



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.

## We Bounced Bloom! Now we must Dump DeJoy!



Dump DeJoy, Bounce Bloom Rally to Save the Public Post Office, September 23, 2021 at Brookfield Asset Management, NYC, where Ron A. Bloom is Vice Chairman and Managing Partner

[See page 5](#)

**APWU REACHES TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON NEW 3-YEAR CONTRACT Pages 2 & 5**

# State of the union address 2021 (Part 1)



## First Vote, then Vote YES.

This article is in two parts. The first part touches on the universal state of the union, what impacts everyone. Part 2 will be a

**Jonathan Smith** short conversation, dealing with each craft: Clerk, Maintenance and Motor Vehicle Services.

Many members are excited that our national leadership was able to negotiate a 3-year tentative National Agreement. This is quite an achievement in the current climate, with an anti-union PMG (Louis Dejoy) at the helm of the Postal Service, change of delivery standards, the COVID-19 epidemic, and the fluctuation of the economy.

Remember that this is the first time in three contracts that we get to vote on ratification. In 2015 and 2018, negotiations failed, and APWU had to go to interest arbitration. Interest arbitration is not rights/grievance arbitration, where an arbitrator applies the requirements of the contract to an issue and decides which side is right. In interest arbitration, the arbitrator actually settles the terms of a contract, leaving neither side completely satisfied. Interest arbitration takes control of the union's destiny out of our hands and rarely works in the union's favor, especially in the current climate.

## Let's take a brief look at the negotiated tentative contract

It's a three-year contract with: A 1.3% wage increase each year; 6 cost of living allowances (COLA); PSE wage increase 1% plus an additional

2.3% each November. Plus .50 /hour.

Conclusion: We would not do better in arbitration, especially after what the Carriers and Mailhandlers settled for during their recent contract negotiations. Doing the math over 3 years (using Level 6 as an example): between raises and COLA, over three years it averages out to a raise of 11.9% raise or more than \$10,000. No level is projected to receive less than 11.5% in contractual increases.

Other financial plusses for the union: ● Converting PSEs after 24 months of service will cost USPS 1 million dollars over the span of their postal career if they work for 30 years. ● 40 hours of advanced annual leave for PSEs after their first 360 days. ● An additional paid holiday (Juneteenth) which increases hourly pay for PTFs since they don't get holidays. ● 2.5% increase in clothing allowance and no more "use it or lose it"—the remaining balance rolls over into the next year. ● No additional employee contribution towards health benefits.

Job security: ● The Agreement keeps "no lay off" after six years. Plus, any employee on the rolls as of September 20,2021, can't be laid off for the life of this contract. This protects 72,000 APWU workers nationwide. ● The Contract keeps the limit of 50 miles on excessing for regular employees. Up until 2010, workers were excessed so far from home that they were essentially terminated.

When you get your ballot to vote to accept or reject this contract, I urge you: **1. Vote and 2. Vote YES.**

There are some things I wish were in the new contract: ● A moratorium on the closing and consolida-

tion of postal facilities, which would at least slow the privatization of our work. ● A greater restriction on the use of 204Bs in Maintenance and MVS so workers can't play both sides of the fence. ● Some hazard pay as a financial acknowledgement of those employees who have worked and continue to work through this pandemic. But the truth is that probably none of my wish list could have been achieved through arbitration. We have to remember that negotiation is about progress not perfection.

I would like to commend the national negotiating team for doing a tremendous job under very difficult circumstances. I know through my own personal experience what was achieved and how difficult a task it was. NY Metro salutes you and thanks you! 📧

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Cover photo by Pamela Drew

## LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT:

# Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 still not passed

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

On December 8, 2021, the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) with overwhelming bipartisan support. The passage of this bill came after the U.S. pulled out of the 20-year war in Afghanistan. The House gave \$25 billion more in this legislation than President Biden or the Pentagon asked for! While this was happening, we find that we are still waiting for Congress to pass Postal Reform legislation, HR 3076. There is bipartisan support for this bill. When the bill was introduced in May, 2021, it had 100 co-sponsors: 57 Democrats and 43 Republicans. But so far, no vote on this bill. The calling card for HR 3076 is that it would provide stability for the Postal Service and enable it to enhance services for the American people.

There is much in this bill that makes sense for everyone who respects the importance of having a public Postal Service. HR 3076 buries the destructive impact of the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) which demanded full pre-funding of future retirees' healthcare in a ten-year window, creating a massive financial burden for the Postal Service. HR 3076 not only removes the pre-funding liability but also integrates postal retiree healthcare into Medicare. No surprise that there was major bipartisan support. The surprise is that this bill hasn't come to the floor for a vote as of yet.

The support for the Postal Service among the American peo-

ple is great, and it only became greater during the pandemic because of the phenomenal job that postal workers did during such a trying time. The support for the post office is universal. There is as much reliance on a public post office in rural areas as there is urban centers. So what is the problem?

Representative James Comer (R-KY) is the ranking member of the House Government Oversight and Reform Committee, one of the committees where HR 3076 needs approval. Comer recently stated that if there is a move to remove Louis DeJoy as Postmaster General (PMG) of the United States, that possible action might peel away support for the Postal Reform bill among Republicans. The success of HR 3076's support came from the strong work that Comer did along with Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), chair of the Committee, to craft the bill. Comer playing politics with HR 3076 is worrisome.

It is true that PMG DeJoy was a major donor for Republicans. It is also true that with President Biden's recent nominations for the Postal Board of Governors, the make-up of the Board has changed. But Comer

also has to know that the majority of the Board appears that it will support PMG DeJoy even when Biden's new picks are confirmed. Is Comer really concerned that DeJoy is in trouble with the Board?

Too often members of the media speculate on what will take place with the Postal Board of Governors without really understanding how the members of the Board are likely to vote. There are nine members of the Postal Board of Governors. There can't be more than five members from any one political party.

With the recent selections by President Biden, the Board will be made up of four Democrats, four Republicans and one Independent. It could appear that Amber McReynolds, the Independent, could potentially give the anti-DeJoy members of the Board a majority. But when we look at the full support given to PMG DeJoy by Board Member Lee Moak, a Democrat, there is no reason to believe that Moak is about to change now.

When PMG DeJoy was called before the House Committee in August 2020 to explain the apparent problems that the Postal Service were having, DeJoy commented to the Committee that they "should get used to him, because he was going to be around for awhile." Unfortunately, it appears the DeJoy knew what he was talking about.

The House Ways and Means Committee granted an extension for further consideration of HR 3076 until January 21, 2022. ☐





# Bloom Bounced! DeJoy must be Dumped!

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

To some, December 8, 2021, seemed like liberation day. It was the first day in some time that Ron A. Bloom was no longer a member of the Postal Board of Governors and no longer its chair. Bloom was Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's biggest ally. Bloom could have been given another seven-year term on the Board by President Biden. Bloom was a co-signatory of the Delivering for America 10-year plan which called for further slowing of mail delivery, raising of postal prices twice yearly and eventual cuts in postal plants, stations and jobs. Bloom's departure is a major victory for those committed to a public post office, for those who depend on postal services, and for those who work for the post office. It didn't happen by accident. It is true that there was a growing knowledge among elected officials that the pathway to removing DeJoy first had to stop at Bloom and his removal from office. More and more people in the media were coming to that same conclusion. But the reality is that without the actions of New York Metro Area Postal Union and President Jonathan Smith, it may never have happened.

For whatever reasons, all four national postal unions were part of the problem. Both the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) and the National Rural Letter Carriers Association (NRLCA) lobbied hard for Ron Bloom to be given a seven-year term to remain on the Postal Board of Governors, including writing a joint letter to the White House on

## Save the Public Post Office:

# Dump DeJoy

Bloom's behalf. The American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) were both publicly silent on Bloom's retention on the Board.

New York Metro Area Postal Union members had a different take on the situation. It was seen early on that Bloom and DeJoy were dangerous to the respect that the American people had for the Postal Service and a major threat to our jobs.

Our actions followed accordingly.




**Ron A. Bloom**

President Smith told our members the truth about the threats of Bloom and DeJoy and articulated NY Metro's position to both elected officials and members of the media. While the national postal unions haven't yet taken positions against Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, New York Metro was on record calling for the Postal Board of Governors to fire DeJoy. New York Metro also took on the danger of Ron A. Bloom directly. On

September 23, 2021, our Local, with our friends and allies, rallied in front of the New York offices of Brookfield Asset Management on Vesey Street in the financial district. Our call was "Dump DeJoy!" "Bounce Bloom!" In addition to being the chair of the Postal Board of Governors, Ron A. Bloom is the vice chairman and managing partner at Brookfield where he directs investments for a 60 dollar billion fund. The message was simple: "Bloom cannot be given an additional seven year term on the Postal Board of Governors, and DeJoy needs to be replaced as the Postmaster General – immediately!"

While DeJoy had become well-known for all the wrong reasons, Bloom was not in the public eye. That all changed on September 23rd when the media began to focus on Bloom, thanks to New York Metro. Samantha Bee, host of "Full Frontal" on TBS, saw President Smith's speech at the rally and invited him to appear on her show. Jonathan Smith made it quite clear that PMG DeJoy was a threat to the Postal Service; DeJoy "brings no DeJoy." Smith stated, "I believe that he was sent to sabotage, not just the Postal Service, but the people's confidence in the Postal Service." President Smith focused on the importance of not reappointing Bloom and letting people know to tell the White House how they feel about it.

Almost immediately, it was announced that President Biden would not nominate Bloom for another term. **New York Metro Area Postal Union matters!** 

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# NY Metro's new Executive Vice President: Joseph Martir

**T**he new Executive Vice President for NY Metro Area Postal Union does not need to be introduced to the members. Everyone is familiar with Brother Joe Martir, who has served as Director of the Bronx installation and more recently as our Secretary-Treasurer. Joe has been the one who keeps the minutes and keeps track of the Local's money. Joe has put a lot of effort into making sure that all records for our Local are kept accurate and up-to-date. Keeping NY Metro solvent and secure is an awesome task and Joe has put in the hours to learn to do it well.

Joe Martir brings his passion for justice to all his union activity. He embodies the spirit of unionism. For him it's not just about filing and winning grievances, but also about the broader political arena.

Joe started his career as a MPFSM operator in July, 1989. He worked in the Bronx on all three tours and was a window clerk in Kingsbridge, Spuyten Duyvil, West



Farms, Morris Heights and Parkchester stations. From 1997 – 2003, he was Vice-President of the Hispanic Society.

As a member of NY Metro Area Postal Union, he stepped up to be a steward in 1998. From 2012 to 2018, he was the Director of the Bronx Installation, which made him a member of the Executive Board, which decides on the policy and direction of the entire Local. In

2018, he was elected as Secretary-Treasurer which made him responsible for taking the minutes of meetings and handling the finances of the union. As the largest Local in the country, NY Metro has a huge budget with thousands of members to monitor. He has developed expertise through hard work and study. His knowledge has come from Secretary-Treasurer training, Arbitration Training, and numerous classes at craft conferences and (recently) zoom training.

Joe's family is supportive and proud of his Union position. At the same time as he was coaching his sons in sports, he brought them to see him sworn in as Bronx Director. This commitment to family makes him passionate about fighting for better conditions for all working people and their families.

Joe Martir says, "I look forward to working with you as Executive Vice-President." NY Metro's officers, stewards, and members are looking forward to working with him. ☑

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## APWU reaches tentative agreement on new 3-year contract

**T**he APWU has a tentative Contract agreement. It has been approved by the Rank and File Bargaining Committee and will be sent out for members to vote on.

After the 2018-2021 Contract officially expired, our negotiators made

a unanimous decision to stay at the bargaining table. Two and a half months later, on December 9, 2021, they reached a tentative agreement. Unlike the past two contracts which were handed down to us through interest arbitration, we have the

right and responsibility to vote to ratify or reject the Agreement. Before voting, each postal worker in an APWU-covered craft will be mailed a copy of the 2021-2024 National Agreement with a ballot.

*continued on page 6*

# APWU reaches tentative agreement on new 3-year contract

*continued from page 5*

Voting on the contract is a privilege of membership. Non-members will be sent a union membership form, giving them the right to vote **ONLY IF** they join.

An outline of the features of the Contract has been posted by the APWU on the union website. NY Metro Area Postal Union sent this out in an email blast and encouraged all members to participate in the December 16th Zoom “Town Hall” to get a fuller understanding of the new language and ask questions.

President Dimondstein credited the sustained effort of the entire negotiating team, but he emphasized that the strength of the negotiators came from the bottom up – the solidarity of the members in the

stations and on the work floor. He explained that the opportunity for postal workers to have collective bargaining was a result of the courageous women and men who participated in an illegal strike in 1970. In 2021, we have the right to negotiate with management over wages, hours, and working conditions – a right that postal workers did not have until 50 years ago. Director of Industrial Relations, Vance Zimmerman, Vice President Debby Szeredy, and Secretary-Treasurer Liz Powell, all praised the process of the negotiations, where our union stood together as a team who refused to give back the gains of previous contracts. Over the next three years, APWU maintains no lay-off protection; continues to be the only postal union with full COLA, and keeps

the 50 mile radius for excessing. It raises wages for all while narrowing the gap between the highest and lowest paid workers. An 11th holiday–Juneteenth–will be added to the existing ten, and increases the pay for PTFs by rolling that extra holiday into their hourly wage.

During the Zoom presentation, each of the national APWU Craft Directors had a chance to speak. This included Michael Foster, Director of the Motor Vehicle craft; Steve Brooks, Director of Support Services; Idowu Balogun, Maintenance Director; and LaMont Brooks, Director of the Clerk craft. Each of these officers expressed support for the terms of the new Contract and explained features that were gains for their respective craft. 📧



## SOCK & GLOVE DRIVE



Please help us to help those in need this winter!  
The NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. Sisters are sponsoring a Sock & Glove Drive  
for Men, Women, and Children  
beginning now until February 28, 2022

Donations may be dropped off at the following locations:

NY Metro Union Office, 350 W. 31st St (3rd floor), NY, NY 10001  
Morgan Union Office, 341 9th Ave, NY, NY 10199  
Church Street Station, 90 Church St, NY, NY 10007  
Parkchester Station, 1449 West Ave, Bronx, NY 10462  
DVD Union Office, 85 Newark Turnpike, Kearny, NJ 07099  
NJI&NDC Union Office, 80 County Rd, Jersey City, NJ 07097

**OR GIVE TO YOUR UNION STEWARD**

# “First Class”—A must read

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

I do not remember when I first heard about Christopher W. Shaw, but I am sure that it had something to do with the book *Preserving The People’s Post Office* which was written in 2006. The book became my bible for postal issues. I learned so much from it about the real history of the post office and got a good look into who the people were who were making decisions for and about the post office.

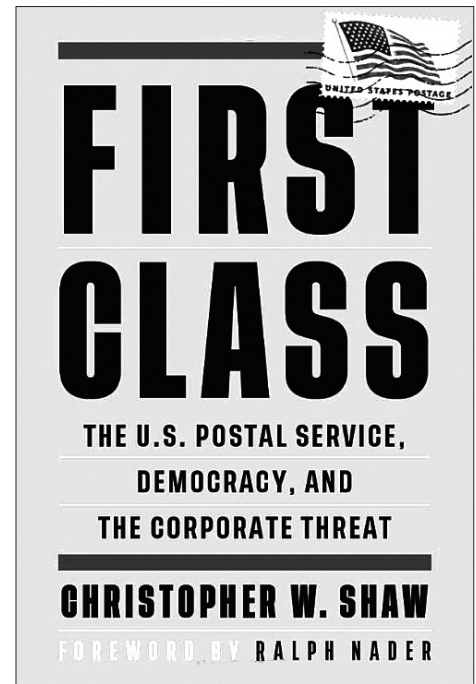
I was truly astonished when I first was contacted by Chris Shaw. He emailed me, “I just read your excellent article on saving our public Postal Service in *The Independent*.” He included two articles that he thought I would enjoy reading and identified himself as the author of *Preserving The People’s Post Office*. I told him that I had been keeping a dog-eared copy of this book on my desk for years. I had also mentioned to him that I had tried to buy a used copy of his book for a friend, but that online they were asking \$900 for that used copy! He responded that it was “ironic to see such price gouging for a book about an affordable public service.” (I should like to add that for those interested in securing a copy of the book, it is “only” \$73 for a used copy online now.)

From time to time, I would speak with Chris Shaw on the phone or exchange emails regarding my concerns with the policies that were being implemented by Postmaster General DeJoy and the lack of any real progress with the development of postal banking.

Chris was easy to speak to and I always felt that he was listening to me seriously. I was pleasantly surprised when he called me to say that he was considering coming out with an updated version of his book on the post office. He asked me a couple of questions about what I thought would be areas that he should include.

When I heard that his new book, *First Class- The U.S. Postal Service, Democracy, And The Corporate Threat*, was about to be published, I put in my order for a copy. In addition to sending Chris information that New York Metro had learned about the selection of Baychester Post Office as one of only four post offices in the nation to be part of the “technical test” for expanded financial services, I wished him luck on his new book. He thanked me for the info on Baychester and for spending time speaking with him when he was authoring the book.

When I received my copy of *First Class—The U.S. Postal Service, Democracy, And The Corporate Threat*, I read it right through. I never thought there could be a book that would be more meaningful to me than Shaw’s first book. I was wrong. *First Class* is extraordinary. It is a must-read for people immersed in postal issues and for those who are first learning about the Postal Service. Steve Hutkins of Save The Post Office, wrote: “Shaw makes an eloquent case for why the post office is worth saving, and why, for the sake of American Democracy, it must be saved.”



And, yes, I did look in the Index to see if I was quoted. I was. And, more than that, I was one of the 14 people that Chris Shaw thanks in the acknowledgements “for generously offering their insights and knowledge.”

Not bad for an old, former LSM/ZMT operator from the Bronx. ☺

*EDITOR’S NOTE: We in NY Metro Area Postal Union take Chuck Zlatkin, our Legislative and Political Director, for granted. We forget how much impact he has had all over the country in exposing the forces at work to privatize the people’s Postal Service. In radio interviews, debates, speeches and written articles, Chuck has been an intelligent and strong voice on the crucial role the public Postal Service plays in maintaining our democracy.*



# TACS is OUR work!

By Flo Summergrad

Those of us who worked in the post office before 2002, remember that all employees' time and leave was input by clerks. These were bid jobs in "PSDS," which stood for Postal Service Data System. In the plants, they covered all the hours – 24/7. In the stations, the T-7 input the time.

In 2002, these jobs were "phased out," and supervisors input the employees' time. The Postal Service straight up STOLE OUR WORK and gave it to management. For the next 19 years, the APWU has been fighting to get this work back for the clerk craft.

On September 9, 2021, a pre-arbitration agreement was signed that finalized this process, which had involved several arbitrations, Labor Board cases and intense rounds of negotiations. This returned ALL TACS timekeeping work to the bargaining unit.

However, management resisted relinquishing control of timekeeping, and in some places is still not compliant. In order to arm our stewards and lead clerks to force compliance, NY Metro President Jonathan Smith set up a zoom training with APWU Clerk NBA Pete Coradi. Pete had been the chief union negotiator involved in this process. In the December 10th zoom training, he led the stewards through the agreement and what steps are needed for grievances to make management stop stealing our work.

The original settlement giving lead clerks the TACS work was on February 4, 2016. Postal management ignored it. The union had to

be relentless in fighting for compliance because the fight for clerk work is a life and death struggle for the craft. Automation and passivity have lost us thousands of clerk jobs over the last twenty years. It is a hard struggle to win them back and then the victory meets resistance.

After five years, management finally conceded. On September 9, 2021, they signed the pre-arb settlement which clearly states that **"this will ensure that the TACS duties associated with the Lead Clerk Clock Office role are performed by clerk craft bargaining unit employees."** The Postal Service had to pay \$25 million to those who held the lead clerk duty assignments from the date of the first lead clerk settlement through this pre-arb sign-off (2/4/16–9/9/21). Most of the workers involved received their moneys on October 1, 2021.

Management had 45 days to make sure the proper training was done. Before the end of that period, meetings were to be held with the union as to how the TACS work would be implemented. That moratorium ended on October 24th, but many places have not met with the union, nor had the required in-person training or even denied clerk access to TACS.

Postal management's obstinacy already cost them a lot of money. And we can make non-compliance cost them even more. When supervisors are doing TACS work—OUR work!—we win Level 7 pay at the overtime rate for all the hours they stole from us. This can add up to enough money to make them finally relinquish control.

Since timekeeping is so important, there should never be a shortage of clerks trained to do this work. This means management must train people who fully understand the TACS system and can be back-ups on rest days or during the absence of the lead clerk. If a back-up is normally a Level 6, they must be paid at the higher level for performing the TACS duties. We can see that winning this work for the clerk craft is a financial gain for more than the person holding the lead clerk bid.

Inputting and deleting time in TACS for all bargaining unit employees (regardless of craft) are lead clerk duties. Lead clerks have to keep repeating the mantra: "This is OUR work. This is absolutely OUR work!" ☑

## Steward Elections Update

Stewards certified by the NY Metro Election Committee will begin their terms on January 31, 2022. Training for new stewards will be scheduled from January 24 – 28, 2022. Those who did not reapply or lost their election will remain NY Metro shop stewards until the end of January. [A list of all stewards will be published in a future Union Mail.]

President Jonathan Smith, the officers, and the members of NY Metro thank all those who have served as shop stewards. We thank everyone who stepped up to run in the recent steward elections. Whether you won or lost, you showed your desire and commitment to our union. Please continue to be active in the fight! ☑



# Bill Kreutter's work lives on! Maintenance grievance win

By Sherell Taitte-Pridgen, Assistant Maintenance Director

I am writing this letter on behalf of the NDC New York Metro's Custodians and NY Metro Maintenance Department.

On October 8, 2021, our National Business Agent David Sarnacki was able to come to a resolution with the United States Postal Service in a Pre-Arb decision on a Class Action grievance filed in 2008, by our late Director of Maintenance for New York Metro, William ("Bill") Kreutter.

President Jonathan Smith refused to let this case die and NBA Sarnacki took it forward. I want to commend them on their teamwork and diligent pursuit to enforce the Contract, winning a sizeable Award Settlement for New York Metro.

As a last gift for New York

Metro; Brother William ("Bill") Kreutter's outstanding work on the labor/management playing field laid the basis for National Business Agent Dave Sarnacki to hit a HOME RUN 14 years later! More than 100 workers who were impacted by management's staffing errors in 2008 received a cash award of over \$1000 apiece. At a time when our economy is hit by inflation and the COVID pandemic, this was a welcome surprise for our senior custodians and retirees who were on the rolls when the grievance was filed.

Bill Kreutter is deeply missed; however, he has left us with a legacy for our shop stewards to follow. Study the contract; grieve management's violations; document thor-

oughly; and don't give up the FIGHT!

I am inspired by our brothers who fought this case to enforce the Contract to the bitter end. I hope that I can learn to be just as effective. Our custodians are truly grateful to Bill and Jon and Dave. This win encourages all stewards and NY Metro members to continue the fight for justice, fair wages and better working conditions. ☑



**Bill Kreutter**

For many years, Bill Kreutter was the mentor to NY Metro's maintenance stewards. He can never be replaced, but we can emulate his hard work and fighting spirit. ☑

# Juneteenth officially a postal holiday

On June 19, 2022, June 19th will be a holiday for postal workers. In a letter from Doug Tulino, Deputy Postmaster General and Chief Human Resources Officer, announced that "the new holiday commemorates the final end to slavery in the United States and the Postal Service is fully supportive of annually observing and setting aside a day to recognize this historic event."



**Official symbol for Juneteenth**

The observance of this holiday is being added to the Employee and

Labor Relations Manual (ELM) 518, with the normal holiday pay and procedures for career employees.

The APWU has been demanding this as a paid holiday for postal workers since President Biden's announcement last year. We take pride in a day commemorating the end of slavery – a holiday already recognized in 48 states -- and long overdue as a national holiday. ☑

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## POSTAL PRIDE

### *We honor King by fighting voter suppression*

In January, we have a national holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is important to remember that King put huge emphasis on the right to vote.

Disenfranchisement of blacks in the south was enforced by racist laws and outright terror. King saw “Selma as a classic pattern of disenfranchisement typical of the Southern Black Belt areas where Negroes are in the majority.” It was to end this shame that the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was enacted on August 6, 1965.

The legal brakes put on discrimination at the polls were dismantled by the Supreme Court “Shelby” decision which gutted the Voting Rights Act. For the last 8 years, the right wing filibuster in Congress has prevented the passage of the bills that would restore the essence of the 1965 VRA. The For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would quash discriminatory legislation in the states.

Around the country, postal workers, regardless of political affiliation, are opposing voter suppression laws. In November, progressive organizations and unions were joined by officers and members of the APWU in front of the White House to demand meaningful voter rights legislation. President Dimondstein said, “Our union was at the forefront of the fight to preserve voting rights in the last election, and will remain in that struggle until the democratic rights of all working people are preserved.”

Postal workers rightfully took pride in the success of delivering millions of ballots through Vote by Mail in the 2020 election. NY Metro’s President Smith pointed out that vote by mail means nothing if the right to vote is taken away.

This year, the King family is demanding that instead of celebrations, the salute to the work of Dr. King take the form of marches and protests demanding an end to racist and elitist voter suppression. ☒

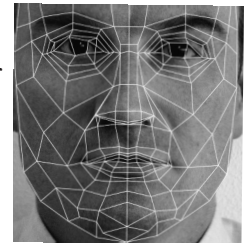
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## Postal News Briefs

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### POSTAL SERVICE SEEKING DISMISSAL OF FACIAL RECOGNITION SUIT

The USPS is trying to throw out a lawsuit by the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) that accuses the agency of failing to conduct and publish a privacy impact assessment before using facial recognition software to monitor protest activity, primarily on the social media. The legitimacy of the USPS undertaking such surveillance, which is not focused on theft or obstruction of the mail, has been called into question by Congressional Republicans who are concerned that information is collected on right-wing groups. However, Black Lives Matter and other protests are also watched for “threats” and “inflammatory statements.” Whether the USPS is authorized to retain and disseminate these reports through iCOP (Postal Internet Covert Operations Program) instead of going through Department of Justice intelligence sources is suspicious.



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### GOOGLE ORDERED TO DISCLOSE ANTI-UNION DOCUMENTS

On November 30, 2021, a judge ordered Google to immediately produce more than 70 subpoenaed documents from its secret campaign to crush a union organizing drive. Google had contracted with an anti-union company to develop a strategy to prevent organizing. Four activist employees who were fired by Google for union activity have exposed the unfair labor practices by filing suit with the National Labor Relations Board.



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### AMAZON MUST RERUN VOTE FOR UNIONIZATION

Amazon workers in Bessemer, Alabama, will have a second chance to vote for unionizing, based on the NLRB ruling that the company displayed “flagrant disregard” for a fair election. Lisa Y. Henderson, Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board, ordered Amazon to post a notice that informs the workers that this new vote is occurring “because the NLRB found the Employer interfered with the employees’ exercise of a free and reasoned choice. . . .” The notice includes an explanation of the way that Amazon acted to block the pro-union vote so workers can recognize illegal tactics. ☒



## CALENDAR

### Wednesday, January 19, 2022

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Via Zoom

### Wednesday, February 16

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 onA

## ALL COVID-19 MOUs and Liberal Leave Policy extended through February 11, 2022

## APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of October 1, 2021	\$1,138, 971.00
Total Revenue October 2021	\$ 186,772.14
Operating Expenses October 2021	\$ 118,923.45
Net Income October 2021	\$ 74,346.82
Ending Balance as of October 31, 2021	\$ 1,213,317.82

## APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of November 1, 2021	\$ 1,213,317.82
Total Revenue November 2021	\$ 165,453.25
Operating Expenses November 2021	\$ 104,383.38
Total Net Income November 2021	\$ 104,383.3
EndingBalance as of November 30, 2021	\$1,274,387.69

**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 at 1:00 PM via ZOOM. Next meeting January 26, 2022, at 1:00 pm. Zoom Meeting ID# 239-026-1053 [Follow Zoom instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.] \*NY Metro Area Postal Union



## In Memoriam: Agie Measso

Agie (Adriano) Measso was a loyal member of NY Metro Area Postal Union from the day he started working as a Distribution Clerk at the New Jersey Bulk Mail Center in 1974. In 1978, he was fired for participating in the July work stoppage at the BMC. when management refused to negotiate issues like forced overtime, unsafe conditions, and COLA. Under the slogan of “No Contract/No Work,” Agie and thousands of BMC workers protested and shut the place down.

Postal inspectors went to the Measso house to tell Agie he was fired. He always remembered them confronting his four-year-old son at the door and never forgot the disrespect to his family. In 1979, the Union won his job back at arbitration and Agie came back ready to fight.

He was a shop steward for over

30 years. In addition to defending workers against unjust discipline, Agie served as the union rep on the Safety & Health and the Social & Recreation Committees. He was active in fighting against unsafe conditions. People also remember him grilling hot dogs at picnics, getting good discount tickets for theme parks, and organizing the yearly retirement dances.

Agie’s grievances were always well argued. But he also had a sense of humor. His favorite tactic in attendance cases was to invoke the Warning on PS Form 3971. When management changed the leave requested by the employee (which still happens), Agie would name the Supervisor or General Supervisor involved and ask that they “be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than five

years or both under 18 USC 1001.” This enraged management and made the workers laugh.

In 2003, he was elected Director at the BMC/NDC. His years of experience as a steward made him ready to lead the other stewards in fighting management. Because Agie was good-natured and low key, management assumed he would be a pushover. They were shocked when he quietly stood up and prevailed on many issues.

Agie Measso won three terms as Director and held the position until 2012. He took early retirement to spend time with his four kids and his grandchildren. He was loved by the members at the NDC. We were deeply saddened to learn of his death this November.

Agie, Rest in Peace and Thanks from NY Metro!





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