



The

# Union Mail

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

## ***Energize, Mobilize, Organize***





# Passports are a lifeline that we need to grab!



Jonathan Smith

There is an old saying, the more you bring to the table the more you are worth. The union is constantly fighting postal management as they continue to try to revert customer service jobs every time a duty assignment becomes vacant. Their justification is always the same, the mail volume is down, and it doesn't justify the staffing. Their message is clear, our jobs can't just depend on the movement and processing of mail. We must increase our value to the American public. Processing passports is the perfect opportunity to make a compelling case to the American public, Congress and the Executive Branch of the value of the Postal Service.

## The great FedEx/UPS Passport Scam

Places like the UPS store, FedEx Office, etc., claim that they will "help" you with your passport application by printing out the forms, taking passport photos (for a fee) and even selling you the postage to ship it, as it is now possible for retailers to be resellers of USPS products and services, such as priority and express mail.

But what really is happening is that the customer is sending everything to the Department of State on their own - this includes the completed renewal application, photo, old passport, and any applicable fees.

And if it turns out that this is your first time application, or if you didn't meet the previous criteria, you have to see a certified passport agent, at a passport application acceptance

facility. Only public institutions can have passport application acceptance facilities. The UPS Store and FedEx Office are not public institutions. They are private companies. They can't "execute" applications like a USPS location that accepts passport applications can.

However, UPS and FedEx know that the public does not know this. The same goes for a bunch of other companies out there who claim that they can get your passport to you faster. Some are legit... but you'll pay a ton of extra fees for not much of an increase in processing time... and you still must pay the same fees to the Department of State. Essentially, UPS, FedEx, and others sell services where they act as a courier to hand-carry these applications to one of a handful of Department of State regional offices throughout the country.

What makes this scam possible is the public's frustration with the Postal Service, and results in less revenue, work hours and jobs for the Postal Service. ! Let me give you a quick history on the passport issue.

In 2018, the OIG conducted an audit called optimization of passport centers; the results were outstanding. In fiscal year (FY) 2014, the Postal Service generated \$129.4 million in revenue from processing about 5.2 million passport applications. The number of passport applications processed at these centers increased by almost 150 percent, and revenue increased by about \$1.2 million. The Postal Service also had an opportunity to increase revenue from passport photo services. But management did not offer passport photos at some acceptance facilities, stating that this was not a core business function and that the law prohibits the Postal Service

from making the passport photo fee market competitive.

With the passage of the 2022 Postal Service Reform Act, passports became an opportunity the Postal Service must take advantage of. In an article written by APWU National President Mark Dimondstein and posted on the APWU website on September 19, some important language in the new legislation was quoted, "the postal service may establish a program to enter into agreements with an agency of any state Government, local government or tribal government to provide property or non-postal service to the public on behalf of such agencies." This was an opportunity to get more work and protect customer service jobs.

I must be honest, I don't understand why the members are fighting so hard not to do passports. Are we trying to blow an opportunity to raise our value? I hear employees want to get paid more money (which I truly understand) but you must ask yourself at what cost? Stamps are being sold at the supermarket, FedEx and UPS. The Postal Service still delivers a lot of their packages for the last mile. The Postal Service cannot afford to pick and choose what part of customer service it wants to do. The hard truth is no longer just about delivering the mail, It is about surviving!

The Postal Service is losing the trust of the public and its approval rating has dropped from the 90th percentile into the 70th percentile. This battle to survive must be about service. The USPS can't afford to reject any work it can get its hands on. FedEx and UPS are trying to steal this work from the Postal Service. Currently they are running a deceptive campaign to steal

revenue from the Postal Service and steal from the public by offering a service they cannot provide.

When the USPS secures this work and the increase revenue that comes with it, it will then have a better chance to win the battle for a higher-level pay. But it first must recognize a gift when it presents itself. Let's grab this lifeline before it's too late!

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## LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT:

# 2024: The Election Year

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

On June 24, 2024, a letter was sent to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy by 19 Senators, led by Senators Peter Welch and Ron Wyden to ensure effective postal operations for the upcoming election. The letter included half a dozen questions about plans that the USPS have made to prepare for the election season. The first of which was whether the USPS has conducted any studies on the impact of the Democracy for America plan on election mail operations. There was also concern as to whether the USPS has made plans to engage election officials as it did during the 2020 and 2022 elections. The Senators also wanted to know how the USPS plans to maintain and improve mail service in areas where postal consolidations have already taken place. They also were willing to offer help from Congress to ensure on-time delivery of election mail if needed.

Congress is not taking the impact of DFA lightly. Particularly in rural communities, the idea of even greater restrictions for people who already must navigate limited postal access is a true concern. The fact that the Postal Service has relented to Senate pressure and has paused the Mail Processing Facility Reviews (MPFR) process until after the 2024 elections a victory of sorts.

The Senators think it essential that Postmaster DeJoy share the USPS plans

that have been made to accommodate the high volumes anticipated in the upcoming 2024 general election.

## Even Republicans Concerned with DeJoy's DFA Plans

Part of the reason that DeJoy agreed to pause his consolidation efforts were the responses he received from Republican lawmakers. In the report on fiscal spending which the House Appropriation Committee approved in June, Republican members wrote, "The Committee is deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts on mail service to the American people, customers satisfaction, and cost overruns potentially undermining the goals outlined in the DFA Plan." They concluded, they were "concerned with the USPS' aggressive approach to consolidating processing and distribution centers and the notification and justification provided to customers and postal workers."

Many lawmakers are demanding that the Postal Regulatory Commission issue an "advisory opinion" on DeJoy's DFA plan. The bi-partisan scrutiny of DeJoy continues,

## Household Diary Study

In June, the Postal Service published its Household Diary Study for Fiscal Year 2023. The objectives of the study are to "measure the types and volumes of mail sent and received by U.

S. households; track trends in mail usage over time; and compare mail usage by household demographic characteristics". To produce the study, households are asked to participate in a survey. Luckily for us, Steve Hutkins of Save the Post Office at savethepostoffice.com is on top of the Household Diary Studies and can let us know that the 2023 Study does not include the section on "Use of the Post Office" which has been included in studies going back to 2002. In the past, the survey results on how households use post offices, post office boxes, and private mailing services are reviewed in this section. The section would also include a chart showing the date on how often people visited the post office. Hutkins reports that he contacted the Postal Service to find out why the section of the report was eliminated from this year's report. The postal spokesperson wrote to him the questions on the use of the post office where removed "to shorten the survey questionnaire."

Steve Hutkins provides the proper perspective on this, "...no longer including a discussion on how customers are using the post office will be a loss for the Postal Service, those in the industry who use the Study, and the general public. And it unfortunately gives the impression that the Postal Service no longer cares very much about how people use brick-and-mortar post offices." ☹️



# The Right Wing & the Destruction of the Public Postal Service

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

The attack on the Postal Service by rightwing aligned politicians is nothing new. Back in 1968 the rightwing magazine Reason published an article presenting the idea of eliminating the public Postal Service as part of its philosophy for free market economics to bring about the best solutions. This was not a popular position at the time.

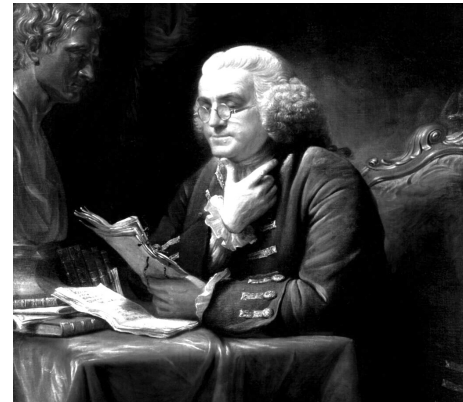
In 1970, Congress reaffirmed that the Postal Service was an essential public service. Following the Great Postal Strike of 1970, it was decided by Congress that: “The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress and supported by the people.” Congress also said that the mission of the Postal Service was, “to bind the Nation together through the personal, education, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities.”

But this in no way limited the efforts of Charles Koch to bring privatization to the post office. Koch, a billionaire, listed in 2024 as the 23rd richest person in the world with a net wealth of \$64.9 billion, funded publications and

organizations that supported the concept and implementation of the privatization of the post office. Koch’s group, the Americans for Prosperity (AFP), had worked feverishly to pressure Congress not to support the passage of the HEROES Act in 2020, during the COVID crisis, specifically opposing any action to bail out the Postal Service.

Koch had been helping to fund efforts to kill the post office since the 1970s. While Koch did everything he could to prevent the post office from receiving \$25 billion in emergency aid during COVID, Koch’s acted on his top priority, at the same time, providing tax cuts for himself and his billionaire friends worth \$2.3 trillion.

AFP wasn’t the only Koch-supported group that was advocating for the destruction of the public post office: the Heritage Foundation, the Cato Institute, and the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, were recipients of Koch funding. The Koch-dominated American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) which was created by Koch to focus on state legislators had as part of its agenda the weakening of the Postal Service. ALEC fought for years that ballots to military service members not be carried by the Postal Service but by private shipping companies. ALEC’s biggest



Benjamin Franklin, the first Postmaster General of the US. David Martin, 1767.

funders were FedEx and UPS.

The appointment of Koch protégé James C. Miller III to the USPS Board of Governors (BOG) in 2003, and the later election of him as BOG chair in 2005, was instrumental in the passage of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA). Besides limiting its ability to sell certain products and services, such as offering banking services or opening cafes at post offices, it also limited the ability of the Postal Service to raise rates beyond the rate of inflation. The PAEA imposed massive annually accruing debt on the USPS. That debt provided the appearance that the USPS was a poorly run business—a narrative privatizers promoted.

James C. Miller III had deep ties to Charles Koch. He had been one of the five members of Koch’s Americans for Prosperity, and its predecessor Citizens for A Sound

Economy for over 30 years. Miller was one of the signatories to the Reagan Administration’s plan to count ketchup as a vegetable in student lunches in 1981.

In 2005, the year before the PAEA was passed, the Postal Service reported nearly \$1 billion in profit. Two years later, after the PAEA required it to transfer its \$17.1 billion surplus into a newly created 50-year fund and require it to make an \$5 billion contributions annually, the Postal Service was in the red.

The rightwing knew what it was doing to the post office. During President Bush’s first term, Congress “shifted the cost of postal employees’ military service-related pension costs from the U. S. Treasury to the USPS. This \$ 27 billion obligation from 2003-2006, saddled the Postal Service with tens of billions in debt.

Susan Collins (R-ME) chaired the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs which pushed for the Postal Reform bill in 2006. Collins also chaired the committee that approved Miller’s nomination to the Postal Board of Governors in 2003, even though she knew that Miller was calling for the privatization of the very same agency he would be governing. Miller knew that what he was planning to do by hanging \$5 billion debt on an agency with only \$1 billion in income. Miller knew that it was necessary for him to credit this huge debt to force the agency into eventual privatization.

When Miller was trying to get

reappointed to the BOG in 2014, he said that he had “unfinished business.” Miller said, “I think it would be best for the world, for the economy, and the American people if the Postal Service was de-monopolized and privatized.” Most people today, don’t realize that it was President Barack Obama who nominated Miller to that term.

When Louis DeJoy was appointed Postmaster General of the United States by then President Trump he announced his 10-year Delivering for America plan, that would mean the elimination of thousands of jobs and the closing of sorting centers. There were bipartisan calls to have DeJoy removed from his position. But now, with the Biden administration’s intentional delay in filling vacancies on the BOG, DeJoy has still been sitting pretty in his position.

Steve Hutkins of SavethePostOffice.com has said that the drastic network changes at the USPS under DeJoy are taking place with little transparency and oversight. Hutkins said, “The consolidations will create excess space in processing facilities that will be used to house a sorting and delivery center, which relocates letter carriers away from post offices which will lead to post office closure and relocations.”

It has even gotten to the point that some House Republicans, historically aligned to DeJoy, are attempting legislation to reverse some of DeJoy’s changes in oper-

ations. In June of this year, members of the House Appropriations Committee stated its deep concern, “about the potential negative impacts on mail service to the American people, customer satisfaction, and cost overruns potentially undermining the goals outlined in the DFA plan. The Republican appropriators wrote in the report that they were, “concerned with the USPS’ aggressive approach to consolidating processing and distribution centers into local processing centers and the notification and justification provided to customers and postal workers.”

This forced DeJoy to announce a pause in his consolidation efforts until January 1, 2025. Rightwing forces thought that DeJoy was perfect for positioning the Postal Service into a climate where the public would be ripe to accept privatization. However, they still have to deal with lawmakers and stakeholders from the postal community calling for the Postal Regulatory Commission to issue an “advisory opinion” on the totality of DeJoy’s DFA plan.

It is clear, that much of the way the Postal Service now functions, in response to what DeJoy has created, calls for significant change. Let’s hope the changes that will be implemented will not further the goals of the rightwing privatizers but will strengthen the Postal Service as a functioning public institution well into the future.

The struggle to keep the our Postal Service public continues. ☐



# PMG DeJoy Speaks at National Postal Forum

by Peter Boyer

Louis DeJoy is a man with a plan. At the National Postal Forum, a conference for bulk mailers and large businesses that are postal customers, Postmaster General DeJoy reiterated in a speech that his “Delivering for America” ten-year plan is the only thing that will save the post office from financial ruin. “We are now trying to fix the broken business model!” DeJoy exclaimed to the crowd.

Perspective is important, and we must remember that this speech was given by a businessman to a group of businessmen. From an outsider’s perspective, maybe one would think that Louis DeJoy has good intentions and is trying to put the Postal Service on a path to sustainability. The flashy videos in between segments of the speech show what appear to be successful new facilities and happy employees excited to be part of the ten-year plan. However, as union members with firsthand knowledge of how the post office works, we know better than to believe the hype.

What DeJoy has refused to acknowledge since he was appointed in 2020 is that the United States Postal Service is not, and was never intended to be, a business. The Postal Service is a government agency that provides a service to the American public. Unlike XPO

Logistics, DeJoy’s previous employer, there are no shareholders to please and there is no stock price to worry about. While XPO, along with the businesses represented in the audience of the National Postal Forum, has a goal to make money, the post office provides a service that costs money. The post office has an operating model closer to the fire department than a private business, and nobody complains that their local fire department is losing money. The biggest difference is that the local fire department relies on tax dollars while the Postal Service’s revenue comes from the sale of stamps and services.

Without accepting that important difference, DeJoy has continued to make business decisions to the detriment of the service the post office provides. At one point, after bemoaning the federal laws, policy manuals, and union con-

tracts that he had to learn about after taking office, DeJoy claimed that “prior to Delivering for America, there was no plan to do anything effectively.” He must not consider delivering mail and packages to every address in America for the last 249 years effective since nobody made a profit from doing it. In fact, the Postal Service has arguably become less effective under the ten-year plan since service standards have been reduced and it takes longer for mail to get through the postal system now than it did before DeJoy was appointed.

The imminent financial ruin that DeJoy claimed the Postal Service was headed toward was not the result of the lack of his business plan but rather a consequence of the 2006 Postal Enhancement and Accountability Act, which created a deficit on paper due to its requirement that the post office contribute over \$5 billion every year to prepay retiree healthcare seventy years into the future. Although that requirement was repealed while DeJoy was postmaster general, it was Congress that acted, not postal management. In his speech, while DeJoy congratulated himself for singlehandedly saving the post office, he neglected to mention that perhaps the best thing that took place under his leadership was the action of the government he called ineffective.



PMG Louis DeJoy.

Toward the end of his speech, Louis DeJoy told the audience that he had two goals he used to guide his decisions in life: seek to be consequential and try not to do anything really stupid. “Standing here in my position today, I’m not going to comment on how compliant I’ve been with the second objective,” he joked. Unfortunately,

ly for the public who depend on the Postal Service and the 200,000 APWU members who work for the post office, Louis DeJoy has managed to achieve both of his goals. His ten-year plan has been disastrously consequential as it consolidates facilities, eliminates jobs, slows down mail service, and disrupts the lives of both em-

ployees and the public who depend on the post office. Many aspects of the plan will be difficult to undo, so we will have to live with the consequences of his “Delivering for America” plan for many years to come. DeJoy might not admit it in a public speech, but he has unfortunately been both consequential and really stupid. ☹️

## APWU Update on the Social Security Fairness Act

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

The APWU has never stopped fighting to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82, S. 597). This bill would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), which are parts of Social Security law that unfairly reduce, or sometimes eliminate, Social Security benefits for millions of federal annuitants. The GPO and WEP penalize CSRS retirees that meet the requirements for Social Security benefits and have paid their fair share into the program.

To address this inequity, 324 members of the House and 61 members of the Senate from both parties now support this legislation. With this much bipartisan support, our next step is to back a discharge petition. A discharge petition is a process to bring any



Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard (center), with Human Relations Director Daleo Freeman (center-left), and Retirees Director Nancy Olumekor (center-right), rally with APWU retirees from across the country on Capitol Hill in favor of the Social Security Fairness Act. Photo from APWU.

bill sitting in committee to the House floor for a vote as long as at least 218 members of Congress sign the petition. In this instance, a successful discharge petition would bypass both the Speaker of the House and committee to bring H.R.82 to the House floor for an up or down vote before we run out of time this Congress.

Over the last few years we have been strongly advocating for this bill, and the time is now to get the Social Security Fairness Act over the finish line. The APWU calls on all members of Congress in the House to not only cosponsor H.R. 82, but to support a discharge petition! ☹️



# Report from the APWU National Convention

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

The 27th Biennial National American Postal Workers Union (APWU) Convention was held in Detroit, Michigan from July 15-18, 2024. New York Metro Area Postal Union (NYMAPU) sent a delegation to represent our members, as well as to the craft conferences that were held the weekend before by the Clerk, Maintenance, Motor Vehicle and Support Services Divisions and APWU Retirees.

The National Convention featured speeches from labor allies such as Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, President Shawn Fain of the United Auto Workers (UAW), President Sara Nelson of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, and AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler.

One of the main functions of the National Convention is conducting union business. Debates on resolutions take place concluding with the body voting on the resolutions. The Labor-Management Committee report included a number of resolutions that came up for vote such as preventing managers in small offices from performing bargaining unit work, administration of overtime, workhour guarantees, night shift differential, weekend premiums, and the elimination of the two-tier pay scale.

Resolutions to hold management more accountable for complying with grievance settlements were also adopted. The APWU Constitution Committee report included resolutions calling for the addition of two fulltime national officer positions that were ad-

opted creating an additional Assistant Clerk Craft Director and Southern Region Maintenance Craft National Business Agent (NBA). A constitutional change making Article 2, Discrimination Prohibition more inclusive and in compliance with the AFL-CIO constitution was adopted.

Delegates passed a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, and delegates passed a resolution endorsing Joe Biden for president only a few days before Biden's withdrawal from the race.

Delegates rejected resolutions extending the length of the national convention from four to five days, adding the position of an NBA Director and requiring the National Executive Board (NEB) to meet monthly.

APWU President Mark Dimondstein gave his "State of the Union" address touching on the opening of contract negotiations, the state of the APWU, the threat of the Delivering for America, plan and the importance of building of maximum power as a key to success in negotiations. He pointed to the over 8,700 new APWU members as a powerful message to management.

The Legislative/Political Committee introduced resolutions that were adopted including support of women's rights, voting rights, equitable retirement pay, public education and suicide prevention. Resolutions that would strengthen the Postal Service through legislation and by increasing union voices on the Postal Board of Governors and the Postal Regulatory Commission also passed.

At the 2022 Biennial Convention, delegates resolved to focus organizing efforts on Amazon. Thanks for the organizing efforts of the APWU, Amazon workers are standing up to organize for fair pay, respect and a union at Amazon warehouses. Amazon workers took the convention stage to detail their struggle to unionize for higher pay and safer working conditions. They detailed the oppressive union-busting tactics of management and the need for safer working conditions.

Convention delegates passed a motion to "pass the hat" to collect money for the Amazon workers to collect money to compensate them for lost wages they were missing for coming to our convention. The APWU agreed to match the amount donated by the delegates and any extra money will be used to support the organizing efforts at Amazon.

Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) Jan Simpson spoke to the delegates via video. She shared a message of solidarity, "We recognize that your struggle is our struggle, and we draw inspiration from you."

Delegates gathered for a Climate Justice Network meeting and panel discussion for workers in the Postal Service, hosted by Executive Vice President Debby Szeredy. Members discussed best practices for the addressing of the impact of climate change on our work and reiterated the importance of utilizing PS Form 1767s in organizing collective action.

Delegates attended an election briefing held by the Legislative



APWU Northeast Region. Taken by Tiffany Foster, Northeast Regional Coordinator.

and Political Department under the direction of Judy Beard for the 2024 elections. There was a discussion of the political landscape leading up to the November elections, APWU's Labor 2024 program, and how members can get involved in the fight to elect pro-postal, pro-worker candidates up and down the ballot.

On Tuesday of the convention week Delegates rallied for a good contract and improved service that received good coverage from the establishment media with coverage on WWJ (CBS) and WJBK (Fox) including interviews with rank-and-file members.

As the convention week drew to

a close, delegates from all over the country were confronted with potential difficulty in getting home due to the CrowdStrike debacle that caused chaos including airlines. Luckily, all of the delegates from New York Metro Area Postal Union (NYMAPU) made it home safely after hours of delay.



## Join New York Metro at the LABOR DAY PARADE & MARCH



Saturday, September 7th, 2024

Please meet by 9:30AM at 44th Street between 6th Avenue and Broadway

Food and Water will be Provided

Don't forget to WEAR YOUR ORANGE UNION SHIRTS!

**\*\*There will be a trolley available for those unable to walk the parade route. Call the union office for more information.**



POSTAL PRIDE

40 YEARS AS A DRIVER WITHOUT AN ACCIDENT

There are over 30,000 postal workers who have received the National Safety Council (NSC) Million Mile Award. The Safe Driver Award is the trademark of the expert driver and is recognized as the nation's highest award for professional safe driving. One of the postal workers who has received the award is Ronald Lee Hughes. Hughes has spent the past 40 years as a contract driver for the Postal Service in Coulee City, Washington.

Coulee City is a small town where the residents say they are defined less by boundaries on a map than by the sense of shared values our residents hold dear. Small town values, guided growth, preservation of historical, cultural, and natural heritage are just a few of the core principles that makes the town of Coulee City a wonderful place to call home. Their mailman is Ronald Lee Hughes.

Hughes not only delivers the mail, but he does it with pride. "I have built some very strong bonds with my people," Hughes said. "There are just so many memories, mostly good, and I have to say this last group of folks I have had the pleasure of working with to the end of my career is probably my favorite crew yet," Hughes added.

He has driven over 1 million miles without a single accident. Over 40 years, Hughes has witnessed significant changes, yet he embraces them with grace, humor, and a touch of modernity. "It is definitely a lot more complicated with all the technology that has been put into our daily routines besides just delivering our mail. But look, I am living proof you can teach an old dog new tricks," he quips.

Despite describing himself as "a man of few words," Hughes fondly reminisces about his time with the Coulee City Post Office. Seasonal weather challenges have also tested Hughes' resilience. "There were a lot of very harsh winters and some very long detours, which, thank the good Lord, were completed safely," he says.

In an era where career changes are frequent, Hughes' dedication stands out. Most people can't fathom staying at the same job for four years let alone 40. But for Hughes, who says he enjoys the work, this job means something more, "I take pride and respect in my route, doing my job for as long as I have."

Postal News Briefs

15 NEW S&DCS ANNOUNCED

On July 26, 2024 the Postal Service announced that it will launch fifteen new sorting and delivery centers (S&DC) around the nation on September 7, 2024. These S&DCs are alleged to be an integral part of the Postal Service's Delivering for America plan to create a "best-in-class processing and delivery network." The S&DCs will supposedly revitalize the network of nearly 19,000 delivery units, The Postal Service has stated that it targeted key markets where it is beneficial to aggregate delivery units into fewer, larger, centrally located S&DCs . The question remains this will meet the Postal Service claims that it will improve mail delivery while cutting operating costs.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO PROTECT AGAINST MORE POSTAL NETWORK CHANGES

The Postal Board of Governors is actively considering downgrading service standards by another day. Senators Gary Peters (D-MI), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Jacky Rosen (D-NV), have introduced Amendment 2874 to the National Defense Authorization Act NDAA) for FY '25. The amendment would require an advisory opinion by, and adequate response from USPS to, the Commission and Congress, on any additional network changes and consolidations. No changes could go ahead without this process, and any that the Commission finds would adversely affect service would be prohibited.

AMAZON TO RELY LESS ON POSTAL SERVICE

Amazon.com appears to be expanding its one- to two-day delivery capabilities throughout the U.S. in a move to boost sales in the remote regions of the country and eliminate its reliance on the postal service for parcel delivery in rural areas, the Wall Street Journal reported. he company isn't trying to deliver itself to 100% of its customers in the U.S., but as of now, it is targeting around 90%.

PHOENIX RPDC TO OPEN

The Postal Service will open a new Regional Processing and Distribution Center in Phoenix later this year. This will be the fourth RPDC installed in a newly leased building. The Postal Service has not conducted Mail Processing Facility Reviews (MPRFs) for any of these facilities. The Postal Service says no existing facilities in the area are closing. The launch of the Phoenix RPDC has not been put on pause, while most of the 59 consolidations for which a MPFR has been done are currently on hold.

CALENDAR

*\*\*There is no Union Meeting during July and August*

Wednesday, September 18

5:30pm  
General Membership Meeting  
Via ZOOM

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

Members Only!

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

\*\*For news, upcoming events and more, visit our website at [nymetro.org](http://nymetro.org)

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**Metro NY**  
Labor  
Communications  
Council

APWU LOCAL BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance April 1, 2024	\$ 735,846.35
Total Revenue April 2024	\$ 162,598.22
Operating Expenses April 2024	\$ 156,025.34
Total Net Income April 2024	\$ 6,572.88
Ending Balance April 30, 2024	\$ 742,419.23

Beginning Balance May 1, 2024	\$ 742,419.23
Total Revenue May 2024	\$ 184,290.01
Operating Expenses May 2024	\$ 157,693.20
Total Net Income May 2024	\$ 26,596.81
Ending Balance May 31, 2024	\$ 769,016.04

Beginning Balance June 1, 2024	\$ 769,016.04
Total Revenue June 2024	\$ 326,021.93
Operating Expenses June 2024	\$ 319,246.81
Total Net Income June 2024	\$ 6,775.12
Ending Balance June 30, 2024	\$ 775,791.16

NY Metro P.O.W.E.R.

**SISTERS!** As an APWU member, you are a member of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. (Post Office Women for Equal Rights).

APWU POWER 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. **"A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN HER UNION"**

NEXT MEETING:

September 26th, 2024 at 5:30 pm  
ZOOM Meeting ID #239-026-1053  
[Follow ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.]





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

Periodicals class  
POSTAGE PAID  
at New York, NY

## Postal Service Vehicle Fires Add to Hot Summer

*By Dennis O'Neil*

As the Union Mail goes to press, already more than a dozen postal vehicles around the country have caught fire in the month of June. And that's only the ones that have been severe enough to merit news coverage, which usually means the complete destruction of the vehicle. Two of them were in NY State. On June 4 a mail truck burst into flames on a residential street in Buffalo. Days later, a delivery vehicle in Mahopac, 45 miles North of Manhattan, was completely engulfed in flames.

Though these fires are not just an issue for letter carri-

ers--this year has seen fires total USPS semi-trucks, which are generally driven by APWU members, in three states, the heart of the problem is the Grumman LLVs, the familiar workhorse Mail delivery truck. They were introduced in 1986 and that last one rolled off the



■ Postal truck fire – Queens NY

line in 1994. The youngest is 30 this year.

This month is supposed to start the roll-out of replacement NGDV (Next Generation Delivery Vehicle) with such modern conveniences as air-conditioning (the LLVs have only a small dashboard fan). if that. So, there are two safety questions: Will these be better able to resist spontaneous vehicular combustion? Will they better protect postal workers from soaring summer temperatures (and winter cold?

Time will tell. ☐