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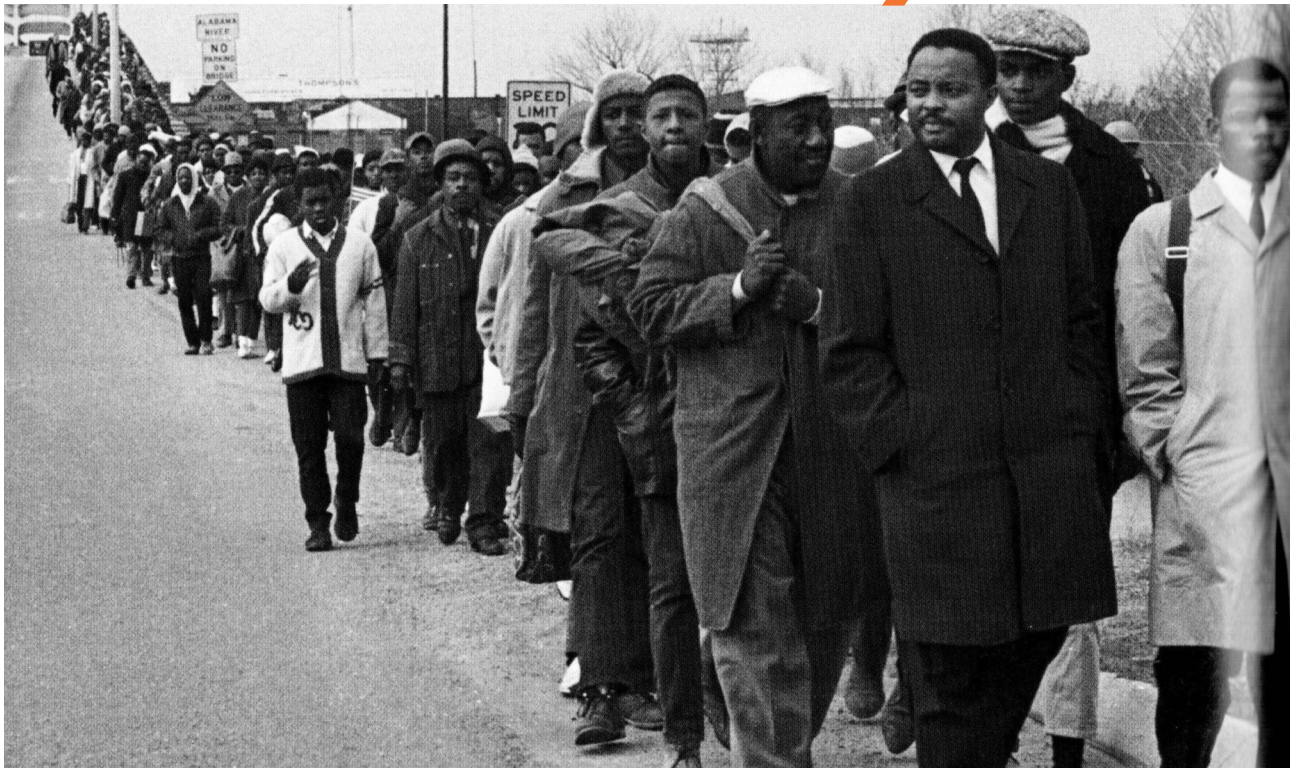
Union Mail

Vol. 60 No. 2 | February 2017

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

Black History Month 2017 will begin a new chapter in the fight for voting rights and democracy



Hosea Williams (SCLC) and John Lewis (SNCC) lead the march down from the Edmund Pettus bridge towards the waiting state troopers.

Story on page 9

Time to defend labor rights



Jonathan Smith

If we are not careful the labor movement as we know it will be destroyed forever. With so many union organized workers blindly supporting the oppressive platform of the republicans and the divisive message of President Trump, the rights we take for granted will be gone. Walter E Williams once said, “How does something immoral when done privately become moral when it is done collectively?” Prejudice, bigotry and hate are wrong. The mere fact that the message of hate resonated with so many Americans alone is troublesome. One of the proudest things about working for the post office is our diversity—all races, religions and creeds are welcomed in the post office. We have a proud history of inclusion.

Today’s postal workers have taken our jobs, benefits and very existence for granted. We have lived in a bubble. We have started believing we are untouchable because we have never truly faced the pain of a layoff or a reduction of wages or full blown privatization. We must be willing to get off of our butts and fight to preserve our history, to protect our jobs, and defend the very existence of the labor movement itself.

The labor movement built this country and established a thriving middle class that demanded a seat at the table of justice. I refuse to allow some fascist-minded people to take away everything that has been gained through the blood, sweat and

tears of those that came before us. It is now time for us to define our place in labor history. We can’t be lazy, tired or apprehensive at what may seem like insurmountable odds.

We must not concentrate on Trump’s White House. We have to fight the battle with the elected officials in each state – the governors, the state legislators, as well as our US Representatives and Senators. These people directly depend on the citizens of their state to get elected. Anti-union laws and attacks on the public sector are gaining new traction in the states. Any time legislation is raised that threatens labor or the people’s post office, we have to make our pressure felt.

We must be issue-focused and not party-focused. We must not define ourselves as democrats or republicans, left or right, moderate or conservative. Survival of labor rights does not depend on a political title. It depends on postal workers supporting those who support good living wage jobs and benefits. We must stop voting against our own personal interests. Postal workers become their own worst enemy by voting for politicians who will destroy the benefits that were fought for and earned by past generations.

Last but not least we must be willing to get out in the streets and protest and educate the American public about the issues that most concern us. This is impossible until we first unite inside the post office. Everyone needs to be a member! Stop taking all the benefits of membership while giving nothing back. The problem is postal workers think the union owes them something. The truth is they owe the union

there way of life. Their wages, benefits, and working conditions were fought for and won by the union. Stop asking the union to be perfect because the union has delivered on its promise. PROGRESS not perfection. 99% of failures come from people making excuses. We have given too much power to negativity and fear. Every day may not be great but there is something good in every day. The change we want to see at work must start with us and it must start with our attitudes.

The NY Metro Union administration works very hard (80-hour work weeks) We have seen many successes and some minor setbacks. But the members have to help us help themselves. Sometimes I get so frustrated I want to cry. Then I realize this is life. You suck it up, never give in and never give up. That is in our DNA! ☑

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Function 4 Reviews: The real deal

By Tiffany Foster, Executive Vice-President



Tiffany Foster

On October 25, 2016, NY District management notified the Union that they will be conducting Function Four (F4) observations in the Manhattan and Bronx Installations. It began in November 2016 and is scheduled to end in May of 2017.

For those who are not aware of what a Function Four Review is, I'll explain. A Function Four Review as per the USPS handbook PO-610 is for recording and reporting daily customer service workload information within post offices and stations and branch operations. F4s have always been known to be bad news because most times the end result of a F4 is someone's rest day or begin tour may be changed or management will excess an employee from the section. F4s is a management driven reporting mechanism. The changes that are made to staffing are ALWAYS management driven and made. The Union has nothing to do with the changing of your BT and/or Rest Day. The Union doesn't sign anything in agreement with any of these changes. Our responsibility is making certain that the changes made do not violate the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Sometimes we are successful in preventing the changes but the CBA allows management to decide how to run their operation as long as it doesn't violate the provisions in the CBA.

Article 37.3.A.4 says when it is

necessary that fixed schedule day(s) of work in the basic work week for a duty assignment be permanently changed, the affected assignment(s) shall be reposted. It also says no duty assignment will be reposted when the change in starting time is one hour or less. Management always has the power to not make changes or changes that adversely affect the employees and their actions always show that profit over people is important.

Excessing occurs when management believes that the current complement exceeds the number of employees needed to run an operation efficiently. The Union always challenges this action but your help is needed in the fight to save, preserve and protect our jobs by always making your moves to the correct operations, reporting unsafe practices and contractual violations. (For example carriers, mail handlers, supervisors and managers performing our work.)

The F4 team is made up of management officials and 204Bs who come into the carrier/customer service station to observe the entire clerk operation, from the distribution to the window services. The F4 team arrives when the station opens. For the distribution operation, the F4 involves things like observing what time the mail arrives, what type and amount of mail is on each trip that arrives. They will count and measure the mail and parcels before the clerks touch it. They will look to see if the employee is moving from one operation to another and if the employee is handling the same piece of mail or parcel more than

once. They monitor what operation the clerk is working on, what time they began and ended working on that operation and how long it took them to perform that function.

For the window operation, they observe how many clerks are working the windows from opening to closing. They make notations of how many customers are at each window and how many are waiting on line in specific increments. They go as far as to record what the customer is mailing, what services we are offering to the customer and how we interacted with the customer. This is all used to determine staffing.

They will also make note of how fast or slow each employee is working. Even though there isn't a work standard for us, the F4 team will observe it and make mention of it in their report and to the manager. The F4 team also pays attention to how many step offs are taken and how long each step off was.

After the F4 team observes the entire operation from opening to closing over a few days, they will give recommendations to the Manager of the station, Area Manager and Postmaster on what changes they feel are needed to take place for the operation to run efficiently.

Never believe management when they tell you that the Union signed off and agreed to these changes without requesting the proof. Management uses that as a tactic to union-bust. Don't be afraid to ask management for it and ask "why are you changing my rest days and/or begin tour?" The CBA allows man-

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

GOP's war against federal workers

By Nora Taggart, Legislative and Political Director

President Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress didn't waste any time scapegoating federal employees and their unions. With control of both the legislative and executive branches, GOP lawmakers are leaving no tools in the shed.

Reduce federal workforce

President Trump ordered an across-the-board employment freeze for the federal government, halting hiring for all new and existing positions except those in national security, public safety and the military. The freeze order is an "across the board" action affecting all executive branch agencies regardless of their funding sources.

The United States Postal Service is questioning whether it should be covered by President Donald Trump's federal hiring freeze. "We have reached out to the Administration to discuss this matter," said Postal Service spokesman David Partenheimer.

The hiring freeze will hurt veterans the most because they make up about 30 percent of the federal workforce. It could also make the preferences for veterans in applying for jobs in federal hiring meaningless.

"There's no preference if there's no job," said Lawrence Korb, an assistant secretary of defense for personnel in the administration of President Ronald Reagan. Korb also said that federal hiring freezes were tried before in the administrations of former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan but failed to cut overall costs. "We tried it twice before and it ended up costing more

money," he said.

Slash pay and benefits

Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), suggested forcing federal employees to pay an additional 6 percent of their salaries toward their retirement benefits without a corresponding increase in pay or benefits.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that oversees the workforce, is pursuing measures to fire feds faster, freeze federal hiring, decrease federal contributions to federal retirement and disqualify federal employees who are "seriously delinquent" on their federal taxes.

Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-Va.) resurrected a little-known procedural rule that allows lawmakers to slash a federal employee's pay to \$1. This is known as the Holman rule, named after Indiana Rep. William Holman who served back in the 1800s. It allows an individual congressperson to propose an amendment to an appropriations bill that singles out an individual government employee or program. It can be used to retaliate against those with disfavored positions and to get rid of federal employees who spend time on labor union business.

Rep. Todd Rokita (R-IN) prepared to reintroduce the Promote Accountability and Government Efficiency Act that would, among other things, turn all new federal workers into "at-will" employees, permitting supervisors to fire them without due process rights or the opportunity to appeal. Such changes

would not appear to apply to Postal Service new hires, but would have profound impact upon labor relations throughout the federal workplace.

Another priority for House Republicans is to outsource government work by requiring agencies to compete with private-sector firms.

In an op-ed published on January 25 in the *Wall Street Journal*, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif) lambasted the career federal workforce saying it is the entity that "poses the greatest threat to America's people, economy and Constitution." McCarthy's implications that the career federal workforce is responsible for creating regulations is misleading. Career federal employees do not create policy, or draft their own executive rules and regulations; that is the job of an administration's political appointees. And those rules are almost always based on laws that Congress passes.

Eliminate unions and official time

The Republican Study Committee (RSC) wants to ensure that no federal government employee could use official time to engage in collective bargaining, or participate in arbitration on behalf of a union against their employer. Also, the RSC notes that currently the federal government deducts union dues from unionized federal employees' paychecks and then remitting those dues to the union. The budget recommends prohibiting this automatic deduction of union dues.

PREPARE TO RESIST! ☰

“Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night...”

Heroes of the Staples fight

By Kevin Walsh

President Jonathan Smith has always said, “We may not win every fight, but we will fight every battle.” Sometimes we lose battles but win the war. Staples Approved Shipper Program found that out all too well when, on January 5, 2017, the Postal Service notified the American Postal Workers Union that the deal between Staples and USPS. was over. We have won the war!

For over two years New York Metro Area Postal Union has been on the front lines in the boycott of Staples, leafletting in front of Staples stores in Manhattan, the Bronx, and Queens. Heat, cold, and rain, our members were out in front of Staples stores every day, twice a day, for over two years. ***Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night kept these boycotters from the swift completion or their appointed rounds***—attending rallies, talking to brother and sister unions, bringing the boycott to the New York City Central Labor Council and speaking with local activists and community leaders.

Every postal employee would have lost if this partnership continued. Make no mistake, this dirty deal between Staples and the USPS was meant to privatize and outsource our work and eventually, to expand to other retail outlets. Our customers were hurt by giving our work to low wage employees that were not trained to protect the privacy and sanctity of the mail. Customer service? I think not!



Who were these dedicated members?

There are those among us who have experienced struggles, strikes, boycotts, pickets, and rallies. They made sacrifices long before we had a contract that many take for granted. So, while our current workers had the most to lose, these dedicated members were OUR RETIREES. Retirees had absolutely nothing to gain from our boycott of Staples, nothing to lose. But they have PRIDE in who they are and dedication to standing up for those who came behind them. They are a different breed of union workers because they went through the fight and won. Their win was for the future postal workers —us!

NY Metro would like to honor and thank John Dennie, Carol Thomas, Rosa Greene, Doris Leary, Randy Sally, Patricia Parish, Shirley Dunaway, Elizabeth Aiken, Dennis O'Neil, Delphine McRae, Eleanor Bailey, Dolores Young, Mildred Taylor, Marty Goodman, Ernest Collington, and Nydia Leaf. These were the heroes of our campaign.

They never gave up. NYMA-PU is very proud of their service and dedication. THANK YOU!

It would be impossible to count how many customers walked away from Staples in support of our boycott, but there were many. The NYC police were regular visitors at our leafletting, sometimes called by the manager of Staples. NYPD supported our boycott, didn't chase us away,

even took our leaflets back to the station house. A picket in front of NASDAQ was most impressive when they crashed the Staples party at NASDAQ in Times Square on March 15, 2016. Staples was most embarrassed!

I would be remiss if I left out our Brothers and Sisters in the American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, National Association of Letter Carriers, Mail Handlers National Union, NY Central Labor Council, NY State AFL-CIO, National AFL-CIO, Communication Workers of America and Service Employees International Union, Labor Notes (Al Bradbury, thank you) and many, many other unions and workers, students, activists. Without their support and assistance, we would have not prevailed.

This is a HUGE victory for the American Postal Workers Union and all workers across America and shows what we can accomplish together. But, most of all, the American Public has won, having a safe, secure and trusted Union work force protecting their mail. ☑

“Love not hate make America great!”

Estimates vary, but there is no question that well over a million people participated in the January 21, 2017, Women’s March on Washington and hundreds of sister marches in big and small cities around the country. They put the Trump administration on notice that the American people will not give up the rights won over generations. We will not support a politics of racial, gender, or religious bigotry. Labor unions will not give up the fight for economic and social justice.

Some of our NYMAPU P.O.W.E.R. sisters went to Washington. Others joined the huge march in Manhattan. Jenny Gardner, NY Metro’s Assistant Director of the Bronx, said, “It was wonderful! It was amazing. We shut down the City. Women—of every ethnicity, of every age—from old to young, were there in the streets. There were no ‘incidents’—just a wave of people who will protect democracy.”



Maintenance report: We prayed for peace, but are prepared for war

By Jonathan Smith, President

NY District management (Manhattan/Bronx) has decided to blow up all the maintenance jobs. At the time that that I am writing this article, management has decided to delay the implementation of the MS-1 portion of their staffing changes (the part that concerns MM-7s, MPEs, BEMs and ETs). They are going to go forward with changing the custodians' duty assignment.

Management's objective is to schedule custodians to work on Sunday to avoid paying overtime and to create a "Clean Team" to work on Sunday to make up hours so they can avoid paying custodians for their failure to get the work done (line H violations).

Let me start by saying management has a right to change duty assignments to meet postal operational needs. The union does not have the power to tell management how to run the operation. This does not mean management is allowed to make any changes they wish to make. There are rules. It's called the Collective Bargaining Agreement (the CBA)—that's our contract. Management is only allowed to make changes that are in compliance with the requirements of the CBA. The Union's job is to police and enforce the CBA.

The Union has filed grievances on actions that management has already taken. Filing more grievances has to wait until management actually takes action to excess and

repost custodian duty assignments jobs by issuing letters to all the effected custodians.

What has the union done?

The Union has filed grievances for managements violation of items 2,18, and 22 of the Local Memorandum of Understanding (LMOU)

Item #2 says Sunday must be one of your rest days (R/Ds) if you work in a customer delivery station. So how can management schedule an employee to work on what is contractually one of their R/Ds? Furthermore, just about every customer delivery station in the Bronx and Manhattan is closed on Sunday.

Alert! It is not the responsibility of the custodians (including the Group Leaders) to open and close stations. If you have been opening and closing stations or working in stations you are not assigned to, you have been helping management to prepare this latest attack on the maintenance work force. You need to stop doing this immediately!

Item# 18 and 22 says the sections are defined as Morgan, JAF, FDR and all customer delivery and finance stations shall be sections onto themselves.

Management is trying to change all the bids to read: "may be required to go to any station in newly established Manhattan hubs and Bronx's hubs "This is nothing more than management trying to attach language to the custodians' bids in an effort to circumvent the contractual

requirement in article 38 of the CBA of a "principle assignment area." They are also circumventing the established sections in the LMOU, which were mutually agreed upon.

If management is successful with this, they would no longer have to excess the junior person outside of their assigned station. They would be able to choose any custodian regardless of seniority. This would also allow them to circumvent the overtime desired list (ODL), which gives Bronx and Manhattan custodians first right to overtime in their assigned stations. This new language would give management the right to choose custodian within the assigned hub to work in a station when the regularly assigned custodian is off.

Don't believe the hype!

Don't believe the hype! The Union has not and will not agree on management's maintenance proposal as it is currently constituted. The Union has not signed off on management's proposed maintenance staffing changes for the NY District. Once management starts to issue notification letters to the affected custodial employees, the Union is prepared to move forward to grieve the entire staffing package.

If the Union prevails with our grievances, we are asking for out-of-schedule pay for every affected custodian due to managements improper movement of duty assignments in violation of the CBA and the LMOU. This will cost postal management a lot of money. ☹️

Judge orders treatment for Mumia, but the State delays

By Bill Bachmann

In a big victory for Mumia Abu-Jamal, Hepatitis C sufferers everywhere and human rights in general, on January 3, Federal Judge Robert D. Mariani of the Middle District of Pennsylvania ordered the state's Department of Corrections to treat Mumia immediately with a drug that has a 95% cure rate. The judge's decision came after extensive legal arguments and a people's campaign that included a letter and a membership resolution from New York Metro calling on the governor of Pennsylvania to treat Mumia according to modern medical standards.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a former Black Panther, journalist and author who has now been in prison for 35 years, 30 of them in solitary, for his political views. He was convicted in a farce of a trial for shooting a Philadelphia cop, an action he has always denied doing. Because New York Metro takes the slogan "An Injury to One is an Injury to All" seriously, it passed a resolution in 1998 calling for a new trial and in 2000 sponsored a similar one that passed the APWU national convention.



Mumia became ill with Hepatitis C in the fall of 2014. Despite the availability of curative drugs, the state refused to do more than treat symptoms. Judge Mariani found that the state's refusal violated Mumia's constitutional rights under the 8th Amendment against cruel and unusual punishment. He ordered the state to have Mumia see a physician within 14 days to set up a treatment schedule with a curative drug.

The 14 days have now come and gone. In a message to the author, Mumia explains, "The govt. is ignoring the court order & appealing. As we always say, 'the struggle continues.'" That is, Mumia has seen no doctor. He has gotten no treatment.

Ask yourself: can he get better without seeing a doctor or getting treatment? The state is fighting tooth and nail to withhold a cure for Hepatitis C from Mumia and thousands of other prisoners and additional thousands on the outside who depend on it for medical assistance.

Defenders of Mumia are asking the public, including members of New York Metro, to call Gov. Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania at 717-787-2500, and John Wetzel, Commissioner of Corrections at 717-728-2573 or 717-728-4109 and demand they drop their appeal and treat Mumia and other prisoners with Hepatitis C with curative drugs.

Under its membership resolution, New York Metro is authorized to establish a voluntary Mumia Oversight Committee to monitor his condition and recommend further actions. If you are interested in working on the committee, please leave your name and contact information with the union office.

In the words of Fannie Lou Hamer, "Nobody's free until everybody's free." ☐

Photograph by Joe Pette

YOUNG STEWARD'S WIN IS A WIN FOR THE UNION'S FUTURE

Jennifer St. Vil, the youngest clerk steward at the NJI&NDC, just won her first case that went to arbitration! In issuing a Notice of Removal to the grievant, a clerk PSE, the Postal Service failed to give the clerk her full 30 days "either on the job or on the clock" as per Article 16.5. On January 12, 2017, Arbitrator Joseph Harris ruled from the bench that this was a "fatal error" of due process and that management must "rescind and expunge the Removal" and "make the Grievant whole."

On the first date, the grievant, the steward, the APWU advocate, and the arbitrator were kept sitting around only to learn that none of the management witnesses showed up! A month later, Clerk NBA Bernie Timmerman was able to put on his case. Jennifer's preparation and Bernie's knowledge combined to give the grievant a WIN with full back pay.

In her short time as a shop steward, Jennifer has represented many of the youngest clerks and filed dozens of grievances. She is steadily gaining respect from workers and management. ☐

Celebrate Black History Month by defending voting rights

By Flo Summergrad

Democracy depends on the right to vote. The Supreme Court called voting “a fundamental political right, because preservative of all rights.” (Yick Wo v Hopkins, 1886.) February is Black History Month. There can be no discussion of Black history in this country without addressing the struggle for the right to vote. The 15th Amendment to the Constitution—ratified in 1870, 5 years after the end of the Civil War—granted voting rights “regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude”

Legally, African American men were then able to vote. In 1920, African American women were enfranchised. But in fact, black voters faced barriers at the polls. These ranged from discriminatory literacy tests, poll taxes, and bureaucratic delays to open terror. A core issue of

the Civil Rights movement was getting the right to vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was won through struggle and paid for in blood, sweat, and tears.

The VRA gave the federal government the power to negate state laws that denied racial equality at the polls. But in 2013, the Supreme Court gutted that section of the Voting Rights Act, claiming the need for it was past.

The Court turned back the clock on democracy. There was a literal explosion of laws designed to suppress the votes of African Americans and other communities of color, as well as the young, the old, the poor.

The justification for these suppressive laws has been the allegation of massive “voter fraud”—a claim that has been debunked by

hundreds of studies. It is simply not true. So it is horrific that the sitting President of the United States is not only propagating that myth but considering an Executive Order to investigate alleged fraud in the areas that voted against him. On January 25, on CNN, Donald Trump particularly attacked the two states in which our Local is based, saying, “You have people who are registered who are dead, who are illegals, who are in two states. You have people registered in two states. They’re registered in NY and NJ. They vote twice. There are millions of votes in my opinion. . . . Of these voters—none of them came to me.”

This is the opening volley in the President’s war on voting rights. Black History Month 2017 will begin a new chapter in the fight for voting rights and democracy. ☑

Function 4 Reviews: *The real deal* continued from page 3

agement to make changes to our duty assignments to run their operation. Again, the Union’s responsibility is to make certain the employee’s contractual rights are not violated when these changes are being made.

Most employees see “CC” or “C” on a document and the Union’s name next to it and believe this means that the Union was in agreement. This is not the case. Article 5 mandates management to notify the Union of any changes affecting hours, wages or working conditions of the bargaining unit. “CC” or “C” means the identified person was

notified, NOT that they agreed with the action. Even though we are notified, we are still able to grieve management’s action(s).

Remember, management has a job to do and the bottom line is their numbers, not us or our jobs. You may have friends in management but be clear they will do what is necessary to you to protect themselves and their jobs. Your manager, area manager and supervisors are aware of the F4 team’s objectives before they come into your station. It is the employees and the Union who are unaware of their intentions.

You may not want to be a steward but educate yourself on the contract. Know what your rights are for sure, not what you think they are. Always share the information you learn with your coworkers, for example the information in *The Union Mail* and APWU newsletters. ☑

(The stations identified for the upcoming reviews in Manhattan are: Triborough, College, Lenox Hill, Radio City, Lincolnton, FDR PP, CPPF, Grand Central and Times Square. In the Bronx they are: Parkchester, Williamsbridge, Throggsneck, Cornell, Highbridge, Fordham, Riverdale, Baychester, and West Farms.)

POSTAL PRIDE

Honest Abe as Postmaster

Before we had the all-inclusive holiday, “President’s Day,” February 12 was the holiday in honor of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday. In all the information about President Lincoln’s life, it is a little known fact that he served as Postmaster of the New Salem, Illinois Post Office from May 7, 1833 until it closed on May 30, 1836.



For those three years, Abe fulfilled the duties of that small town post office, which combined the work of a window clerk and a carrier. The mail came once a week, on a route running from Springfield to Millers Ferry, Illinois. If the addressees were unable to collect it themselves at the post office, Lincoln would deliver it, carrying the mail in his hat.

Like the Sales and Service Associates of today’s USPS, Lincoln protected the security of the United States mail and the postal funds. Months after the New Salem Post Office had been discontinued, an agent came to collect the balance of funds, which was about \$18—about what Lincoln had earned quarterly as Postmaster.

Despite his own financial need at the time, Lincoln was indeed “Honest Abe.” In, *Lincoln the Postmaster*, biographer Benjamin Thomas quotes a fellow Postmaster, Dr. A.G. Henry, who was present when the government agent arrived: “I was about to call him aside and loan him the money, when he asked the agent to be seated a moment, while he went over to his trunk at his boarding house, and returned with an old blue sock with a quantity of silver and copper coin tied up in it. . . . On counting it up there was found the exact amount, to a cent, of the draft, and in the identical coin which had been received. He never used, under any circumstances, trust funds.”

It is this tradition of honest dealings with the public that makes the Postal Service the most trusted of federal agencies and a source of Postal Pride. ☐

Postal News Briefs

OBAMACARE REPEAL COULD AFFECT HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR POSTAL WORKERS

Donald Trump’s demand that the Republican Congress immediately repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), better known as Obamacare, could have serious implications for postal workers. Most at risk would be non-career employees not eligible for the Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) program who receive coverage under a USPS sponsored plan that was set up in order to comply with the ACA.



Meanwhile, it’s worth noting that career postal workers and retirees won’t be unaffected by the repeal of Obamacare. Coverage for children under 26 and free coverage for preventive services and contraception are among the coverages required by the law, and could be eliminated from FEHB plans after repeal.

USPS NUMBERS ADD UP TO BUSY SEASON

USPS surpassed its projections of delivering 750 million packages during peak season, according to new data.

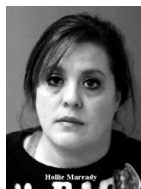
On December 19, one of the season’s busiest days, the Postal Service delivered more than 34 million packages and employees across the nation spent 1.1 million hours on city streets delivering mail and parcels.

Throughout peak season, employees drove more than 200 million miles—the equivalent of driving around the world 8,000 times.

“Our employees did a phenomenal job during the holidays,” said Chief Operating Officer David Williams. “We appreciate all of their contributions and look forward to building on our success during peak season 2017.”



USPS SUPERVISOR BURGLARIZES HER EMPLOYEES’ HOMES



Hollie Dale Maready, a supervisor at a post office in CA, was sentenced to six years in state prison for first degree residential burglary. Two employees of the post office supervised by Maready had their homes burglarized on several occasions and had prescription pain medication stolen. The co-workers had their keys taken from them while at work.

The charges are the result of a lengthy investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) which began when several packages being mailed to veterans turned up missing prescription pain medication after having been tampered with prior to delivery.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 15

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Hotel Pennsylvania

401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)

Paris/Zurich Room, 6th Floor

(check calendar in lobby for room change)

Wednesday, March 15

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Hotel Pennsylvania

401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)

Paris/Zurich Room, 6th Floor

(check calendar in lobby for room change)

Metro Day Out

Sunday, May 14

8:00 pm

Derek Jeter Day at Yankee Stadium (Tickets \$71)

Call Union office for tickets

212-563-7553

Check for Flashes when tickets are available:

UniverSoul Circus coming in April for Brooklyn & Bronx; coming in May for Newark

[Building Corps finances for December will appear in the March UM]

NY Metro Area Postal Union Now Accepting Debit & Credit Card Transactions from Members

(in addition to Money Orders)

Visa and MasterCard ONLY

Postal ID required at time of transaction

URGENT FLASH FROM NY METRO OFFICERS

Call your Senators! Protect Health Care!

Dial 1-888-615-4791 to be connected—follow the instructions on the call. Demand that they protect the health care of millions of Americans. Tell them to work to improve the Affordable Care Act and to ensure there are no cuts to Medicaid or Medicare.

US Senators:

NY Gillbrand (D) and Schumer (D)

NJ Booker (D) and Menendez (D)

CT Blumenthal (D) and Murphy (D)

PA Casey (D) and Toomey (R)

“Veterans, life doesn’t have to be a battlefield.” Call Vet2Vet

Our APWU brother, Ray Glasser, passed away suddenly at the end of last year. Ray was an Electronic Technician, as well as a shop steward and officer of the Red Bank, NJ, Local. He was a wonderful union leader and a great friend to maintenance workers now at the NDC. NY Metro Area Postal Union was asked by the family to send a donation to NJ Vet2Vet in lieu of flowers. The Program Manager sent a warm letter of thanks to our Local, assuring us that the donation will be

used in its work..

Having served as a marine for four years, Ray was deeply concerned with the mental stresses of our veterans. There is help. Vet2Vet tells them: **“Veterans, life doesn’t have to be a battlefield.”**

In memory of Brother Glasser, we are highlighting the work of Vet2Vet as a resource for postal vets and their families. The NJ Vet2Vet is served through the Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care. Its slogan is: “You answered the call

of duty. . . We answer the call for you.” Call **1-866-VETS-NJ4** (1-866-838-7654) for peer support and counseling. “The helpline provides NJ veterans and their families with access to a comprehensive support network of mental health professionals.” For more information, go to www.njveteranshelpline.org

Those of us who were inspired by Brother Glasser’s dedication to our union’s fight will continue to support the work of the national and NJ Vet2Vet. ☐



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at New York, NY

BLACK HISTORY NOTE: Hosea Williams, shown in the cover photo, served with the United States Army during World War II in an all-African-American unit under General George S. Patton, Jr. and advanced to the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was the only survivor of a Nazi bombing, which left him in a hospital in Europe for more than a year and earned him a Purple Heart. Upon his return home from the war, Williams was savagely beaten by a group of angry whites at a bus station for drinking from a water fountain marked “Whites Only.” He was beaten so badly that the attackers thought he was dead. They called a black funeral home in the area to pick up the body. En route to the funeral home, the hearse driver noticed Williams had a faint pulse and was barely breathing, but was still alive. There were no hospitals in the area that would serve blacks, even in the case of a medical emergency; the trip to the nearest veterans' hospital was well over a hundred miles. Williams spent more than a month hospitalized recuperating from injuries sustained in the attack.

Of the attack, Williams was quoted as saying, “I was deemed 100 percent disabled by the military and required a cane to walk. My wounds had earned me a Purple Heart. The war had just ended and I was still in my uniform for god's sake! But on my way home, to the brink of death, they beat me like a common dog. The very same people whose freedoms and liberties I had fought and suffered to secure in the horrors of war...they beat me like a dog...merely because I wanted a drink of water.” He went on to say, “I had watched my best buddies tortured, murdered, and bodies blown to pieces. The French battlefields had literally been stained with my blood and fertilized with the rot of my loins. So at that moment, I truly felt as if I had fought on the wrong side. Then, and not until then, did I realize why God, time after time, had taken me to death's door, then spared my life...to be a general in the war for human rights and personal dignity.” ☰