



The

Union Mail

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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 supports Brenda Lawrence for appointment to the Postal Board of Governors



Brenda Lawrence, retired US Congressperson (D-MI) and a postal worker for 30 years, is a strong supporter of a public Postal Service. She is the choice for the Postal Board of Governors of both APWU and New York Metro Area Postal Union.

See page 3

Grateful!



Jonathan Smith grateful.

Take a moment and reflect on everything that God has brought us through from staffing shortages to COVID-19. Those who are reading this article have survived illness, anxiety, stress and yes even death. We still have a roof over our heads, clothes on our backs, food in our stomachs and a job to come to every day, to help us pay our car notes, mortgage, and send our children to college.

As we enter this holiday season it is important to remember not everyone is looking forward to celebrating because in these past couple of years they have lost so much; not everyone is surrounded by a large, wonderful family; some are overcome with great sadness because their loved ones were lost to covid, cancer, tragic accidents etc. They are overcome with grief and loneliness.

I'm asking my entire postal family to give your support and prayers to all those who are having family troubles, health struggles, job issues, worries of any kind and just need to know someone cares. Nobody is immune to this game we call Life.

Pick up the phone and call someone you have not spoken to in a long time. God keeps putting someone in your heart and mind for a reason. Go see about them. You and a loved one have not spoken in years, (You

Stress and anxiety during the holiday season can make you lose sight of what the holidays are truly about, so I decided to write a quick reminder of why we need to be

probably don't even remember what you were fighting about). Call them, email them, text them, right now. Tomorrow may be too late. The Bible says "how can you claim to love God whom you have never seen, yet hate your neighbor whom you see everyday"

God has given us an opportunity to deliver much more than gifts this holiday season. He has given us an opportunity to deliver smiles, compassion, and hope for a brighter tomorrow. The post office is a symbol of dependability in a world that at times seems to have gone mad. While children are looking for Santa to come down the chimney, the parents are depending on the postman/woman to knock on the front door. They are depending on the window clerk to gather their packages and deliver a smile to each customer, reassuring them their gift will arrive on time. They are depending on the custodians to keep the facilities clean so the process of delivering holiday joy is safe and healthy. They are depending on the mechanics to keep the mail processing equipment running smoothly, and the truck drivers and carriers to deliver their packages on time. They are depending on us (the postal workers) to deliver their various symbols of love and care no matter where they live. This is our commitment not just for the holidays, but every day.

I remember years ago talking to my grandfather. I told him I was going to have a big house, a brand-new car and an impressive bank account. He looked at me and laughed, then he asked me when am I going to want what I already have? He said, "Remember what you have now was once only a want." My

point is this, if you can't be grateful for what you have, what makes you think you would be grateful with more?

I won't even try to thank everyone individually for fulfilling your purpose in my life, because there are far too many. Some taught me what to be; some taught me what not to be; but everyone taught me something. I just want to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year. Always remember, millions didn't make it but God allowed each of us to be one of the ones who did. The direction is perfection, but the goal is progress. Every day answer the question: Did you give your very best? I have learned to thank God for the opportunity to try my hardest, knowing I'm not always in control of the results.

Here's to a great 2023! May God bless you with three of his greatest gifts: Goodness, Mercy and especially his Grace! ☺

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Cover photo courtesy of APWU National

LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT:

The Postal Board of Governors

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

December 8, 2022, has come and gone and Lee Moak and Bill Zollars are still members of the Postal Board of Governors (BOG). Their initial terms as board members expired on the 8th but neither of them has been replaced by the White House, so their “walk years” are now in effect. Both Moak and Zollars are eligible to stay in their terms for one year unless replaced by the White House. While Moak is a Democrat and Zollars a Republican, they are both staunch supporters of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and were appointed by then President Trump. And from where we sit at New York Metro, this is not good news. Of course, President Biden can submit his nominations for the BOG at any time and we will assume that the Senate will OK his picks, now that the Senate remains in a Democratic majority into 2023.

There are two prominent candidates for the positions, both of whom have been public in their desire to become BOG members. One is an outgoing member of Congress, Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), who was defeated in a bitter primary in the newly crafted 12th Congressional District in New York City by her longtime colleague Jerrold Nadler. Maloney was the chair of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. Since her defeat, Maloney has made it clear that she had her eyes on a seat on the BOG.

Another former member of Congress, interested in a position on

the BOG, is Brenda Lawrence (D-MI). Lawrence had decided to retire from Congress and did not run for re-election. Lawrence brings unique experience to the position, having served for 30-years in the Postal Service, from working as a Distribution Clerk and Letter Carrier to being a Human Resources Manager. In Congress, Lawrence served on the committee that Maloney headed.

Brenda Lawrence has received support from both New York Metro Area Postal Union and the APWU national because of her experience and commitment to a public Postal Service. Interestingly enough, outgoing President of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), Fredric V. Rolando, has been a big supporter of Moak. Rolando, as NALC President, sent a letter on October 8, 2022 to the White House, urging President Biden “to ignore well-meaning but grossly misinformed attacks on Mr. Moak by groups such Americans for Financial Reform and the Progressive Reform Network” and renominate Lee Moak to the BOG.

This should not be a surprise to us as Rolando was a big supporter of former Chair of the BOG, Ron Bloom, getting another term in office. Rolando played a pivotal role in Bloom being hired by the NALC

in the first place and was a big supporter of Bloom throughout his reign as Chair. Thankfully, Rolando is 0 for 2 on his most recent picks.

The makeup of the BOG will have much to say about the future of Louis DeJoy staying in office as PMG. According to federal law the makeup of the BOG cannot include more than five members of one political party. The current board includes four Democrats, four Republicans and one Independent. This means that Biden could nominate two Democrats if he so chooses to do so.

Unfortunately, all of the four national presidents of the postal unions have been in support of PMG DeJoy, none of them calling for his ouster, including APWU President Mark Dimondstein, who for whatever reason seems enamored with DeJoy. The NALC’s support for DeJoy can be understood with the benefits to letter carriers detailed in the 10-Year plan introduced by DeJoy. The fact that the members represented by the APWU are most in jeopardy by future cuts as described in the 10-Year Plan make Dimondstein’s support of DeJoy more than curious.

Union members have a duty and responsibility to articulate our positions on these crucial appointments to the BOG. Tell everyone you know who you support and why the makeup of the Postal Board of Governors is important for everyone dependent on a public Postal Service – the vast majority of the American people. ☐



PART 4

The Post Office and The Great Depression

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

During the Great Depression when 37% of the work force were without jobs, employment in the post office with its security and benefits looked exceptionally good to the American people. Many professionals, from engineers to teachers gravitated to the post office for work when they couldn't get jobs in their chosen fields. President Franklin Roosevelt saw the importance of the post office for work and the construction of new post offices in creating jobs as well. 1300 new post offices were built during the Great Depression.

Work in the post office didn't come easy. In addition to having to pass a test to qualify for a job, postal workers were put through the wringer. Initially, subs in New York City reported for work at 2am only to have to wait up to four hours, without pay, to see if they would get work that day. If they were fortunate enough to get work beginning at 6 am, they could be required to work up to 12 hours without any overtime pay.

There came a point when the workers, even though desperate for work, rebelled against the treatment and decided, collectively, not to report for work one day. The post office got the message and no longer required the workers to wait up to four hours without pay to see if they would get work.

There was a higher degree of activism among the working class during this period and the post office was no exception. There was



an increase in unionism among postal workers. In 1934, 600 members of the National Association of Substitute Postal Workers marched in Washington, DC, to protest the Roosevelt administration's hiring freeze.


On the whole, the importance of the post office during this time was evident. At a time when the American public was going through some of its most difficult times in history, the Postal Office Department was there to serve its needs. Postmaster General James A. Farley recalled that during the Great Depression "the Post Office Department played a major role. . . we launched a big public works program that provided needed jobs and pumped federal funds into the faltering economy." In 1936, the Post Office Department coordinated the delivery of World War 1 bonus bonds. And in 1937, Letter Carriers doubled as census enumerators in a census designed to determine the extent and nature of the nation's unemployment problem."

President Roosevelt saw the importance of public art to both raise the spirits of Americans during this period and also provide work for artists. The New Deal initiative called the Section of Fine Arts was begun. The project targeted post offices

because they were available to many American citizens at the time. The idea was to have artists paint murals that depicted uplifting subjects and scenes, which would bring cheer to those unemployed who could and did access them.

Post offices were located in virtually every community and available for viewing by all postal patrons—which made post office murals a truly democratic art form. Artists working for the Section were not chosen on the basis of need, but through anonymous competitions. Scenes of local interest and events were deemed to be the most suitable. There were plenty of murals to show industrial America; however, scenes of industrial America's realism were discouraged. Therefore, the scenes of Americans without jobs struggling to survive are not to be found on many of the murals hanging on post office walls.

The murals were more than just decorations on the walls of post offices. They were a representation of what Americans had triumphed over. Many post office murals have vanished over the years. Fortunately, there has been a renewed interest in the preservation of the Depression era murals.

The Post Office Department, as both a needed employer for many citizens desperately needing jobs and as a provider of hope through the presentation of artistic murals, played a vital role for the American public throughout the period of the Great Depression. 

COVID still here; but management wants you to pay

On November 7, 2022, the USPS issued an updated Mandatory Stand Up Talk regarding COVID in the post office. This talk says: “The safety and well-being of our employees is our highest priority.”

Three weeks later, the Postal Service issued an updated “Decision Tree,” with the guidelines for reporting and payment in COVID cases. Now NO administrative leave will be paid under any circumstances whatsoever. Just as in any illness, the employee who is ill or directed to quarantine can use their own leave or not get paid. In all COVID situations: “Employee stays home on Annual Leave, Sick Leave, or Leave Without Pay until cleared by OHNA.” (The Occupational Health Nurse.)

The USPS COVID “Decision Tree” has been changed over the course of the pandemic. This is the guide for managers to handle leave for illness or quarantine. Each revision has accorded less and less financial responsibility to the USPS. Postal workers did get paid during some COVID-related absences, but this was due to laws passed by Congress to assist federal workers during COVID. (FFCRA in 2020 and EFEL in 2021)

The Postal Service rushed to issue the changed Decision Tree on November 29, 2022, just before December when people will be working the most hours in the largest numbers. In this latest version of the “Tree,” the USPS completely abnegates responsibility for the spread of this contagious illness.



While postal instructions require workers to report exposure to their supervisor and then quarantine (possibly 5 -14 days), there is no real effort to spend time or money on clean-up and safety. Management is actively resisting making regular COVID reports to the Union. And what happened to the policy of keeping workers informed of current cases by Service Talks and protected by shutting down infected areas for cleaning?

While lip service is still given to “If you feel sick, stay home,” the USPS is de facto encouraging employees to hide their condition and come to work with COVID. Management’s “concern” for our health is bogus. Just try to leave work if you start feeling ill!

If you are ordered to quarantine because of exposure, you’re not even eligible for OWCP Continuation of Pay. Those benefits are based on providing a positive PCR test (NOT a home test!). Compensation pay does not apply to quarantine, only to confirmed cases of COVID. Also, as of right now, comp for COVID expires on 1/27/23. Although the unions are pushing Congress to extend this coverage, there is no guarantee.

Charlie Cash, the national APWU’s Director of Industrial Relations, raises another concern.

Up to now, social distancing has continued to be a requirement to avoid exposure in the workplace. In Charlie Cash’s report, he states that “the Postal Service has put us on notice that they plan on reviewing all social distancing protocols and may possibly discontinue them.”

Cleaning protocols have also lapsed. Although there are instructions to provide disinfectant wipes, gloves, soap and paper towels, these are often hard to find. Extra cleaning and service talks in areas where an employee is diagnosed with COVID are not happening.

While the USPS expresses hypocritical concern about employee health, management carries out an attendance crackdown. Although Article 16 of the contract requires that discipline must be “corrective, rather than punitive,” there is pressure to rush through the disciplinary process to Removal. Instead of acknowledging attendance improvement, supervisors are using an arbitrary standard of absences to pile on discipline without allowing an employee with problems time to resolve them or offering options that could help.

During the height of the pandemic, postal workers were saluted as “heroes.” Now we’re “zeroes.” Postmaster General DeJoy’s goal of reducing the workforce can be accomplished in various ways, including management’s indifference to health issues. While the death toll from COVID has gone down, laxness in preventative measures opens the door to another crisis. ☹️

Why I became a Shop Steward

By Peter Boyer

When I first started working as a letter carrier for the post office, I didn't know much about unions. I understood the purpose of being part of a union, and I knew they negotiated with management to determine how much I would get paid, but I didn't think that anything the union did would affect me on the individual level.

That all changed when management put me up for removal. I was fortunate to have Curtis, the vice-president of my local NALC branch, fight for me and get my job back. Even though I returned to the post office as a clerk, I knew that I wanted to someday be the one to stand up for what was right, just like Curtis did for me.

I joined the APWU right away and started attending the monthly meetings in Kansas City. I quickly discovered that the union was not a service I received, it was a group of

us all coming together to make the workplace better for everyone. I met several dedicated and caring people at my old local who took me under their wings. The more I saw what the union was about, the more I wanted to be a part of it.

After I transferred to New York City, I had the opportunity to become a shop steward. I went through training and learned much more than I expected. When I came back to Morgan, I was a little overwhelmed at first, but I knew that I wanted to stand up for what was right and help others the same way I had been before.

It's not always easy, but I try my best every day to do the right thing for everyone I work with. I tell myself that I'm doing some good in the world in a way that I can. It's satisfying to me when I see that something I did helped another person. At the end of the day, we're all

here to make a living and take care of ourselves and our families. If we all stand together, we can make our jobs better now and in the future.

The APWU has grown because of the members that have stood up and tried their best to do what's right for everyone around them. Now is the time for new members to learn from the generations that came before us. They won't be here forever, and I want to learn as much as I can from them while they're here. But I can't do it alone. It's all of us that make up the union, and it's going to take all of us to keep that momentum going. As our former APWU president used to say, "The struggle continues." The more we stand together, the better things get for all of us. I hope some of our younger members will join me and get involved with our union. ☑



***Shop Stewards are the backbone of the Union!
There will be a Steward Training Class in February.
Call the office 212-563-7553 to fill out the form to be a steward.
If your area has a steward already,
PLEASE give her or him your support!***

Steward Appreciation Awards

By Flo Summergrad

On Saturday, November 5, 2022, NY Metro Area Postal Union held the first Steward Appreciation Awards dinner since the pandemic forced social events to be cancelled. All stewards were invited to attend as a thanks for their hard work in representing the members. Special plaques were presented to outstanding stewards for their years of exceptional contributions to NY Metro Area Postal Union.

Howard (Howie) Satterfield has been the Director at the Dominic V. Daniels P&DC since 2017. Prior to that he was a Clerk Shop Steward since 2001. Howie's award was for his "years of unwavering loyalty, compassion, and leadership." He is a deep thinker and puts his thought into action in the fight for social justice in the workplace and in the world.

Through the years, Shop Steward LaTonya Kindall has been a conscientious steward, fighting for the rights of clerks at JAF. She received an award for her "commitment and dedication to serving the members." No matter what the case, Latonya was concerned with getting it right to present the best possible defense. She does not back down to management.

Tyrone Blount was recently named Assistant Director at Morgan Station, after stepping up to serve in that position in 2022. Prior to that, Tyrone worked in the post office for 37 years. In about 2005, he became a shop steward and jumped right into the job of enforcing the Contract and defending his co-workers against injustice. Tyrone was awarded for "his outstanding dedication and efforts in collecting COPA

contributions."

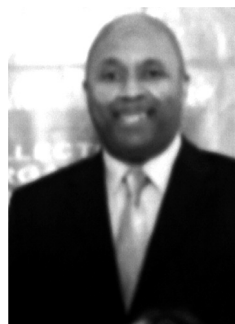
NY Metro's Director of Organization, Diane Erlanger, has been called the "Queen of COPA" by President Smith. She was surprised by the award "for her outstanding dedication and efforts in collecting COPA and bringing awareness to the importance of COPA." Diane has brought her energy to explaining why we need the support of key politicians for the issues important to postal workers. The language they speak is money, and our solid COPA contributions get their attention, giving us an ear on keeping our jobs and our service alive.

The special Eleanor G. Bailey Award has been established as a tribute to Sister Bailey, a key activist since the historic 1970 strike which laid the basis for establishing the APWU and the benefits we enjoy today. The award is presented to someone who exhibits the qualities that Eleanor Bailey brought to her work for the Union for over 50 years. This was presented to Deborah Bethea, NY Metro's Coordinating Vice President, "in recognition of [her] drive for excellence, dedication and performance that exhibited the highest standard of integrity, productivity, and leadership." Debbie is someone who has been consistently active, both inside the post office and at all union meetings and rallies. Like Eleanor Bailey, she uses her own enthusiasm to involve other postal workers. The hall full of stewards with their friends and spouses, along with NY Metro's officers, clapped and

cheered for the honorees. These were good choices for awards, celebrating the breadth of our stewards and their achievements. ☰



From L to R: Jonathan Smith, Tyrone Blount, Diane Erlanger, Ed Dalton



Howie Satterfield LaTonya Kindall



From L to R: Jonathan Smith, Deborah Bethea, Joseph Martir

Postal Banking in Canada with a hit and a miss

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

New York Metro Area Postal Union has been active in calling for the hopeful development of postal banking in the United States. From 1911 through 1967, the U.S. had a Postal Savings System, where people could deposit their money in government-backed, interest-earning accounts. But as commercial banks raised their interest rates on savings accounts, demand for the Postal Savings System declined, and the program came to an end in 1967. Since then, the absurdly small advancements here have been laughable. Without access to a checking or savings account, unbanked households turn to services like check-cashing stores and payday loan centers to conduct financial transactions like cashing paychecks and paying utility bills. We looked to our neighbors to the north, where postal banking seemed to be progressing at a much faster pace. Unfortunately, there have been setbacks in the program in Canada which can be cleared up soon and will not have a detrimental impact on postal banking in Canada.

In September of this year, Canada Post, in partnership with TD Bank, announced that it had launched a new cross-Canada loan program that would be available through any post office in Canada. Canada Post already has a number of partnerships with MoneyGram, CIBC on foreign currency, and other service providers. People in many parts of Canada were desperately in need of such services, particularly those who live in rural and remote parts of the country and



those in urban areas where there are virtual “banking deserts.” (There are many communities in the U.S. with similar needs.)

The campaign for postal banking has been supported by hundreds of communities throughout Canada and has received major sponsorship from the CUPW (Canadian Union of Postal Workers) and the CPAA (Canadian Postmaster and Assistants Association.)

As we have seen in the Bronx and many communities in the United States, there is a massive decline in the existence of private bank branches, as well as credit unions, in Canadian communities. Reports show that more than one third of Canadians are underbanked. The ongoing closure of private bank branches leaves all but the rich financially desperate and vulnerable to usurious loan sharks. And with all of this, Canadian banks are making huge profits while providing worse service.

The MyMoney program which enabled Canadians to get loans

between \$1000 and \$30,000, went national this year after a successful pilot program in 2021. There have been major problems with new applicants for the consumer loan program being put on pause indefinitely after there were serious problems with supposed “bad actors” compromising the process. As with any new program, con artists moved in to take advantage of a system aimed at benefitting Canadians who needed it.

Representatives of TD Bank who were administering the program put it on hold when security protocols showed that there were irregular activities taking place. TD was confident that no customer information was put in jeopardy and that application loopholes could be closed, but elected officials acted to stop the program while investigations were taking place.

“There are systems available that let you screen for people who are filling in forms in a suspicious way. To me, it sounds like that’s what TD is running, in terms of security protocols and the early warning signs they’re talking about. And it looks like their protocols worked,” said David Skillicorn, a professor in the School of Computing at Queen’s University.

Amy Thompson, a spokesperson for TD Bank and the MyMoney program said, “We are pleased that our security monitoring worked quickly and hope to reopen applications as soon as we feel it is appropriate.” ☒

We can help you navigate Workers' Comp and APWU Health Plans

By J. Renee Bost, Rep for Federal Workers' Compensation Claims

The OWCP training set up by APWU included an actual Claims Examiner from the Department of Labor. They were able to give us a deep insight of the workings of filing claims. Example with ecomp your claim is processed quicker if you follow the process which is as follows:

- Register on ecomp (even if you don't yet have a claim. It will store your information so you can file quickly if an injury occurs.)
- Have your supervisor's email when completing your application. (Find out now and update when you

hav a new supervisor.)

- Go to a doctor who handles OWCP cases. (This has to be a doctor who accepts payment from Federal Workers' Compensation.)

DO NOT USE THE FOLLOWING PHYSICIANS: Hospital/Veterans Hospital/Your personal physician

For a traumatic injury (something which happened within an 8-hour tour), make sure your doctor (1) Relates your injury to what happened at work; (2) gives a diagnosis of that injury ("Pain" is not a diagnosis!); and

(3) specifies that you are incapacitated/unable to work and how long.

For an illness or injury that occurred over time (more than one tour), you will need to have a completed Narrative report from your Workers' Comp physician within 30 days of filing your claim. Make sure your doctor understands exactly what you do at work that caused, aggravated, or accelerated your condition. (The report can be uploaded to your Workers' Comp file.)

For help, call J. Renee Bost, NY Metro office, 212-563-7553. ☎

APWU stands with rail workers

On December 1, 2022, President Biden and the majority of Congress chose to stand with the interests of big capital against the reasonable and winnable demands of over 100,000 rail workers. Blocking the December 9th strike robbed the labor movement of its most powerful weapon, the threat of a work stoppage. Stopping the supply chain would result in losses of about 2 billion dollars a day. The impact on capitalist profit would have been swift and enormous. A rail strike could have been a quick victory. Instead, these workers will have to rely on Congressional good will for fair treatment. Many who had faith in the Democratic Party and Joe Biden as a "pro-union" President

were disillusioned.

The APWU, which is proud to owe the foundation for our current rights and benefits to the great Postal Strike of 1970, has stood with the just struggle of the rail workers. APWU President Mark Dimondstein summarized that position in his statement on December 2nd: "Negotiations, and the prospects of strikes, are about power and leverage. At a moment when the railroad workers had maximum power in relation to the supply chain and the need for their essential work, the White House and the Democratic and the Republican Party leadership put their fingers on the scale and tipped it in favor of corporate America at the expense of the work-

ers and human decency.

"It is unconscionable for any workers to have so little control over work schedules and receive no paid sick leave. The struggle for dignity and respect for railroad workers and their justified quest for a better quality of life will undoubtedly continue, and the APWU stands with these workers and all workers seeking equity and justice." ☎



APWU joins rail workers in DC

POSTAL PRIDE

Stamps ^{Err}celebrate our diversity

Even for non-collectors, U.S. stamps help achieve the post office mission of “binding our nation together.” The projected stamps for 2023 teach and celebrate the many people and diverse cultures that have contributed to truly making America great. Along with stamps showing love, art, and sports, there are stamps honoring great individuals: Author Ernest J. Gaines is the face of the 46th stamp in the Black Heritage Series. Coming from a family of Louisiana sharecroppers, Gaines immortalized the lives of rural African Americans in works like *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. Another stamp honors writer Toni Morrison, who made history in 1993, as the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. A woman in a different field, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, was a passionate fighter for social justice whose minority opinion on the gutting of the Voting Rights Act correctly predicted the rise in racist voter suppression.

Another stamp celebrates Chief Standing Bear, who won a landmark court ruling in 1879 that determined that Native Americans were persons under the law with the rights expressed in the Declaration of Independence “to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

More whimsical bows to culture appear in the colorful “pinata” stamps, featuring the Mexican tradition of bright donkey and star pinatas, filled with toys and candy. Another charming stamp for 2023 is the fourth in the Chinese Lunar New Year series – a bright depiction of a folk art rabbit mask for the Year of the Rabbit. 📧

Postal News Briefs

BEWARE OF BOGUS STAMP DEALS

USPS is warning that the number of counterfeit stamps sold online is escalating. Scammers use social media marketplaces as well as e-commerce sites to fool customers into “great” stamp deals, which turn out to be bogus.

As DeJoy continues to raise postage, people and small businesses dependent on the mail become increasingly vulnerable to big discount offers. The tip off is that such stamps are usually sold in large quantities at 20 – 50% off the face price. Sounds too good to be true – because it is!

There are Approved Postal Providers which offer legitimate discounts on stamps that they buy in quantity through resale agreements with the Postal Service. Check before you buy!



POSTAL VEHICLE OPERATOR (PVO) POSITION PILOT PROGRAM

On November 30, 2022, APWU and the USPS signed an MOU for a pilot program that will bring union work to the Oklahoma City, OK area. The region has been contracting out this work to private sector Highway Contract Routes that will now be done by a minimum of 125 new PVO operators.

PVO (Postal Vehicle Operator) is a new career bargaining unit position, PS6. These drivers will transport bulk quantities of mail in vehicles that do not require a Commercial Driver’s License. Since these are Motor Vehicle jobs, these PVOs will be able to volunteer to be trained for a CDL. As the Oklahoma City installation establishes Motor Vehicle Operator (MVO) and/or Tractor Trailer Operator (TTO) positions, they will be awarded according to the provisions of Article 39. MVS Craft Director Michael Foster says the pilot “has the potential for the Postal Service to solve some of the challenges in recruiting, hiring, and retaining CDL Postal Vehicle Operators.” If it works, it will be a benefit to the craft and to the USPS.



NLRB REGION 29 ISSUES NATIONAL CEASE AND DESIST ORDER AGAINST AMAZON

Amazon is prohibited from firing or restraining workers for protected activity anywhere in the country. The order from Federal Judge Diana Gujarati ruled that Amazon in Staten Island unlawfully fired an employee who advocated for health and safety measures during the pandemic. While the judge did not restore Gerald Bryson’s job immediately, the ruling has exponentially increased labor’s power to organize. This win provides the full force of a court injunction wherever Amazon violates “workers’ rights to join together to improve their working conditions, including by forming, assisting, or joining a union.” If Amazon fails to abide by the Cease and Desist Order, it can be held in contempt by the court. 📧



CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Via Zoom

Wednesday, February 15

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Via Zoom

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

Members Only!

- Download Zoom App
- Open link
- Enter meeting ID #548-304-2304
- Mute audio
- Video must be on

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of October 1, 2022_____	\$1,418,667.48
Total Revenue October 2022_____	\$ 160,695.45
Operating Expenses October 2022_____	\$ 217,027.39
Net Income October 2022_____	\$ (56,392.83)
Ending Balance as of October 31, 2022_____	\$1,362,274.65

SISTERS! As an APWU member, you are a member of NY METRO P.O.W.E.R. (P.O.W.E.R. stands for Post Office Women for Equal Rights.) Prior to the pandemic, all sisters were invited to P.O.W.E.R. meetings at the Union Office at 1 pm, the 4th Wednesday of every month.



Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization and Chairperson of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R, told The Union Mail: Moving forward, the NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. meeting has resumed via ZOOM. Next meetings: January 25, 2023, at a later time, 5:30 pm; February 22, 2023, at 5:30 pm. ZOOM Meeting ID# 239-026-1053 [Follow ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.]

NY Metro Health Plan Reps

Representatives for NY Metro attended training to be able to explain the APWU health plans to our members and people from other crafts and federal agencies who can pay a fee to be eligible. This year, Barbara Harris-McKenzie, Sandreus Cobb, and I went to classes and came back prepared to assist you – not just during Open Season, but all through the year.

The APWU Health Plan also provides our vendors -- the Consumer Driven Plan (United Health Care) and the APWU High Option (Cigna) -- with the



APWU Health Plan seminar: Back: Rep Sandreus Cobb, EVP Joseph Martir Front: Rep J. Renee Bost, Rep Barbara Harris-McKenzie

ability to understand the different crafts within the Postal Service and how we (vendors & representatives) can assist the employees better. As representatives we are allowed to interact with vendors and give input on the issues facing employees throughout the year. The Health Plan agents can take this input and try to make the plans better for us all. And finally, we are able to learn about changes for both plans in upcoming years.

NY Metro's Health Plan Reps: J. Renee Bost, Barbara Harris-McKenzie, Sandreus Cobb. Call: 212-563-7553 📞



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

Periodicals class
POSTAGE PAID
at New York, NY

  
*NY Metro Area Postal Union officers
wish a joyous and healthy New Year to
our stewards, our members, and their families!
“The struggle continues” in 2023!
Strong and united, we can win!:*
  

unionmail@nymetro.org