



The

Union Mail

Vol. 61 No. 6 | September 2018

Published by the NY Metro Area Postal Union

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



***Jonathan Smith, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez,
and Ady Barkan fight for the Bronx***

See page 7

Death by Overtime



Jonathan Smith

Management in every installation we represent has been getting maintenance craft employees to commit Death by Overtime. What do I mean by that?

The USPS is convincing workers to violate their own contract in several ways. For example, TL-5 requires specific tools, equipment and cleaning products to be used, that have been agreed to at the national level. In theory, these procedures were put in place to protect the safety and health of the employees, improve the efficiency of the workplace, and ensure cleaning effectiveness of each facility. In truth, the implementation of TL-5 was not intended to make a cleaner, safer Postal Service. Management meant it as a tool to cut custodial staffing. The only way to prove the TL5 does not work is to do it according to the rules. The Union needs you to help us protect your job.

I know it's hard to see the place dirty, but when you use mops and brooms, or your own cleaning products from home, you're giving the false impression that TL-5 works, and, even worse, that it works with our current staffing levels! Then management uses overtime to get you to violate your own contract.

In the NY District and DVD, management has failed to fill many custodial vacancies. Now they are trying to cover their own negligence by requiring custodians to work 60 hours a week, whether they are on the OTDL or not. Supposedly, this

policy is needed out of their concern that the facilities have to be clean. In reality, management is trying to avoid the Line H penalty that the contract requires. It will force management to pay overtime to the custodians for every hour the facility falls short of 90% of the work being completed. The fiscal year ends September 30, 2018, and the Union will have to fight the USPS for the Line H penalty. Custodians let themselves be robbed in this battle by signing off on work they haven't done. That's why it's important to fill out your time sheet accurately.

At the same time, workers are killing their own craft by allowing overtime violations. Management is sending custodians and higher-level maintenance employees to work in other installations/facilities that are outside of the employees' principle assignment area. A lot of workers are doing this voluntarily, but you cannot volunteer to violate your own contract. Overtime is awarded by section and tour, if you don't belong to that section/tour/facility the contract does not give you the right to that overtime. What if maintenance employees came from another facility to do your work? It's no different than contractors being hired to do work we can do. We have maintenance employees de facto stealing their union brothers' and sisters' work in another facility.

Let me be clear: contrary to the rumors, the Union is NOT filing a grievance to stop maintenance workers from getting paid overtime! The Union is filing a grievance for management to create additional maintenance jobs based on the work hours. We have maintenance employees

working 70-80 hours a week -- overtime and penalty overtime. That would be enough work hours for two full time employees, yet management continues to cut maintenance staffing. How can they need fewer positions with individuals working these kinds of hours? This gives us the proof to fight for jobs!

Short term megabucks blinds some people to the big picture. Remember, management's goal is to privatize the maintenance craft. They want to do anything but hire. How else can they justify paying five maintenance workers to do the work of 10-15 maintenance workers? Hiring new people would put a dent in the plans to privatize the maintenance craft. Management's ultimate goal for the maintenance craft—Death by Overtime. Our goal—more maintenance jobs! ☒

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Metro NY
Labor
Communications
Council

Union fights for PSE rights

By Tiffany Foster, Executive Vice-President



Tiffany Foster

The title PSE (Postal Support Employee) never existed prior to the 2010-2015 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The

USPS had casuals before then. Just like the casuals, the PSEs were a non-career workforce. Effective August 27, 2011, there were no longer casual employees in the APWU-represented crafts (CBA 2010, Article 7 page 1). Where you saw the term casuals in the CBA and Local Memorandum of Understanding (LMOU), it was replaced with the word PSE. The casuals had absolutely no benefits and this new employee (PSE) had rather limited benefits. But although the PSEs had limited benefits and rights, they had one thing in their favor that casuals didn't, they could become members of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and the union could intervene on their behalf with issues.

The APWU successfully negotiating that PSEs are allowed to become members of the union was huge because it opened the door and allowed the union the ability to build on the limited benefits the PSEs had in an attempt to gain more.

To gain more benefits and rights for our PSEs it had to be fought aggressively at every level within the union and it was, by thinking outside the box with a nothing to lose and everything to gain mentality. The union felt that even though the PSEs were a new type of employee to the USPS and APWU, they were still entitled to dignity, respect,

decent benefits and wages.

In the Maintenance and MVS crafts, PSE were done away with. These crafts became an all career workforce. In the MVS craft PSEs can only be hired for new work.

On July 8, 2016, any PSE in the clerk craft who had 2 1/2 years in the Postal Service was converted to career. This affected PSEs in the clerk craft across the country. The union fought for the path to career that the Postal Service had no intentions on fulfilling.

As of June 13, 2018, APWU President Mark Dimondstein entered into an agreement with the USPS regarding the Workforce Benefits Fund where PSEs are now entitled to many more benefits.

For example, the 2010-2015 CBA, Article 8.8.D states if any PSE who is scheduled to work and reports shall be guaranteed two (2) hours of work or pay. This settlement requires management to pay a PSE who is scheduled to work and reports 4 hours of work or pay. No longer 2 hours.

More gains: PSEs were not entitled to holiday pay until the 2015-2018 CBA. PSEs are now entitled to 6 holidays out of 10. Under the 2010-2015 and 2015-2018 contract, PSEs were only paid overtime after 40 hours and no penalty pay; now due to the Workforce Benefits Fund Settlement, PSEs are entitled to overtime after 8 hours and penalty overtime after 10 hours or 56 hours in a service week. This is big.

More gains: Under the Workforce Benefits Fund settlement, the Postal Service agreed to contribute 65% in the first year of employment for PSEs and 75% thereafter to the insurance premium for family or self-plus

one for PSEs enrolled in the USPS Non-career Health Care Plan. Previously the Postal Service only contributed to only single coverage.

PSEs, look out for a letter from the postal service regarding the special enrollment period for enrollment in the USPS Health Benefits Plan. Enrollment is from August 20, 2018 through October 4, 2018. All APWU members not only PSEs should go the APWU Health Plan website to learn about how your union's health plan may benefit you and your family. Because of this settlement and the changes to the health plan accessibility, the special enrollment must be offered.

Management wanted the PSEs to work the retail window but didn't want to provide them with a uniform or a uniform allowance. The ELM (Employee Labor Manual) doesn't specifically address PSEs who work the retail window and their right to a uniform or allowance, but after much push back and fight from the union, the USPS then agreed to provide two shirts. This still wasn't enough. With the Workforce Benefits Fund Settlement, the PSEs are entitled to a full uniform allowance for retail clerk PSEs who meet the ELM criteria for eligibility.

PSEs should go to the APWU website and read the settlement in its entirety. The effective date for these new benefits goes into effect as soon as practicable or no later than 120 days of the signing of the agreement.

If you have any questions about the Workforce Benefits Fund settlement, make a request to your supervisor to speak to your union steward for assistance.

It pays to belong to the union. ☐

Trump proposes privatizing the Postal Service

By Nora Taggart

In June, President Trump's administration called for the privatization of the U.S. Postal Service. The proposal is plagued with the usual lies the corporate-controlled media propagates: that the post office is broke and will need a taxpayer bailout because of the "generous employee benefits combined with a universal service obligation that is understood to require mail carriers to visit over 150 million addresses six days per week."

In the plan, the White House said the United States should follow the "successful model" of many European nations. After being privatized, they now "deliver mail fewer days a week and to more central locations (not door delivery)."

In 2013, UNI Europa Post and Logistics Trade Union compiled a report called *The Liberalization of European Postal Markets and the Impact on Employment and Working Conditions*. UNI represents 2.5 million workers in the postal and logistics industry worldwide. Based on that report, the European privatized postal service could be called anything but "successful."

The report revealed that after privatizing postal services in the European Union, service did not improve nor were prices reduced as promised by the European Commissioner and others.

Worse service

Most private entities that took over the post office network pick-up mail directly at the premises of their mostly large corporate customers. As for delivery, they typi-

cally only deliver two or three days a week and only in highly populated areas. Prices for these large customers, such as banks, telephone companies and online retailers, have decreased while the prices for the average customer, those who can't negotiate discounts, increased.

Deteriorating work conditions

Privatization gutted the postal sector employment. What was once considered a good, stable, full-time job is no more. In some countries the job cuts amount to as much as 40 to 50%! In the Netherlands, 34,000 full-time jobs were lost. Now, these private companies mostly hire part-time workers. In Germany, less than 20% of the workforce is full-time. The majority are "short part-time", or what in Germany is called "mini jobs" (jobs that pay less than the equivalent of \$400 US dollars a month).

While in some countries the new private postal companies mainly rely on part-time staff, in others they predominantly deploy self-employed postal deliverers. The self-employed,

or independent contractors, not only suffer from a lack of employment protection and benefits, but are also paid extremely low, piece-rate-based wages.

Few winners, many losers

Abolishing the national post monopolies has produced few winners and many losers. The winners are private shareholders of former public monopolies, post managers and large customers, while the losers include private households, especially in rural areas, and postal sector workers who have experienced massive deterioration of employment and working conditions.

Action needed: Contact your representative

In response to Trump's privatization plan, Congressmen Rodney Davis (R-IL) and Stephen Lynch (D-MA) introduced House Resolution 993. The resolution calls on Congress to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the USPS remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and not be subject to privatization. As of August 8, 2018, 64 Democrats and 16 Republicans in the House signed up as cosponsors.

Call the Capital Switchboard at 202-224-3121, provide your ZIP code to connect to your representative, and ask them to oppose postal privatization by cosponsoring H. Res. 993. If your member of Congress is already a cosponsor, please thank them. ☐



Big win for Postal Banking, APWU, and NYMAPU



By Chuck Zlatkin, Director of Communications

When New York Metro and APWU began to get involved with postal banking around the time of the OIG's report in 2014, we saw it as a win-win-win. Postal banking was good for the people in the communities we serve; it was good for the Postal Service; and it was good for postal workers. But we knew that the so-called "alternative financial services" which exploit those who are underserved by big banks to the tune of \$103 billion a year, didn't share our enthusiasm for postal banking.

Nothing was more indicative of the powerful opposition to postal banking than the attempt to ban its development through the introduction of an amendment to the House Appropriations Bill by Representative Patrick McHenry (R, NC). This insidious amendment was aimed at preventing the USPS from expanding existing financial services to include paycheck cashing, bill paying, enhanced domestic electronic money transfers, expanded international money transfers. This was in effect gutting the essence of the Campaign for Postal Banking's petition drive in the Bronx—expanding financial services that would not need legislation. This amendment was to kill postal banking.

McHenry's amendment would also have banned plans for expanded services that were not yet before Congress. This was an attempt to overturn what was achieved in the last collective bargaining negotia-

tions—consolidated in the arbitration award—which agreed that the USPS and APWU would work on expanded services.

But on July 18, 2018, the sneak attack against postal banking failed! In a major victory for postal banking and the APWU, the McHenry amendment was voted down by a bipartisan vote of 212 to 201. 28 Republicans voted with the pro-postal banking forces! This was a real testament to the work that APWU President Mark Dimondstein and National Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard have accomplished.


There is across-the-board support around this country for a public Postal Service. The plan to pressure the USPS to expand services is a sound one. People want expanded postal services, expanded financial services. The work that NYMAPU, APWU, Campaign for Postal Banking and their allies have done has been making progress. The current petition-gathering campaign to "Make Postal Banking in the Bronx a Reality Now" is an important part of the strategy. Beating back the reactionary forces that want to continue the exploitation of working people and carry the water for the big banks and the predatory lenders was a major victory. These are the same forces who want to privatize the Postal Service.

It is important for us to remain vigilant. We must be ready to be

active always. When necessary, we must be there to call and write to our elected officials on behalf of our issues like postal banking. And we also need to be active on support of campaigns like the petition drive in the Bronx for postal banking.

There is still time for you to sign a petition, carry a petition and get your organization to carry petitions and pass resolutions for postal banking. Please ask your shop steward for a postal banking petition to sign and carry. And if you need further information on postal banking and what you can do to help, please contact Chuck Zlatkin at chuck.zlatkin@nymetro.org; at the union office: 212-563-7553; cell: 917-693-9427. This fight is real, and we are winning! Do what you can to help. ☰

2018 LABOR DAY PARADE

Under the theme "Working Together Leading the Way," the annual Labor Day Parade is scheduled for NYC on September 8, 2018. Coverage of NY Metro Area Postal Union's contingent will be in the October issue of *The Union Mail*. 

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS 2018:

It takes ALL of us to protect our jobs

Show management that we are TOGETHER behind our negotiators! Wear union gear every Thursday! Let them see a UNION presence on the work floor! (Those in uniform can wear wristbands or lanyards.)



Church Street workers "stick with the Union" on negotiations opening day.



Shop stewards proudly display their union gear.



Regina Wilson is union proud.

■ Wage increases



■ No-layoff protections

■ Representation

■ Leave & holiday provisions

■ Good benefits

■ Conversions to career

■ Retirement protections

■ Workplace safety

➔ **COLA \$645 EFFECTIVE DATE SEPTEMBER 1, 2018** ←

“Community Conversation with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ady Barkan”

President Smith calls for Postal Banking

By Chuck Zlatkin, Director of Communications

On August 7, 2018, NYMAPU President Jonathan Smith was invited to speak at a remarkable event held in the Parkchester section of the Bronx. It was a Community Conversation with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the Democratic nominee for Congress in the 14th CD in the Bronx and Queens; and Ady Barkan, the 34-year old activist with the Center for American Progress who was stricken with ALS, Lou



Gehrig’s Disease.

The event was held at St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church on a sweltering night with the place packed to the rafters. President Smith was the lead-off speaker and gave a rousing speech on the importance of postal banking to the people of the Bronx and the whole nation.

Smith gave evidence of how adversely affected the people of the Bronx have been by the abandonment by big banks in the community and by the predatory behavior of the so-called “alternative” financial institutions that have taken their place. He left no doubt that the solution was postal banking! With nearly 50 post offices in the Bronx, the Postal Service has the infrastructure,

the trained work force, and the respect of the community to do the job.

Jonathan Smith urged everyone in attendance to join with the Campaign for Postal Banking petition drive to pressure Postmaster General Megan Brennan to expand financial services immediately. He emphasized that the Postal Service has a mission to provide service to the community. It would be the non-profit public option for financial services for the people of the Bronx. The petition-gathering crew, made up of NYMAPU retirees, was at the event doing their usual fine job. They collected signatures, gave out petitions to pass on, and disseminated information to the community about the importance of postal banking.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez— a friend to postal workers

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who shocked the nation by defeating long-term representative Joseph Crowley with her upset primary victory in June, has taken many positions that are consistent with the interests of postal workers and the unions that represent them. During her remarks to the packed house, she reiterated the need for postal banking, demonstrating her understanding of the issue and its importance to her future constituency. The Ocasio-Cortez campaign has consistently raised the need for expanded financial services and keeping postal facilities open.

Ady Barkan talked about the

importance of all of us in the progressive movements coming together, not only to listen to each other and gain understanding, but also to act on our beliefs and view ourselves as organizers. He highlighted the role postal workers can play as a part of this movement of organizers.

The event featured other speakers from labor, community, and environmental groups active in the Bronx. Participating groups were able to connect with each other to build movements around the issues that are important to us. This was a good chance for NYMAPU members to network with other groups to plan for joint actions. We expanded the current petition drive and got the word out about the importance of postal banking. ☒

ENDORSEMENT TBD

There's more to being a member than just paying dues

(This article first appeared in the May-June 2018 issue of *The American Postal Worker magazine*)

By Northeast Region Coordinator John Dirzius



John Dirzius

As I proudly travel the Northeast Region and speak with workers, I always ask if there are any new members, newly hired Postal Support Employees (PSEs) or recently converted PSEs. I ask those questions knowing that 25 percent of postal workers have been hired since 2011 and over 54 percent are eligible to retire.

A few hands always go up and that's great. However, collectively we need to make certain that each time that question is asked, more and more hands proudly go up in a "fist pump" of union pride and solidarity, as our future is in the collective hands of our new members. We need to see more new members at our training sessions, more activists attending union meetings, more new delegates at state and national conventions, and everyone participating in our rallies and demonstrations. Your involvement will determine our future.

The task of empowering our members, educating our members and developing new leaders must be a priority for all of us if we are to

maintain our status of an outstanding labor union. The strength of any labor union is measured by the active involvement of its members. The days of letting someone else "do it" were never acceptable and with today's serious challenges, this attitude can no longer be tolerated.

Being a good union member is more than just paying dues and asking others to resolve your grievance, negotiate your contract, protect your standard of living and fight to keep America's postal services strong. Your involvement is absolutely required.

The journey to become a union activist is as simple as attending your next union meeting. Organize your meeting by spreading the word among your co-workers and ask them to get their co-workers to attend, as well. Social media is a great tool to get our message out.

As we mobilize around a new contract, work with your local Contract Action Team (CAT) and get everyone to wear a union T-shirt or contract campaign button on a scheduled day every week. That small gesture sends a strong and important message to management: We are union strong and united. Take a picture and share it on social media to show your solidarity.

Organizing any non-members in your local is one of the most important roles anyone can play. Tell them: The APWU has negotiated a strong contract that protects our members with a good living wage, health bene-

fits, job security and a pension once we retire. There is absolutely no reason why any postal employee should be a non-member.

If you are ready, the next step is to become a union steward or run for an elected position in your local. Don't worry, there are all kinds of trainings available to hone your skills and knowledge. Taking that next step is what is important and vital to our continued success.

To put it in sports terms, we must fill the APWU's "bench" and the first step is your involvement. I can assure you, if you ask my fellow Regional Coordinators, Sharyn Stone, Omar Gonzalez, Mike Gallagher and Kenneth Beasley, their response would be the same. Get involved today! ☑

YOUR UNION NEEDS YOU!

Shop Steward elections are coming up. Look for postings in your area this October.

You don't need special knowledge.

You'll get training and help.

All you need is **HEART and the desire to fight for what's right.**

Congratulations to scholarship winners!



Miranda Delancey, daughter of Grand Central Clerk Maureen Delancey and family



Christina Whittington daughter of, Triborough Clerk Carla Robinson



Sarah Smith, daughter of MH Kevin Smith



Mary Phan, daughter of NJI&NDC Clerk Chi Nguyen and her family

The NY Metro Area Postal Union is very happy to be able to assist our members and their children with our scholarship program. This year, 2018, we were able to give four bright and hard-working young people \$2500 each to use for their education.

At the June 2018 General Membership meeting, President Jonathan Smith presented the scholarship checks and trophies. Seeing the joy of the winners and their families was a “feel good” moment for all the members. Stewards and officers from each station celebrated with the proud winners.

The scholarship program is an investment in our future. That’s what we all work for. ☑

Your voice was heard! Members vote to get union gear

NY Metro members voted overwhelmingly to allocate the money for a Members’ Appreciation Campaign that will distribute union gear to all members throughout the year. Make sure you show off these proud union products during the critical time of our national contract negotiations. ☑



NYMAPU endorses John Dennie, Green Party candidate, for NY 63rd Assembly District



The Executive Board of New York Metro Area Postal Union, APWU, has unanimously endorsed John J. Dennie, Green Party candidate, for election in the 63rd Assembly District in Staten Island, NY.

Dennie is a long-time activist on behalf of a public Postal Service and in support of postal workers. Mr. Dennie is a retired postal worker and an “Honorary Member” of New York Metro Area Postal Union, the largest local in the American Postal Workers Union.

Dennie has a distinguished record of public service to his community as a dedicated advocate for many causes reflected in his campaign platform. Mr. Dennie will be a fighter for what is best for people of the 63rd Assembly District and for workers everywhere.

We urge our members and their friends on Staten Island to VOTE for John Dennie on election day. ☑

APWU ARBITRATION AWARD RESTORES RULES FOR EMPLOYEES USING LWOP TO CAMPAIGN

On August 6, a national arbitrator rejected changes the Postal Service made to the Leave Without Pay (LWOP) rules for how employees request LWOP to participate in political activities organized by their unions. The Postal Service’s changes arose out of a complaint in 2016 about letter carriers participating in the AFL-CIO Labor 2016 program. The Office of Special Counsel found that postal managers mishandled valid employee leave requests, and the Postal Service reacted by unilaterally changing the leave rules to protect its managers, at the expense of employees being subject to discipline and prosecution for how they filled out leave request forms. The APWU immediately challenged the USPS changes, and the NALC and NPMHU both intervened and joined in the dispute.

APWU President Mark Dimondstein commented that “this is what workers in a union do—make management respect their legal rights.” He went on to note that “process matters, and we earn process and have a real voice when we come together, both in bargaining and in politics.”



POSTAL WORKER SAVES 16-YEAR-OLD FROM SEX TRAFFICKERS IN SACRAMENTO CA

A 16-year-old girl is home safe with her family after an unlikely hero – postal carrier Ivan Crisostomo—saved her from sex trafficking. The girl apparently saw her one opportunity to escape while riding in the car with her captors as they discussed committing a crime. She jumped out of the car, grabbed one of the captor’s phones, and ran for her life.



“I heard this crying when I came out of the vehicle, so I approached her and I asked her... She was afraid, she didn’t want to talk,” Crisostomo said. With Crisostomo’s help, the girl was able to call her mom, even though she was terrified her captors would find her..

BOSTON POST OFFICES UNDER AUDIT FOR ALLEGED TIMECARD MAINPULATIONS

Some USPS locations are being audited after reports allege unauthorized timecard adjustments were made at selected post offices in the Greater Boston area. The audit comes after a Boston News piece exposed post office managers were being suspected of cheating workers out of overtime pay. During a two-year period, the inspector general found postal facilities in the Boston area had more than 5,000 records of disapproved time, which involved hundreds of employees and supervisors.. ☑



CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 19

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, October 17

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)

SISTERS! Come to NY Metro P.O.W.E.R.

meetings! P.O.W.E.R. is Post Office Women for Equal Rights. As an APWU woman, you are already a member of P.O.W.E.R. Meetings are at the Union Office (350 W. 31st Street), 1:00 pm, the 4th Wednesday of every month: September 26 • October 24 • November 28



APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Beginning Balance as of 05/01/2018 | \$ 869,389.34 |
| Total Revenue May 2018 | \$ 211,746.24 |
| Operating Expenses May 2018 | \$ 50,096.54 |
| Other Expenses: TAX ESCROW May 2018 | \$ 41,980.91 |
| Total Net Income May 2018 | \$ 119,668.79 |
| Closing Balance as of 05/31/2018 | \$ 989,058.13 |

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Beginning Balance as of 06/01/2018 | \$ 989,058.13 |
| Total Revenue June 2018 | \$ 178,772.73 |
| Operating Expenses June 2018 | \$ 331,565.03 |
| Total Income June 30, 2018 | -\$ 152,792.39 |
| Balance | \$ 836,255.83 |
| TAX ESCROW as of June 2018 | \$ 209,642.49 |
| Closing Balance as of 06/30/2018 | \$ 1,045,898.32 |

You've probably noticed, we've retired our long-standing *The Union Mail* orange, and will have more surprises in the coming issues. We hope you like the change.

—Editor

In Memoriam ~

Steven G. Raymer, APWU Maintenance Director



The sudden death of APWU Maintenance Craft Director Steve Raymer on June 16, 2018, is a tremendous loss to the union. As

a national officer, Steve Raymer was fully involved in every national contract negotiation since 2001. He had spent the last months on intense preparation for this 2018 battle; his work will be carried on by the strong Maintenance Craft officers he mentored.


Brother Raymer was a proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, who began his postal career as a clerk. He transferred into maintenance in 1987 and became an MPE (Mail

Processing Equipment Mechanic) in 1989. From 1990 until 2001, he was president of the Madison, WI, Local of the APWU. In 2001, he was elected to the office of APWU National Maintenance Division Director.

The last 17 years have brought particular challenges to the Maintenance craft and Brother Raymer's leadership was key to meeting them. Raymer used his tremendous knowledge and intelligence to negotiate hundreds of settlement agreements and played a key role in national arbitrations that protected maintenance work in the USPS.

His dedication to the labor movement extended beyond our borders. Brother Raymer was APWU's representative on the postal and logistics

committee of the global union, UNI. He believed in the solidarity of all workers in fighting for better lives and working conditions.

If you were looking for "warm and fuzzy," that wasn't Steve Raymer. Adjectives like "tough," "strong," and "tenacious" better describe him. Not everyone (especially postal management) liked Brother Raymer, but they respected him. APWU President Mark Dimondstein gave this tribute to Maintenance Director Raymer: "Up until the last days of his life, he was working on behalf of our members. . . . We salute his many contributions over the years and his deep dedication to APWU and its members." 



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Periodicals class
POSTAGE PAID
at New York, NY

On June 13, 2018, the APWU signed an agreement that increases rights and benefits for the PSEs. [See EVP Tiffany Foster's column on p.3] Take advantage of expanded health benefits by enrolling before the October 4th deadline.