



The

Union Mail

Vol. 61 No. 7 | October 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.

NY Metro Solidarity at Labor Day Parade



Demand Postal Banking in the Bronx: October 16! Be there!

See pages 5

"My union never gave me anything"



Jonathan Smith

If you have been paying attention to *The Union Mail*, you now realize that the members of NY Metro voted to have a membership appreciation campaign instead of the annual picnic. We have ordered t-shirts and other surprises that we will be giving out to the members throughout the year as well as next year.

I must be honest I'm fired up and ready to go. My greatest hope is that this campaign will raise the members' morale and your pride in your union APWU, but specifically your local, NY Metro Area Postal Union, Local 10. I can proudly say no leadership in the country fights as hard as we do. I can't wait until union gear Thursdays to see a sea of orange shirts with NY Metro boldly displayed across your chest. I can hear you now chanting, "The people united, can never be defeated!"

I have always loved my union, even when I disagreed with the leadership or didn't get along with my co-workers because the union has always been bigger than one person or issue. I have worked in places that had no union. You barely had the right to breathe let alone complain about your work conditions; there was no grievance procedure, so basically if you didn't like something you could either quit or be labeled a troublemaker and be fired without a reason, because without a union

management does not need a just cause. If I missed work because I was sick I did not get paid. No pension and very low wages. I could go on vacation, but I did not get paid while I was gone. There was no such thing as overtime pay; I worked 12 hours a day at the straight time rate. There were no safety regulations; in the winter it was too cold and in the summer, it was too hot, and if you got hurt on the job you would get fired. I would get only 1 lunch break for 30 minutes no Holiday pay, they would give you a raise in salary if and when they felt like you deserved one and it wouldn't be much.

Which brings me to my point: I was giving a union t-shirt to one of the members and she looked me in my eyes and said after 30 years, this is the first time my union has ever given me anything! Life is mostly about perspective, so I asked her did she go on vacation this year she said yes, she went to Cancun. I asked her did you thank your union because paid vacation was negotiated by your union. I asked her how many more years she had to work? She said she could leave now but she wasn't ready. I said did you thank you union; your pension was negotiated by the union and there is no language in the contract that management can force you to retire at a certain age. She said that her granddaughter was a PSE and had just made regular. I said did you thank your union? The language that would convert the PSE workforce to full-time regulars was nego-

tiated by your union. Before the 2010 contract there was no path to become a full-time regular postal employee. You would be a casual FOREVER.

She looked at me with tears in her eyes and said, "I should be more grateful. Sometimes you can take your blessings for granted just like sometimes we take God for granted. Maybe the best gifts I ever got from the union is what I didn't get." I looked at her curiously, not quite understanding her meaning. She smiled and said, "I didn't get fired, I didn't get laid off and didn't miss a chance to wear my union t-shirt with pride!" ☺

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Tiffany Foster

EDITORS NOTE: Executive Vice-President Tiffany Foster will resume her regular column in the November/December issue of the Union Mail. Tiffany Foster is one of the 14 representatives on the Rank & File Bargaining Committee at the national negotiations between APWU and the USPS. Her duties have kept her in DC for the final week of the 2015-2018 contract. We in NYMAPU are honored that our Executive Vice-President has been chosen to play this important role. A committee from the rank and file that oversees the final Collective Bargaining Agreement is a crucial safeguard for a democratic union. ☐



APWU and USPS agree to extend contract negotiations until October 20, 2018 See page 12

Labor history inspires today's struggle

By Flo Summergrad

2018 is the 50th anniversary of the Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike, known for the iconic slogan of the striking workers declaring their humanity – “I AM A MAN.” Many of our members were not even born at the time of the Memphis Sanitation Strike in 1968. Yet the slogan: “I AM A MAN!” still resonates fifty years later. Labor – in particular, black labor – demanded dignity and respect both as workers and human beings.

The sanitation strike protested dangerous working conditions and low pay. On February 1, 1968, two young workers (Echol Cole and Robert Walker) were crushed to death by faulty garbage compactors. Enraged by the city's lack of response, 1300 workers went on strike. The night before his assassination in Memphis, Dr. Martin



Luther King told the strikers: “We’ve got to give ourselves to this struggle until the end. Nothing would be more tragic than to stop at this point in Memphis. We’ve got to see it through.”

They did see it through. The strike prevailed against seemingly insurmountable odds – the white power structure in Memphis that flatly refused to deal with the black sanitation workers. The assassination of Dr. King strengthened the determina-

tion of the sanitation workers to stay out for 65 days—often unable to put food on the table. Their power grew out of the critical connection between the civil rights struggle and the labor movement.

Fifty years later, at the 2018 APWU Convention, this history inspired today's fighters. A memorable photo exhibit was on display in the Convention Center hall. Delegates stood spellbound looking at lines of striking black men courageously avowing, “I AM A MAN!” in the face of U.S. tanks

Three greats from the historic Memphis Sanitation Strike spoke to our Convention. 1968 striker Reverend Cleophus Smith is still a sanitation worker and activist He quoted from Frederick Douglass that “Power concedes nothing without a

continued on page 11

Historic labor victory for federal employee unions

By Nora Taggart

On August 25th, a federal judge struck down most of the key provisions of three Executive Orders that President Trump signed in late May. Trump's Executive Orders were all attempts to crush federal employee unions and workplace rights. [see article in July/August 2018 *The Union Mail*, p.4]

One order would have made it easier to fire federal employees. Under current rules and collective bargaining agreements, agency managers are to use a progressive disciplinary structure. This is to limit favoritism and subjective or unfair treatment. Under Trump's order, for example, if two employees make the same mistake, one can be fired while the other one might just get a discussion.

Another one directed federal agencies to spend less time negotiating contracts with labor unions and encouraged them to unilaterally implement contracts containing their "last best offers." This would have destroyed the agencies' incentives to bargain in good faith.

The third Executive Order would have prevented union stewards from using official time to aid employees in preparing or pursuing grievances. It also wanted to eliminate access to agency office space for union officials carrying out their representational duties making it harder to help workers.

As soon as Trump issued the Executive Orders in May, management at several federal agencies moved quickly to strip the

unions of official time and access to agency-provided office space. The Social Security Administration took away vital tools union officials used to represent workers, including telephones, computers, internet access, and even bulletin boards. Officials at the Housing and Urban Development Department sent union officials eviction notices.

Trump's far-reaching attacks against federal labor organizations moved to a whole new level. Apparently for Trump, "draining the swamp" didn't mean ridding the government of special interest lobbyists as he promised but trashing and downgrading more than two million hardworking, honorable public servants who protect our communities and serve fellow Americans.

Federal unions sue Trump

More than a dozen federal employee unions filed lawsuits shortly after the orders were announced. (None of the postal unions filed because these Executive Orders did not apply to the Postal Service and its unions.) The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE),

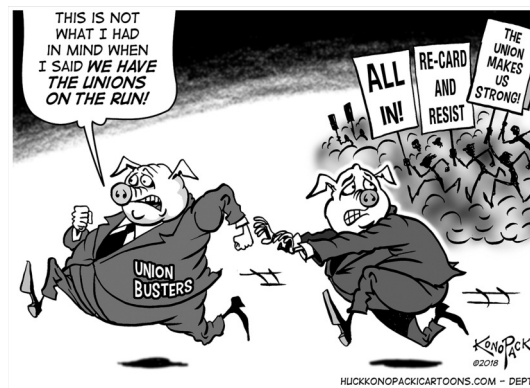
which is the largest union involved in the lawsuits, said the Executive Orders were a "direct assault on the legal rights and protections that Congress specifically guaranteed to the public sector employees across this country who keep our federal government running every single day."

The right to use official time was established in 1962, when then-President John F. Kennedy issued an Executive Order allowing union officials to conduct union business on government time. Congress cemented this in law in the Civil Service Reform Act in 1978. Congress made it crystal clear that, in its considered judgment, labor unions and collective bargaining "safeguard the public interest". The Senate passed the Civil Service Reform Act establishing official time with an 87-1 vote.

Trump not above the law

In her ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson struck down most provisions of the Trump administration's controversial workforce Executive Orders, concluding that they conflicted with the 1978 Civil Service Reform Act.

"This is a huge win for all federal employees, including postal employees whose rights could have been targeted next" NALC President Fred Rolando said. "We thank our brothers and sisters at AFGE—and the other federal unions—for defending our rights under the law." □



October 16, 2018: Demand Postal Banking in the Bronx! Be there!



By Chuck Zlatkin, Director of Communications

The time has come for postal banking. The need is as great as ever for a public option to the commercial banks who have chosen to abandon major communities all over America. The exploitation of the under-banked by so-called alternative financial institutions has become an obscene \$100 billion rip-off business. New York Metro Area Postal Union has been active in the fight for postal banking. Along with the APWU and the Campaign for Postal Banking, NYMAPU has been leading the fight for postal banking in the Bronx

Demand Postal Banking now!

On Tuesday, October 16, 2018, at 3:00 pm, the Campaign for Postal Banking and New York Metro Area Postal Union will be holding a press conference at the Hunts Point Post Office, where the Bronx Postmaster is domiciled, to present the signed petitions to the Bronx Postmaster General. Congressman Jose Serrano, New York Metro President Jonathan Smith, and Katherine Isaac of the Campaign for Postal Banking will be making the presentation. The call is out for all NYMAPU officers, shop stewards and rank-and-file members to attend this historic event.

Why the Bronx?

Nationally 27.7% of households are

under-served by the big commercial banks. In the Bronx, the percentage is 52.3! That is outrageous. The demand for expanded financial services at the Post Office is great. Bronx residents are tired of seeing their neighbors being ripped off by check cashing stores, pawn shops, title lenders and worse. For those who may have access to a commercial bank, they can't afford the exorbitant fees or maintain the outrageously high minimum balances required to maintain an account. The people of the Bronx have had it with being treated like second-class citizens. Enough is enough, Bronx people really need that public option.

Why Postal Banking?

More than 1.5 billion customers worldwide use financial services at post offices. Why not at the USPS? There is precedent: The U.S. Postal Savings System operated from 1911-1967. At its peak, it held about 10% of the assets of the entire commercial banking system. Nationally, 59% of post offices are in zip codes with either zero banks or only one bank branch. In the Bronx, there is infrastructure: there are 49 post offices in the Bronx. The Postal Service has a mission to provide service to the community.

The Bronx speaks

The Campaign for Postal Banking's



Petition gathers in the Bronx

"Make Postal Banking in the Bronx a Reality Now!" petition drive has amassed 5,000 signatures and is still going strong. The petition is addressed to both the Bronx Postmaster Scott Farrar and the U.S. Postmaster General Megan Brennan and calls upon "the Postal Service to take immediate action to provide affordable financial services including ATMs, paycheck cashing, bill payment, and electronic money transfers." The four sitting Bronx Congressional Representatives: Jose E. Serrano, Adriano Espaillat, Elliot Engel, and Joseph Crowley have signed a joint letter to the postmasters expressing their support for Postal Banking in the Bronx and are submitting the letter to local and state elected officials who also represent the Bronx. ☐

2018 Labor Day Parade

NY Metro members enjoyed the New York City Labor Day Parade on September 8, 2018. An old-fashioned trolley car filled with balloons and retirees carried the union logo and signs saying, CONTRACT 2018, FIRED UP! We were joined by the Brooklyn APWU Local and Queens NALC postal workers. Behind President Smith on the bullhorn, our marchers gave out balloons, toys, and APWU key-chains to the spectators on Fifth Avenue while chanting: “NO Postal Privatization”





THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

NY Metro Area Postal Union's participation in the September 8, Labor Day Parade was the result of a hard-working committee. It was a great success by first-time parade organizers Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization; and Joe Martir, Secretary-Treasurer, who made it a fun day for the members who marched behind our union banner.

The parade committee included Debbie Bethea and Penny Guzman who got us the trolley, made the signs and decorations, and purchased the giveaway items for our marchers to hand out to the parade spectators. Latonya Kindall blew up a trolley-load of colorful balloons with APWU stickers. Retiree Eleanor Bailey sorted and packed sandwiches, water, and chips for the marchers. Glenn Weekes took photos from start to finish. And, a special thanks to Reggie Hines, who not only drove the trolley but helped decorate it. ☺

APWU Convention 2018: Fighting

This article was a joint effort by Latonya Kindall, Flo Summergrad, and Glenn Weekes

The APWU National Convention is the highest body of the union. On August 19, 2018, in Pittsburgh, PA, the Biennial National Convention commenced with over 2,000 members in attendance. NY Metro Local 10 sent 22 delegates* representing Manhattan, the Bronx and NJ, and all three crafts. On the Convention floor the delegates played a part in the workings of our democratic union. The evenings were spent meeting brothers and sisters; APWU members come from big cities, from tiny rural towns, from North and South, East and West.

The theme for this Convention—“Fighting Today for a Better Tomorrow!”—coincides with contract negotiations. Each state including Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands sent representatives to vote on resolutions regarding the APWU Constitution, the USPS contract, as well as social, civil and economic issues pertaining to all citizens of the U.S.A.

Besides informative workshops and conferences for maintenance, motor vehicle, and clerks, we had P.O.W.E.R.! APWU P.O.W.E.R. (Post Office Women for Equal Rights) is the women’s committee within the American Postal Workers Union. It unites women with their special concerns, yet works within the framework of the national APWU organization. The women

who spoke were dynamic, resilient, passionate and just simply stated “ELECTRIC.” To hear how women were mistreated by management including the very union they were members of and then overcome these adverse conditions to become a vital component of our union, was inspiring. Looking around the Convention floor, it was clear that women now hold leadership positions throughout the country.

A Convention highlight was Senator Bernie Sanders who spoke about the serious challenges we face in the labor movement. He told us, “the future of this country is dependent upon us coming together.” Nothing is given to us; we must fight for it. There is power in collective organization. Senator Sanders stressed that the current administration’s goal is to defund, degrade, dismantle, and privatize the post office. They try to demonize postal workers even though the USPS is the largest employer of our nation’s veterans. The effort to privatize the public postal service is motivated by corporate greed. He vowed to introduce legislation in the Senate to stop privatization of the USPS.

On August 21, 2018, APWU Convention delegates, members, and supporters held a spirited rally against the privatization of the public U.S. Postal Service. This was attended by local and national politicians and labor leaders. Together, we pro-

claimed, “THE U.S. MAIL IS NOT FOR SALE!”

Things were never dull. We saw video clips of the successful West Virginia Teachers strike, the role of AFL-CIO volunteers in helping to rebuild hurricane-devastated Puerto Rico, and the fight of the Canadian Postal workers against cluster boxes and privatization. There were solidarity messages from labor and civil rights organizers. Especially moving was NE Regional Coordinator John Dirzius going to the mic with all the delegates from the Puerto Rico Area APWU to praise their courage and solidarity in helping to bring mail and supplies in Maria’s aftermath.

NY Metro’s delegates were impressed with how much our Local’s work is respected around the country. People from coast to coast knew about our grievances on PSE discipline and 37.3A1. Our delegation was given a special thank you award from the Virgin Islands Area Local for our support and generosity after Hurricane Maria.

APWU business was interspersed with videos and speakers who shared experiences on past, present, and future labor issues. The history gave us a sense of who paved the way for the rights and privileges we have today. This Convention was a call to all members that we must unite and defend the sacrifices made by our predecessors. Be grateful for what we have and fight to keep it! ☑

*President Jonathan Smith, Executive VP Tiffany Foster, Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Martir, Director of Organization Diane Erlanger, Coordinating VP Deborah Bethea, MVS Director Denise Holland, Maintenance Director Glenda Morris, Asst. Maintenance Director Glenn Weekes, Clerk Craft Director Florence Summergrad, Asst. Clerk Craft Director Naimah Mustafaa, Morgan Director Jacquelyn Owens, Morgan Asst. Director Kim Smith, Bronx Director Daisy DeGout, Communications Director Chuck Zlatkin and Shop Stewards Diane Benders, Cassandra Black, Tyrone Blount, Eveyana Cortez, Latonya Kindall, Kalissa Payton, Jennifer St. Vil, and Kay-Ann Walker.

Today for a Better Tomorrow

Labor Solidarity: *Each guest speaker gave a heartfelt message. Seeing their support for APWU and not being a member of our union themselves was such a strong statement!*

There's no one word to describe the experience I had at the Convention.

The Convention did reassure me that I made the right decision by becoming a steward and also how important my role is for both the present members and future members. —EVEYANA CORTEZ, delegate



Motivation: *I learned a lot. The more I learned, the more I know that I don't know. I loved it! I came back ready to fight. —NAIMAH MUSTAFAA, delegate*



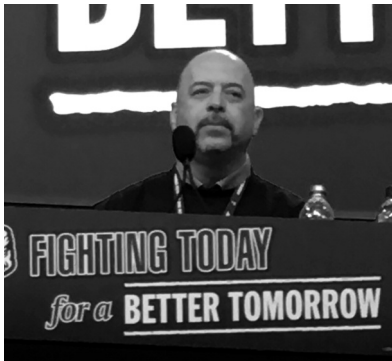
continued on page 10

APWU Convention 2018

continued from page 9



Union values: *I was inspired by an unfortunate incident when a delegate had to be removed from the Convention hall due to racist remarks that he was making [from the floor to the NAACP speaker]. It showed me that my President, Mark Dimondstein, was not having it and that that type of rhetoric was not going to be tolerated in THIS UNION! For that I am even more proud to be a member of the finest Union ever, APWU. —KIM SMITH, delegate*



Democracy in action: *The Convention atmosphere was really something—seeing all the different states meeting and greeting, trading pins, dancing together and then getting down to business the next day. It was cool that we could have fun then debate and maybe take different sides on the issues. —TYRONE BLOUNT, delegate*

Young members: Will you be ready for tomorrow?

By Kay-Ann Walker, Shop Steward Woodlawn Station

Fighting today for a better tomorrow! This was the mantra that was written, posted, worn, and shouted throughout the week of the 2018 National APWU Convention. However, the question comes to mind: What does tomorrow look like without the inclusion, activism, and participation of our young members? We are under-represented with 35,000 young members under the age of 35 employed by the postal service; uneducated, considering most of us are not involved in our unions and don't even know who our shop stewards are; don't vote in our local elections; and are unwilling to change these facts.

We as young members cannot afford this kind of blind ignorance. Decisions are being made every day about us that we have no say in because we don't get involved. We are sitting back with juvenile hopes that all will be well. This is detrimental to our own wellbeing, our own strength, and most importantly, our own tomorrow.

I sat in a young members' workshop and listened as young members from across the nation -- Maryland, Louisiana, Oklahoma,

California and Ohio, to name a few -- shared stories of organizing and rallying together to be heard in their unions and communities. They use social media to pull young members in, educating them with live streams and frequent posts, then creating meetings and events to get and keep them involved. This is all orchestrated by young members, 18-35. I was humbled and embarrassed at the same time. There I was, a young member of the largest local in the nation, NY Metro, and we had no young members committee.

What kind of tomorrow would NY Metro have if we stayed on this path? How will we keep the sharks at bay, know the facts from fiction and be ready to blaze our own trail when the time came? Our current administration is known and respect-



L to R: Jonathan Smith, President NY Metro; Jennifer St. Vil; Courtney Jenkins (Baltimore Local); Eveyana Cortez; Kay-Ann Walker; Kalissa Payton; Joshua Gray (W. Michigan Area local); Tiffany Foster, Executive V.P. NY Metro

ed across the nation for their pioneering spirit and a work horse drive to fight for the members. We as young members have to be ready to take the baton and run with it.

Since 2014, 50,000 PSEs have been converted nationwide and most of them are young women because we are the ones that are mostly discriminated against in the private sector. **This is our time!** If you're a young member, I challenge you to get involved, educate, agitate, and organize. Will you be ready for tomorrow? ☐

Labor history inspires today's struggle

continued from page 3

demand. It never did and it never will." Current AFSCME President Lee Saunders told APWU that "Dr. King understood that we couldn't have racial justice without economic justice." William "Bill" Lucy, an AFSCME staffer during the historic

strike and founder of the CBTU (Coalition of Black Trade Unionists), reminded us that "this is an ongoing struggle we should all be engaged in."

The APWU delegates were inspired by the energy and courage

of speakers who are over 70 and 80 years of age. The fire is still there, moving the delegates to repeated standing ovations. Our fight is clearly across the spectrum of age, gender, race, and religion. This is what democracy looks like! ☐

NATIONAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

APWU and Postal Management agree to extend negotiations deadline until October 20, 2018

WEB NEWS ARTICLE #92-2018

09/21/2018—APWU President Mark Dimondstein has announced that the union and the Postal Service have agreed to extend negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement for 30 days.

Our current union contract between the American Postal Workers Union and the United States Postal Service covers the wages, hours and working conditions of 200,000 postal workers. The current Collective Bargaining Agreement expired Thursday, September 20, 2018.

The APWU and postal management have engaged in negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA) since June 26, 2018. Three months of frequent negotiation sessions and a last 10-day stretch of intense “round-the-clock” discussions identified important issues that the union believes deserve more time to discuss and explore before declaring an impasse and ending negotiations for a voluntary agreement.

“Our goal is to reach a negotiated settlement that can be voted on by the members,” declared President and lead negotiator Mark Dimondstein. “National Negotiations are always challenging. At this point in time it is in the best interest of the members to start at

the bargaining table rather than declare a hard and fast impasse.”

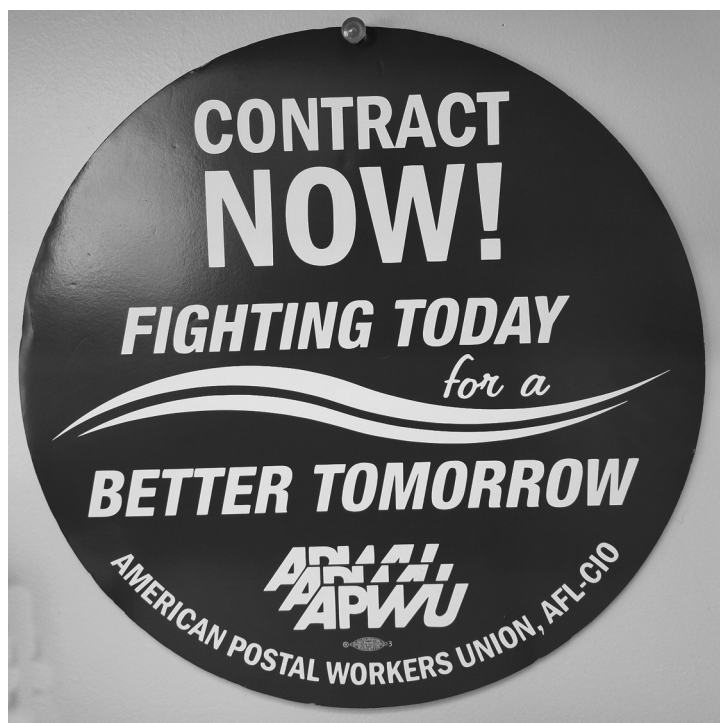
Once an impasse is declared, the parties enter the phase of mediation and binding interest arbitration, after both the union and management sides make their presentations and arguments, the final decisions regarding our future conditions of employment are determined by an arbitrator.

The goals of the APWU remain consistent as the union is “fighting today for a better tomorrow” and include: Fair wage increases, COLA, job security including maintaining no lay-off protections, bridging the gap of the divisive three-tier wage structure, addressing concerns of hostile work environments, seeking better career and full-time opportunities for both PSEs and PTFs, and expanded postal services.

“Negotiations are fluid, changes can happen quickly and we

remain optimistic that together we have the power as unionized workers to win a decent union contract,” shared chief spokesperson and Industrial Relations Director Vance Zimmerman. “Keep the contract campaign going strong and continue to send management the message that we are united in our demand for a good union contract.”

All the rights, benefits, and provisions of our existing union contract remain in place and are fully enforceable during the 30-day extension of negotiations. ☑



Bulk Mail Conference: August 24, 2018

By Cassandra Black

[By APWU Constitution, the 22 BMCs meet for a day attached to the national Convention. We refuse to let them arbitrarily change our name to "NDCs"!]

I, along with President Smith and Clerk Craft Director, Florence Summergrad, attended the Bulk Mail Center Conference held in our hotel. All three crafts were represented: Jonathan Smith is from Maintenance (an MPE 9 at the NJI&NDC); Flo Summergrad is

the Clerk Craft Director; and I am a VOA and Motor Vehicle Craft Steward. As usual, NY Metro made their presence felt. We had issues and wanted clear answers from the National Officers to bring back to the members. We really are a force to be reckoned with!

NY Metro was in the house and made it known to all. I was proud to attend. ☑



NYMAPU Shop Steward Elections Look for Union FLASHES with election information!

RUN! VOTE!

*If you see that management is doing people wrong every day;
If you know the difference between US and THEM is between workers
and bosses; If you care about the future of Postal jobs;*

YOUR UNION NEEDS YOU!

**DANGER!
EDUCATED
SHOP
STEWARDS**

No diploma or experience needed. If you work for the Postal Service, you already know what goes on at the job. If your heart and head are in the right place, you're qualified. The NYMAPU is committed to giving you the training and help to be a good representative. Local and National APWU officers will give you the materials and skills you need.

You are already standing up to injustices every day. As a shop steward, you will have the authority to police management to enforce our Collective Bargaining Agreement. It is a legal and binding Contract that supervisors and managers try to ignore. Not all unions elect their stewards. NYMAPU has defended that right in our Local Constitution.

Don't miss the chance to run and vote in the shop steward elections. ☑

A STRONG STEWARD SYSTEM MAKES A STRONG UNION!

The Great Postal Strike

A Convention week tradition is a parade in which each delegation struts its stuff in the “Parade of States.” This year, New York State wore t-shirts highlighting our favorite son, NY Metro’s Moe Biller, who was NY Metro’s President, then national APWU President for 20 years. The back of the shirt celebrated the Great Postal Strike of 1970, which started in NYC and spread across the country. **“It started here NY State: 1970 Strike/48 Years and the Struggle Continues!”**

The 8-day Great Postal Strike in 1970—the largest wildcat strike in US history—transformed the post office and its unions. By shutting down the nation’s mail network, the strikers forced President Nixon and PMG Blount to the table, reaching a sign-off that allowed collective bargaining for postal workers for the first time in history. The July 1, 1971, Postal Reorganization Act gave exclusive representation to four national postal unions, including the APWU.

NY Metro Area Postal Union is particularly honored to have several of the veterans of the Great Postal Strike working with us. Eleanor Bailey, Ernest Collington, Shirley Dunaway, Randy Salley, and Dolores Young attended the Retiree conference before the Convention. Dolores Young, the elected Northeast Regional Retiree representative to the National Convention, sat with our delegation as a member of the NY Metro Area Postal Union Local as well as the Moe Biller Retiree Chapter. ☒



Dolores Young

WHITE HOUSE EXPECTED TO KEEP POSTAL TASK FORCE REPORT SECRET UNTIL AFTER MIDTERMS

According to sources of Government Executive (govexec.com), a news resource for federal employees, the Trump administration is planning to keep secret until after the mid-term elections a report delivered to the president in early August with suggestions for reforming the Postal Service. Trump launched the task force through an executive order in April and directed them to make the recommendations actionable, either through legislation or regulation, the sources said, but is not planning to start implementation until voters elect a new Congress.



USPS BOARD OF GOVERNORS UPDATE

The Senate confirmed Robert Duncan and David Williams as members of the USPS Board of Governors by voice vote. In addition, President Trump nominated Ron Bloom and Roman Martinez IV to the Board of Governors. David Williams is the immediate past USPS Inspector General, and Robert Duncan a former chairman of both the Republican National Committee and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

BOG nominee Ron Bloom occupied positions in a number of labor organizations and was part of the Treasury Department during the Obama Administration. In 2011, he was retained by the NALC to provide advice on postal reform. Nominee Roman Martinez has been a director at the Cigna Corporation and a partner of Lehman Brothers, where he served for more than thirty years. Should their nominations be confirmed by the Senate, there would remain 5 Board of Governor vacancies, all of whom must be nominated by President Trump and confirmed by the Senate.



EEOC RULING WILL MAKE USPS PAY INURED EMPLOYEES COVERED IN CLASS ACTION SUIT

The Postal Service will soon have to make a payout to as many as 130,000 current and former employees as part of a class-action lawsuit, with an anti-discrimination oversight body finding the mailing agency created a program to rid its rolls of employees injured on the job under the guise of trying to accommodate them.

The final ruling from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission came more than 10 years after a former employee first filed a class complaint alleging USPS subjected employees to a “pattern and practice” of discrimination under its National Reassessment Program. EEOC said the initiative, which the Postal Service had in place between 2006 and 2011, subjected a class of employees to disparate treatment, a removal of reasonable accommodations without proving an undue burden, improper disclosure of medical information and general violations of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. USPS, under the direction of the commission, is in the process of notifying employees affected by the program of their potential eligibility to seek individual relief. ☒



CALENDAR

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)

Wednesday, November 21

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Annual Turkey Raffle

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!

Union Office, 350 W. 31st Street, 1:00 pm, the 4th

Wednesday of every month: Oct. 24, Nov. 28

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2018	\$1,045,898.32
Total Revenue July 2018	\$ 154,341.44
Operating Expenses July 2018	\$ 72,922.69
Total Income July 2018	\$ 81,418.75
Ending Balance as of July 31, 2018	\$1,127,317.07

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of August 1, 2018	\$1,127,317.07
Total Revenue August 2018	\$ 236,069.16
Operating Expenses August 2018	\$ 117,085.79
Total Income August 2018	\$ 118,983.37
Ending Balance as of August 31, 2018	\$1,246,300.44

Bronx Demands Postal Banking Rally/Press Conference: Tuesday, October 16-3pm
Hunts Point Station, 800 Manida Street, 10474
Be There!

Step up! Be a Steward to help be part of the movement

By Denise Willis



Diane Erlanger and Denise Willis at the Labor Day Parade

To be honest it was some of my co-workers who planted the seed in my head to become a Shop Steward. As an Auxiliary Pool Clerk visiting many stations you become aware of the issues many workers have to deal with on a daily basis. People not

knowing their rights allows the contract to be violated. I chose to be their voice and fight side by side against management to make sure we address these violations. I would love to see more members step up to the plate and become a Shop Steward.

It may be overwhelming in the beginning but eventually the bigger picture of preventing the USPS to be privatized is a goal we all need to be a part of to win the fight. Take the time out; read your contract to educate yourself to have the knowledge to know when management is violating your rights. Show up to the rallies. Your presence shows we stand for something and we will fight until we win. Sign up to COPA to help make funds available so the Union can financially make the contribu-

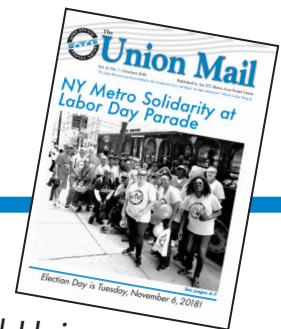
tions needed to push forward to make sure we all have jobs in the future.

As a freshly new student in Shop Steward class attending the Labor Day parade, I was excited and disappointed at the same time. Exciting was seeing all different unions representing from other agencies. Disappointing was not seeing enough of our members participating in the parade. I wish the USPS workers would take the time to come out and support to make sure they have a future in the Post Office. It was a blessing to meet the retired workers with open arms and a smile to hear them say "Thank you for stepping up!" We need everyone to do their part so we can secure jobs for the present and future in the USPS. ☺



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LETTER TO THE READERS OF *THE UNION MAIL*

The Union Mail, the official publication of the New York Metro Area Postal Union, is in its 61st year. The award-winning newspaper is published eight (8) times a year. **The Union Mail** must continue to be the vibrant voice of this union. To do that, there needs to be a steady influx of members contributing their talents. **The Union Mail** needs what any publication needs: writers, reporters, photographers, proofreaders, and administrative help. **The Union Mail** needs creative people who want to serve the members, have skills to share, knowledge to teach, and desire to learn. **The Union Mail** offers opportunity to be a part of something important, to be part of a team working together, to work on deadline, have a sense of real accomplishment and a hell of a lot fun. Please consider working with us. ☰

Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2018!