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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.

# New Postmaster General David Steiner...



Worse than DeJoy?

David P. Steiner to be the New Postmaster General of the United States — pg. 4-5

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

# Everything that shimmers is not GOLD!



reached a labor agreement with the Teamsters, settling their contract negotiations. The agreement, Jonathan Smith which covers roughly 340,000

n 2023, UPS

workers, includes significant wage increases, improved safety measures, and other benefits. The contract also eliminates the twotiered wage system and provides retroactive pay raises.

Many postal workers started complaining about the wages, benefits and work conditions that are covered under the APWU collective bargaining agreement. They were saying how much better a union the Teamsters was compared to APWU. This was a very short-sighted view because the members were only looking at the wage increase while ignoring the job security protections outlined in the APWU contract.

Postal workers have no lavoff protection, cannot be excessed more than 50 miles from their domiciled

stations and we get a consistent COLA increase to supplement our wages. The Postal Service is also forced to modestly commit to staffing with the automatic 2 yr PSE conversion in the clerk craft and an obligation to maintain the custodial staffing in the maintenance craft.

We should never want to sacrifice wages over job protections; this event is the perfect cautionary tale as to why! Let's fast forward the clock. In 2025, UPS plans to cut approximately 20,000 jobs and close 73 facilities. This is part of a larger cost-cutting plan related to the company's reduced business with Amazon.com and broader economic uncertainties. The layoffs and facility closures are expected to save UPS an estimated \$3.5 billion in 2025.

This is exactly what postal leadership wanted to do to postal workers, but our contract prevented them from laying off much of the workforce so instead they offered an early retirement incentive package.

Now the attack is on our postal pensions as part of the budget reconciliation process on Capitol Hill. They propose to: eliminate the FERS Social Security supplement,

which would probably eliminate anyone retiring before the age of 62; increase the FERS annuity contribution from 0.8% to 4.4% - this is a pay cut, there is no other way to say it; replace the high 3 with a high 5. This will probably cost the postal worker a couple of hundred dollars a month in retirement pay.

While we deserve higher wage increases, our top priority should be job security. I believe if the UPS workers were better educated, they would trade their wage increase for our job security!

I hope this is a wake-up call to the big picture, everything that shimmers is not GOLD! =

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Metro NY

#### **LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT:**

# Time for Action

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

cometimes people wonder if getting involved in the electoral system is worth the time and effort. People feel that it is a waste of time to call or write their elected representatives on even important issues. They are more than wrong. Not taking action is serving the interests of those who want to destroy unionized workers' ability to defend themselves. The oligarchs have unlimited funds to use against us. Our strength is that there are a lot more of us than there are of them.

When we see the cuts to federal and postal workers retirement included in the bill approved on April 30, by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform we can't stay inactive. This measure will now be included in the full reconciliation package which Republican leadership is aiming to hold a full House vote on sometime this month includes the following:

- Eliminating the FERS Social Security supplement, which allows workers who have earned their retirement the ability to retire before their Social Security benefits begin;
- Increasing the FERS annuity contribution rates for all active employees to 4.4%;
- Replacing the High-3 FERS annuity calculation with a High-5 calculation, resulting in a reduction in annuity payments.



The bill also includes the following attacks on federal workers:

- Charging a filing fee for Merit Systems Protection Board Claims and Appeals, and
- Forcing new hires in the federal workforce to choose between at-will employment or paying an increased FERS contribution rate of 9.4%. While this specific proposal does not currently apply to postal workers, it is a dangerous change to eliminate job security and protections from government service.

"Make no mistake, Congress" outrageous proposal intends to finance tax-cuts for the oligarchy with money from postal and federal workers' paychecks," said APWU President Mark Dimondstein. "We must act quickly and with the full force of the labor movement and our union membership to protect our pensions."

"The time to act is now to save our pensions," said APWU Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard. "We are actively engaging with lawmakers on this fight, but need each and every APWU member to pick

up the phone and call your member of Congress. Tell them to keep their hands off our pensions!"

We must take action. Visit apwu.org/call or dial 844-402-1001 to be connected to your House Representative and urge them to vote "no" to any cuts to federal and postal pensions.

And we must be ready to take similar action if this anti-postal worker legislation moves on to the Senate. We must take action. And you are not alone. There are postal workers in every region of this nation. That is our strength, and if we all take action together in contacting our elected officials we will see the positive results.

Please make these calls and make sure to get your co-workers, friends and family to do the same. It is essential for us to fight this fight. There is no reason for postal workers to be facing these cuts in our essential benefits at a time when at the same time, the current administration is looking for a \$150 billion increase in funding for the military to be paid for off the backs of working people.

> apwu.org/call 844-402-1001



# David P. Steiner to be the New Postmaster General of the United States

## -Worse than DeJoy?

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

ow, that the Postal Board of Governors has selected, as the new Postmaster General of the United States, David P. Steiner, an anti-union, privatizer, who sits on the board of FEDEX one of the top competitors of the Postal Service, one question should be asked. Why did Joe Biden, when he was still president, not name candidates for the vacancies on the Postal Board of Governors? Biden could have named public Postal Service advocates, who would have been opposed to the likes of Steiner as PMG. Why the hell did Biden



■ David P. Steiner, 76th Postmaster General and CEO of the United States Postal Service

leave the vacancies on the Postal Board for President Trump to fill?

David Steiner was proud of the fact that when he took over Waste Management as CEO, his then workforce, was made up of 32% union members he then reduced to 20% union members in the next ten years, because, "We have done a spectacular job of helping our union employees understand that being non-union can be better for you in virtually every circumstance." Financially, "We make sure that we do a very good job of treating our non-union employees as good or better than our union employees."

Mark Dimondstein, president of the American Postal Workers Union likened the appointment of Steiner to a fox guarding a hen house "FedEx has a very different agenda than the public postal service. And they're a major competitor of the United States Postal Service," he said. "I'm not talking about any attributes of an individual, but to me, that's the last type of person you will put in charge of the public institution as the anchor of the mailing package industry in the country."

Brian L. Renfroe, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, said Steiner is not just any executive from the private sector but someone who sits on the board of one of the Postal Service's top competitors.

"His selection isn't just a conflict of interest — it's an aggressive step toward handing America's mail system over to corporate interests," Renfroe said" Private shippers have been waiting to get USPS out of parcel delivery for years. Steiner's selection is an open invitation to do just that."

Renfroe accused Steiner of a corporate record at Waste Management of "union-busting, slashing jobs, and replacing workers with machines."

Don Maston, president of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, urged Steiner to "embrace the legacy" of "one of our nation's oldest and most trusted institutions" and its values to serve the entire country.

"The Postal Service is not a business in the traditional sense it is a national network that binds the country together, serving every American, no matter how remote their address," he said in statement.

National Postal Mail Handlers Union National President Paul V. Hogrogian, said, "We are anxious to see how Mr. Steiner will negotiate with our Union to protect our pay and benefits, ensure workplace safety, and fight any threats of privatization that would impact not only Mail Handlers but also postal customers."

Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski (D-IL 13 CD) "I've long fought to strengthen and improve the United States Postal Service for my constituents and have been outspoken against efforts to privatize the Postal Service. Now, we have a new Postmaster General who comes directly from one of the

Postal Service's chief competitors and has a record of opposing the right of workers to join a union. This raises real concerns about the direction Mr. Steiner may take the Postal Service, where over 91% of the workforce is unionized. Budzinski continued, "Let me be clear: keeping the Postal Service as a public good and defending the rights of postal employees are non-negotiable. Our mail carriers and postal workers are the backbone of communities across the nation. They are essential workers and everyday heroes w o deserve respect, fair treatment, and the resources needed to serve the public effectively."

The Washington Post conclud-

ed that along with the appointment of Steiner, "Trump has the power to immediately reshape the panel with five appointments: The board has four vacancies, plus a seat that is occupied temporarily. Trump announced plans to nominate Anthony Lomangino, a GOP financier, to one of those roles. That could give the White House sweeping new power over the mail service, including delivery standards, pricing and policing power."

Whatever problems former Postmaster DeJoy presented to postal workers and postal customers, the newly proposed Postmaster General David Steiner, appears to be a much greater threat.



■ FILE – US Mail is delivered at to an apartment complex in Pittsburgh on Thursday, April 3, 2025. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar, File)

# JOIN THE NEW YORK METRO AREA POSTAL UNION POLITICAL ACTION TEAM

ur most recent, successful action in defense of the public Postal Service took place on March 20, 2025, at JAF. We gathered in response to the recent attacks on the United States Postal Service. In attendance were many other unions showing their solidarity in defense of our cause. Our fellow sisters and brothers from other unions understand that the very existence of a vibrant post office requires the support of all people. To those of us in attendance, it was an incredible feeling to see the support of our fellow unionists. With that understanding, we, as a union, must realize that we must

return that solidarity in support of other unions in their time of need.

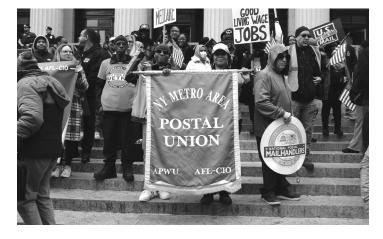
To facilitate the ability of the
New York Metro Area Postal Union
(NYMAPU) to respond in support of
our sisters and brothers from other
unions, the New York Metro Area
Postal Union Political Action Team
(PAT) has been formed. As a member
of the Political Action (PAT) you are
committed to being part of the force
that will represent NYMAPU at actions
put on by our fellow unionists when
you are able. The idea of having a
dynamic Political Action Team is so
that there will be sufficient membership

from NYMAPU to be able to attend functions with participation will not just fall on a few. The more members we have on the Political Action Team the stronger we will be and the easier it will be for PAT members to participate when they are able.

The NYMAPU Political Action
Team will not only strengthen New
York Metro but will strengthen the
entire New York City labor movement.
It is on us to make sure that NYMAPU
is part of the unity among New York
City union members that will grow a
strong union movement representing all
of labor in NYC.

If you are interested in being part of the dynamic NYMAPU Political Action Team, please contact **Diane Erlanger** at (212) 563-7553 x 105 or diane.erlanger@nymetro.org







# Representative Stephen F. Lynch and Ranking Member Steny Hoyer Mobilize to Combat Attacks on Federal and Postal Workers

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

ometimes it becomes difficult fighting the fight to maintain a public Postal Service and to defend the rights of postal and federal workers. To be successful in this fight, we need to be able to unite with others. And sometimes we find that we can actually rely on a few elected officials, who not only understand the fight, but are also willing to take action on our behalf. On May 14, 2025 Representative Stephen F. Lynch (D-MA) and Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD), the Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, called together a group of federal employee organizations and civil service groups to meet and coordinate their actions to fight against the oppressive provisions promoted within the Republican House Oversight Committee's Budget. In order to finance cuts for billionaires, the budget includes provisions to reduce workers' wages and retirement benefits and threaten the very job security of federal employees.

The group discussion of the organizations followed a full committee meeting and markup of the Reconciliation bill, which included twenty-five amendments submitted by Democrats to help protect workers, which un-

fortunately, but predictably were not supported by the Republicans on the Committee.

Judy Beard, APWU Legislative and Political Director clearly expressed the opposition to the cuts in workers' pension, ""No worker should have the benefits they were promised placed in jeopardy to finance tax cuts for the wealthy. We must also fight to keep these benefits intact since they encourage people to apply for jobs at the United States Postal Service."

Representative Lynch explained, "The Trump Administration's unprecedented assault on our civil service is creating a breakdown across federal agencies that Americans will feel for years to come. Unfortunately, the Republicans' reconciliation print is an effective greenlight for the Administration to continue to attack the federal workforce—it will reduce the pay of federal workers; it will break promises on entitled retirement benefits; it will deter current and federal employees from seeking justice against wrongful employment actions; and it will provide a back-door Schedule P/C, formerly known as Schedule F, to purge the federal workforce in Trump's favor." Lynch concluded, "Oversight Democrats are ready to solve the nation's

greatest crises, but we cannot in good conscience do that by sacrificing the well-being of federal employees and the quality of the federal civilian workforce. That's why we must continue to stand up against Oversight Republicans' reconciliation proposals."

Groups included in the discussion were made up of representatives from: AFL-CIO; American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE); American Postal Workers Union (APWU); Democracy Forward; FAA Managers Association (FAAMA); International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF); International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE); National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE); National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE-IAM); National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU); National Association of Letter Carrier (NALC); National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU): National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA); Senior Executives Association, Professional Managers Association, and National Association of Assistant U.S. Attorneys; Service **Employees International Union** (SEIU); and Federal Managers Association (FMA).

# Unions Must Be Protected

By Jonathan Smith, President of NY Metro Area Postal Union

early 8700 APWU represented employees applied for early retirement under the MOU [One-time Retirement Incentive]. The Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) is a voluntary incentive offered to employees to encourage early retirement. With so many people retiring at one time, the workforce has gotten much younger. Many of these young workers have little understanding of what role the APWU plays and the direct impact that the union has on their day-to-day lives. They also have limited knowledge of the importance that the labor movement plays. The impact of the VERA on USPS operations will also be significant.

Many young workers do not know how much struggle took place to get them the benefits that they are enjoying today. With that in mind, it would be productive to focus on some of the history that makes up the legacy current workers are now part of.

Here is some history extracted from APWU.org:

"Postal unions, dating back to the 19th Century, have experienced a number of transitions, paralleling the growth of the former Post Office Department, which became the U.S. Postal Service in 1970. Upon the creation of the USPS, postal unions were allowed to bargain collectively over wages and conditions for the first time.

The early unions had essentially no bargaining rights — they existed largely as lobbying organizations that otherwise would have had no say about their working conditions. Wage increases depended on the whim of Congress.

As a result, postal workers were chronically underpaid. In March 1970, full-time employees earned about \$6,200 to start, and workers with 21 years of service averaged only \$8,440 — barely enough to make ends meet at that time. In fact, many postal workers qualified for food stamps.

The sporadic raises they did receive never seemed to amount to much, particularly in high-cost urban areas. From 1967 to 1969, postal wages were not increased at all, although Congress did raise its own pay 41 percent during that time. In 1968, the Kappel Commission, a special panel that had been studying postal reform during President Johnson's administration, concluded that postal workers deserved the same collective bargaining rights afforded to private-sector workers under the National Labor Relations Act. Congress failed to act on the commission's recommendation."

The response by workers eventually led to the successful nationwide strike in 1970 which culminated in the adoption of the Postal Reorganization Act granting unions the right to negotiate with management over their wages, benefits, and working conditions. Since that first contract more than five decades ago, APWU has fought for dignity and respect on the job for the workers we represent, as well as for decent pay and benefits and safe working conditions.

A significant majority of young Americans, approve of labor unions. Young workers are increasingly concerned about issues beyond wages and job security, such as AI, mental health, flexible work schedules, and paid leave, and they see unions addressing these issues.

One of the ironic results of the current White House administration's mass firing of federal workers is that the union has proven its worth through its aggressive protection of bargaining unit workers. Young workers are realizing that unions are their only protection from the unemployment line. Unions are their weapon they must use to fight back against corporate greed.

The union is the difference between bargaining and begging for better pay, benefits, and working conditions. The union is the best hope for the next generation of the working class.

Unions must be protected- Unions enable workers to bargain collectively with employers, giving them a stronger voice and greater influence over workplace conditions.

Unions must be protected- Unions are a crucial mechanism for workers to address grievances, negotiate for better terms of employment, and ensure a safe and fair workplace.

Unions must be protected- Unionized workers often earn higher wages and receive better benefits compared to non-union workers.

Unions must be protected- Unions help to reduce income inequality by advocating for fair wages and benefits for all workers.

Unions must be protected- Negotiated contracts protect employees from being terminated without cause.

#### "With the union I will stand, until you take my union card, out my cold, dead hands!"

# Kevin Yoder (Not Yoda): Fighting to Keep the Postal Service Public

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

evin Yoder is a former Republican congressman from Kansas (2011 to 2019), who may be best known for his taking a nude swim in the Sea of Galilee during a fact finding trip. He addressed that behavior to his constituents by stating, "It is my greatest honor to represent the people of Kansas in Congress and [for] any embarrassment I have caused for my colleagues and constituents, I apologize." Yoder was the youngest Republican appointed to the House Appropriations Committee. He eventually, may have lost his seat to Democrat Sharice Davids, a Native American and openly LGBT candidate, because of the strong endorsement that he received from President Trump in his last campaign.

Kevin Yoder is now the executive director of Keep Us Posted, a broadbased advocacy group of consumers, nonprofits, newspapers, greeting card publishers, magazines, catalogs, forestry and recycling interests, and small businesses dedicated to promoting the value of postal mail and protecting the long-term health of the U.S. Postal Service. "Keep Us Posted" believes that a reliable, affordable U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is essential to our way of life and should be protected.

Yoder in a recent interview in DC, stated that, "'Keep US Posted' is a new organization that we created last year out of concern among Americans—both folks in business and

industry and ordinary citizens—that Congress wasn't paying enough attention to Postal Service issues. For a long time, Congress has been putting off dealing with the issue of postal reform, which has led to problems with the budget and operations of the Postal Service. We know the Postal Service is one of America's most trusted institutions. It has been around since the country's beginnings—the Constitution even states that Congress has a responsibility to manage and maintain the Postal Service. So, it is a critical service that delivers to 161 million addresses daily, and it is the only carrier that is required to deliver to every address no matter how remote and how rural."

Yoder during his four terms in Congress, often spoke of the importance of the Postal Service, "The U.S. Postal Service is the only institution capable of going the last mile to reach and serve every American, but now it needs our help," Yoder said. "Nearly everywhere I go, I hear people talking about their mail — even rent, bills and prescription medications — being late and pricier to send. Americans value our Postal Service, especially after COVID-19. They want it to keep going, and "Keep US Posted" will give them a platform to elevate their voices and feelings to decision-makers. We look forward to working with USPS management and other policymakers to make consumer voices

heard and ensure a reliable, affordable mail system."

"Keep Us Posted" is currently strongly supporting H.R. 3004, "The USPS Services Enhancement and Regulatory Viability Expansion and Sustainability for the U.S. Act" (USPS SERVES US Act). The proposed bill empowers USPS regulators (the Postal Regulatory Commission, or PRC) to stop USPS decisions that are hurting its ability to serve the American people and driving it into financial ruin." Keep Us Posted is asking the public to "take a moment to send an email to your member of Congress and encourage them to support the USPS SERVES US Act (H.R. 3004). It only takes a moment to make a difference because Congress must take action to stop USPS mismanagement — and you can help support the new legislation we need!"

In March 2025, Kevin Yoder stated, "The U.S. Postal Service does indeed need meaningful change, and we stand ready to help with efforts to protect mail delivery. Americans are frustrated with the U.S. Postal Service because it's essential to our daily lives. . . We also need to modernize the structure of USPS so that it is more efficient and accountable. Now is the time to create a more reliable, affordable Postal Service for all Americans."

#### **POSTAL PRIDE**

The Office of the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service came out with a FOCUS ON report in May 2025 entitled, "Focus on the Value of USPS to the Country. "Ever since its creation, the Postal Service has added value to the country in numerous ways. The last few years have demonstrated the value of USPS providing mail and packages, especially in rural areas. USPS's value to the country, actually extends well beyond providing mail. Our work in this area has identified some of the key benefits".

The report includes, <sup>2</sup>The Postal Service's vast retail network provides easy access to postal services for households and small businesses and provides a government presence in local communities. While USPS already provides some governmental services, such as passports, there are opportunities for it to expand these offerings.

The Office of the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service came out with a FOCUS ON report in April 2025 entitled, "The Importance of the Postal Service in Rural Areas" which includes, "In response to the ongoing concern about postal services in rural areas, the OIG has published a series of reports on this topic. We found that rural postal customers value and have a greater interest in using the mail compared to urban customers. The relative size of rural areas is important. Rural areas are geographically dispersed across the country and comprise 88 percent of the area served by the Postal Service. While people living in rural areas account for only 16 percent of the United States population, 57 percent of post offices are in rural areas.



Historically, when USPS made changes to its network, Congress worked to ensure the changes do not disadvantage rural areas. For example, in 1914, in response to rural delivery running an estimated \$40 million deficit, the Post Office Department considered contracting out rural delivery to the lowest bidder. Congress put a stop to this initiative due to concerns over rural customers getting a different type of postal service than urban customers".

USPS has historically played a vital role in helping the country respond to and recover from national disasters, including providing delivery of essential goods during the covid pandemic. And carriers often go above the call of duty and assist the sick and elderly along their delivery routes.

#### Postal News Briefs

## Contract Negotiations Between APWU and Postal Management

The APWU is now seven months past the Sept. 20, 2024, expiration of our contract. As of May 14, the APWU is considering one of two paths: we will either have a new voluntary agreement, which will have been presented to the Rank & File Bargaining Advisory Committee, per the APWU Constitution, for its decision on whether to put it out to a vote of the entire membership. Or alternatively, we will have begun the process of interest arbitration to determine the provisions of a new contract.

## Amazon May Be Preparing to Take Over If Trump Gets His Privatized Postal Service

Within Amazon CEO Andy Jassy's annual letter to company stockholders there was a strong passage documenting Amazon's keen interest in capitalizing on the privatization of the Postal Service. Jassy made it clear that he wanted to make sure that Amazon was first in line to take advantage of any move to privatize the USPS. Jassy takes pride in all that Amazon has invested in developing AI in preparation for expanding same-day and overnight delivery.

#### Postal Service Joins Trump's Immigration Enforcement Efforts

The U.S. Postal Service has reportedly joined efforts to stop illegal immigration, following a directive from President Trump to use all federal law enforcement resources to crack down on immigrants living in the country illegally. The Washington Post the Postal Inspection Service had "quietly begun cooperating with federal immigration officials to locate people suspected of being in the country illegally."

#### \$3.3B Postal Service loss

U.S. Postal Service, in the second quarter, ended up with a net loss more than doubling to \$3.3 billion from \$1.5 billion year over year. The negative growth comes on the heels of a rare profit in the first quarter. The adjusted loss also more than doubled to \$848 million from \$317 million for the same quarter last year. In the first quarter, the Postal Service had controllable income of \$968 million.

#### APWU LOCAL BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance March 1, 2025	\$ 478,411.47
Total Revenue March 2025	\$ 167,719.45
Operating Expenses March 2025	\$ 111,243.97
Total Net Income March 2025	\$ 56,475.48
Ending Balance March 31, 2025	\$ 534,886.95

Beginning Balance April 1, 2025\$	534,886.95
Total Revenue April 2025\$	204,205.26
Operating Expenses April 2025\$	198,137.33
Total Net Income April 2025\$	6,067.93
Ending Balance April 30, 2025\$	540,954.88

#### **CALENDAR**

#### Wednesday, June 18

5:30pm General Membership Meeting Via ZOOM

\*\*There is no General Membership Meeting in July & August

# **ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS** *Members Only!*

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

SISTERS! As an APWU member, you are a member of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R.

(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 on the 4th Thursday of every month at 1:00pm. Because of social distancing concerns, Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization, and Chairperson of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R, told the Union Mail that we would be holding the P.O.W.E.R. meetings on ZOOM at a later time -- 5:30 pm.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, June 25
ZOOM Meeting ID #239-026-1053

[Follow ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.]



# The Union Mail is interviewing for the position of Associate Editor.

To schedule an interview, contact Chuck Zlatkin at chuck.zlatkin@nymetro.org or (917) 693-9427.

<sup>\*\*</sup>For news, upcoming events and more, visit our website at nymetro.org



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