaper than hiring a driver. Gannett, the largest publisher in the country, has switched to mail delivery in 20 markets and is planning to expand the service. Forum Communications, based in North Dakota, switched to mail delivery for most of its 11 daily newspapers and 10 weeklies. Using the Postal Service cut their delivery costs by 25%.

The article in The Daily Upside newsletter comments on why this method works. “Unlike bicycle riding, newspaper-flinging paperboys of yore, they [the postal carriers] hit the inbox the same way every day.” 



## CALENDAR

### Wednesday, November 16

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Via Zoom

As per the NYMAPU Constitution:

### No Membership Meeting in December

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS!

### Wednesday, January 18, 2023

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 September 1, 2022	_____	\$1,399,625.41
Total Revenue September 2022	_____	\$ 159,634.31
Operating Expenses September 2022	_____	\$ 140,612.24
Total Net Income September 2022	_____	\$ 19,042.07
Ending Balance September 30, 2022	_____	\$ 1,418,667.48

**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. 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. meeting will resume via ZOOM. Next meetings: October 26, 2022; November 23, 2022, January 25, 2023 at 5:30pm. [Use the ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.]




## WELCOME TO OPEN SEASON 2022! Virtual Open Season Health Fairs

*November 14 – December 12, 2022  
Every Tuesday and Thursday, from 12-2pm EST*



**O**ur 2022 APWU Health Plan Virtual Open Season Health Fairs have been scheduled! Go online and Register Now! You will get a confirmation and instructions of how to GOTOWebinar and dial in information.

A Health Plan staff employee will be online to answer questions and discuss plan features. This will include both the High Option and Consumer Driven APWU Health Plans.

“We wanted to give your employees an opportunity to meet with APWU Health Plan staff virtually and learn about our benefits. Postal, Federal, and Retirees who are eligible for the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program can access and attend our virtual health fairs online.” 



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



*Season's Greetings to all!*

*A*s we finish this year and move into 2023, we are bracing for the big fight against DeJoy and his ten-year plan to dismantle the Postal Service, which he calls: "Delivering for America."  
We are ready to unite and fight!

*New York Metro Area Postal Union's officers  
and stewards wish our members and their families  
Health, Happiness and Joy for 2023!*



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