



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.

NOT FOR SALE! HALT WELLS FARGO Rally on July 25th



pg. 7

Power & Unity

Labor Day Parade & March
Saturday, September 6th, 2025



pg. 8-9

Our greatest weapon is our attitude



Jonathan Smith management and politicians but a negative attitude.

How do we develop a winning attitude? By being around positive people!!!!

Don’t you hate it when someone (a negative person) is around you and they have nothing good to say about any place, person or thing? They drain your energy and distort your outlook on life. My mentor would always tell me that there is always something to be grateful for. Getting caught in a cycle of negativity is easy, but having a positive outlook takes work and can make all the difference in how you feel about yourself and how you approach challenging situations.

Positive people are full of energy, vibrancy, and optimism. Being around them can encourage and uplift us. If you have a positive attitude, you’ll always find the good in every situation and are more likely to turn setbacks into opportunities that will make you grow.

To achieve success in life, it’s important to have a clear vision. Often, our vision can be clouded by negative thoughts and emotions. However, when we surround ourselves with positive people, we develop a proactive mindset. This helps us to focus on self-growth and inner development, rather than getting caught up in unnecessary and energy-consuming conversations about others which often happen on the workroom floor. I realize when I dive

deeper into these conversations the problem is not at work; it brings what’s going on at home to work!

I am always mindful about the messages and energy that I convey to the membership. There always must be a message of hope within the apparent despair. If the leadership feels like we have no chance of stopping management’s attempts at privatization, excessing, hostile work environments, etc...., what reason does the membership have to fight?

One thing I learned about having a positive attitude is that instead of your circumstances having power over you, a positive attitude can give you power and control over it. Having a positive attitude has made a big difference in my life. When I approach challenges with optimism, I am more likely to find solutions and stay motivated. A good attitude helps me build better relationships, whether at work, at home, or with friends.

For example: if I face a difficult task, instead of giving up, I will see it as an opportunity to learn and grow. I believe that mistakes are part of the learning process. This mindset makes it easier for me to handle stress and stay focused on goals. This also keeps me humble knowing I can’t expect perfection, once I admit to my own mistakes!

When there are positive influences around me. When I smile and stay cheerful, people are more likely to feel comfortable and happy. This creates a more friendly environment, conducive to solutions, whether at home or in the workplace.

To develop a positive attitude, I practice gratitude. I think about the good things in my life (my family, friends, job) and I’m thankful for them. I also surround myself with supportive people who inspire and motivate me.

In conclusion, having a positive attitude is a powerful tool for success and happiness. It can help you overcome difficulties and create a better life for yourself and those around you. This philosophy is called serenity, finding peace in the midst of the storm.

In life, I have experienced love, loss, hurt, trust, hate, missing people, mistakes, overcoming obstacles and through all of it, I am still here learning. It’s all a part of this thing we call life!

Surround yourself with individuals who have a positive attitude toward life. It will motivate, encourage, and uplift you to reach your fullest potential at work and at home.

How do you change your entire life without changing anything in your life? Change your perspective! ☑

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Chuck Zlatkin, editor
Francesca Adams, graphic designer

www.nymetro.org

To contact your officers, call 212.563.7553.

President	
Jonathan Smith	Ext. 108
Executive Vice President	
Joseph Martir	Ext. 110
Dir. Ind Relations	
Edward Dalton	Ext. 106
Secretary-Treasurer	
Denisha Dobbins	Ext. 107
Dir. Organization	
Diane Erlanger	Ext. 105



LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT:

Time for Action

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

On June 24, 2025 the House Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing, “Route Forward for the U. S. Postal Service: A View from Stakeholders.” While it was clear that members of the House recognized the respect that most Americans have for the Postal Service, they were clear, also, that many Americans are suffering from poor service from the USPS and the members of the House also focused on the fact that the USPS continues to lose money. There was bi-partisan concern and a strong sense that the new Postmaster General must aim to get the Postal Service to be financially self-sufficient and fulfill its responsibility to serve the American public. Those invited to testify included: Paul Steidler, Senior Fellow from the Lexington Institute; Jim Cochrane, CEO of the Package Shippers Association; Mike Plunkett, CEO and President of the Association for Postal Commerce; Thomas Schatz, President of Citizens Against Government Waste; Elena Spatoulas Patel, Assistant Professor from the Marriner Eccles Institute for Economics and Quantitative Analysis of the University of Utah; and Brian Renfroe, President of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC). Virtually all of the witnesses were careful to state that they were not advancing that the Postal Service should be privatized. They were in agreement that no one could do a better job of the last mile delivery done by the Postal Service’s letter carriers. But there was also an almost unified sentiment that much of what else the Postal Service does could be handled more efficiently

by private entities. In other words, if these witnesses had their way, the NALC would be safe, but workers from the APWU would have many of their jobs taken away and awarded to private companies.

Recently, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Rand Paul (R-KY) revised the text of several of his anti-postal and federal employee proposals to comply with the “Byrd Rule.” The revised text would increase FERS contributions by 5% for federal and postal employees who are first hired on or after January 1, 2026. In addition, the revised text would impose a \$350 user-fee on employees who seek due process relief through the Merit Systems Protect Board. The “Byrd Rule” is a Senate procedural rule that limits what can be included in budget reconciliation bills. It prevents “extraneous” matters from being added, which helps streamline the legislative process for budget-related legislation.

Paul withdrew certain elements that were originally presented as

part of the proposed legislation. The auctioning off of USPS newly purchased electric vehicles was removed. There was no longer a provision to create a category of at-will hires. The elimination of the FERS Supplemental was also removed. The proposed change in the CSRS/FERS formula for retirement no longer exists. There is no longer a provision to change the CSRS/FERS retirement formula. But what still exists in the legislation is bad enough to make sure that postal and federal workers are vocal in their resistance to this bill. Anyone who supports this legislation should be denied support in the future.

With Louis DeJoy no longer Postmaster General of the United States voices are grower louder to pull back his signature work, the ten-year plan Delivering for America. The failures and delays have garnered much criticism for DeJoy and his plan. It will be interesting to see how the new PMG will deal with DFA. Will he continue it without objection or will he make seemingly needed changes? ☑



Trump, Steiner, Congress and the future of a public Postal Service



By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

It is more than obvious that there are some strong forces that want to privatize the United States Postal Service. One look at countries that have already made the move to privatization has shown that what immediately happens when a post office is privatized is that service diminishes and costs increase. You would think with that track record there wouldn't be much of a push for privatization, but with corporate interests only concerned with increasing their profits and not giving a damn about service to the public, a well-financed campaign to privatize the USPS exists. It is no secret what President Donald Trump has felt about the efficacy of postal privatization.

Martha Diaz Aszkenazy is the chair of the National Newspaper Association and also the publisher of The San Fernando Valley (California) Sun/El Sol Newspapers wrote an editorial where she stated that, "The United States Postal Service is on the brink of a self-induced collapse. The failed policies of the Delivering for America Plan have driven away customers through a combination of sky-high rate increases and degraded service."

Aszkenazy suggests that there are three actions that the Congress

must take to keep the Postal Service as the vital part of America that it is. These are the actions she has come up with:

1. Demand the USPS Board halt the Delivering for America Plan including the large rate increase planned for July 13, 2025. This increase, far above the rate of inflation will only deepen the hole and ties the hands of incoming Postmaster General David Steiner, who should have the opportunity to assess the situation. The same holds true for the network consolidations and service cuts. Every customer that is lost through these increases and service reductions is one less Steiner can rely on in the future.

2. Modernize and empower the USPS regulator. Effective checks and balances are needed to keep the USPS on track. Congress needs to update and modernize the postal regulatory process to better safeguard against excessive rates and poor service by passing H.R. 3004, The USPS SERVES US Act.

3. Measure newspaper costs accurately. Congress should

compel accurate measurement of newspaper service and hold the USPS accountable for maintaining and improving service quality by enacting H.R. 2098/S.1002, the Deliver for Democracy Act.

Aszkenazy may have more hope in Steiner than he deserves, but her concerns are justified. The main question is whether Steiner has enough independence to turn his back on DeJoy's DFA plan or, even if he has the power to do so, whether he wants to at all. It is peculiar that the USPS would be opening up to DOGE representatives just before Steiner takes power.

"In March, DeJoy sent a letter to lawmakers explaining that DOGE would only be authorized to work with his agency on matters related to USPS retirement plans, workers compensation costs, congressional liaisoning regarding costs incurred by legislative mandates, reforms to its regulatory requirements, retail lease renewals, business opportunities with other federal agencies and counterfeit postage."

Prior to taking office this year, Trump suggested he might seek to privatize the USPS. We can recall that postal privatization was in

Trump's first term agenda, as well. Trump did say in February, that the Postal Service would continue to exist as a public entity. Elon Musk, DOGE's initiator had said that the USPS should be privatized.

There was growing concern about Trump's announced use of the USPS Postal Inspection Service

(USPIS) to aid the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in Trump's policing of immigration. Democrats on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee wrote in a letter to Postal Service leaders stating "We are deeply concerned that the partner-

ship between USPIS and DHS is not only an improper use of USPIS personnel but will also significantly detract from USPIS's critical mission of addressing the present and increasing threats of mail theft and fraud, and attacks against our Postal workforce."

Vinny Alvarez Retires as President of the New York City Central Labor Council

On July 1, 2025 Vincent "Vinny" Alvarez retired as the President of the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO (NYCCLC). Vinny served as the first full-time President of the NYCCLC since he took office in 2011. He was also the first Latino President. Vinny has helped build the New York City Labor movement as he led the re-creation of the nation's largest regional Labor federation. Under his leadership the NYCCLC has positively dealt with some of the most pressing events that New Yorkers in the labor movement have had to face. Under his leadership the NYCCLC made sure that labor was at the forefront in dealing with the impact of Superstorm Sandy and the COVID-19 pandemic on New Yorkers. Vinny provided that labor was leading the fight for responsible economic development and was a major force in confronting the rising tide of inequality.

During Alvarez's reign, the NYCCLC has consistently cham-

pioned the fight for higher wages, retirement security, and adequately funded public services. The NYCCLC has supported critical efforts to organize workers in both emerging and existing industries, and stood in solidarity during strikes, contract fights, and mobilizations across sectors. More recently, under his leadership, the NYCCLC has assisted in coordinating Labor's response to the anti-worker agenda of the federal government, and continues to build collective power to confront the challenges of tomorrow.

"Vinny Alvarez was a true friend to NYMAPU and was also there when he was needed to be on our behalf. Vinny truly understood what our members contributed to the Labor movement and what they had to endure in the jobs they performed. Vinny Alvarez was a great Labor leader and a stand-up human being. He truly will be missed."

-Jonathan Smith



■ Former NYC-CLC President Vinny Alvarez

Postal workers fighting back against Trump's attacks

By Chuck Zlatkin,
Legislative and Political Director

Sometimes when we are asked to make calls to our legislators on behalf of legislation that impacts the Postal Service, postal workers or unions in general, it seems like a bother that won't impact the vote anyway. But most recently when the House of Representatives narrowly passed the reconciliation bill after it passed the Senate with all the attacks on postal workers stricken from the bill, we had a victory. This victory only happened because enough of us called our elected representatives and made it clear to them that the attacks on postal workers' retirement had to be eliminated from the bill.

Of course, what was billed as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act was just plain ugly when it gives \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts to the ultra-rich that was subsidized by workers. The ugly bill cuts Medicaid, food assistance, green-energy programs, while it increases military spending and heaps more tax breaks on the richest of Americans.

This was a big victory for Republicans, but it didn't come off the backs of postal workers. Our ability to act collectively paid big dividends for us. We need to remember this victory and use it to spur similar campaigns when needed to fight off the attacks on postal workers which are sure to come.

It should be noted that there were a few Republicans in the House and Senate who broke with their party and joined the opposition to this anti-postal worker legislation. In the House Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA) and Thomas Massie (KY) voted against this ugly

bill. In the Senate, Susan Collins (ME), Rand Paul (KY) and Thom Tillis (NC) voted against.

The Senate ended in a tie vote, which was broking by Vice President J.D. Vance's vote. It was then headed on to the president where it would be signed and become law.

Because of our efforts the truly horrendous provisions that were originally included in the bill were eliminated. Our actions prevented an increase in FERS annuity contribution to 4.4%, which would in effect be a pay cut for those hired before 2014. It would have also replaced the High 3-FERS annuity calculation with a High-5 which would have resulted in a reduction of annuity payments. There was also eliminating the FERS Social Security supplement which enables workers to have the ability to retire before their Social Security begins. It also included increasing FERS contributions for new hires, establishing a filing fee for the Merit Systems Protection Board Claims and Appeals.

"This was a direct result of APWU member activism and shows our collective power," said APWU Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard. "I want to thank every member who picked up the phone, sent an email, wrote a letter, or who personally met with their member of Congress. You have shown that even when the odds are stacked against us, we can win!"

APWU President Mark Dimondstein stated, "We are pleased that through concerted efforts, including from our members and the APWU, the major attacks on federal and postal retirement benefits were stripped out of the final package. But let's be clear: Congress shamefully voted for a massive transfer of wealth from the working and low-income people to make permanent \$4 trillion in tax breaks for corporate America, Wall Street and the fat cats. It should never be acceptable to reward those who need it the least by taking away Medicaid health care benefits, nutritional assistance and educational support from those who need it the most." 📧



HALT WELLS FARGO: Rally on July 24, 2025

We joined outside the Wells Fargo on 39th St and 7th Ave to STOP WELLS FARGO and their heinous effort to privatize our United States' public post office. It is Wall Street vs. Main Street. The U.S. mail? NOT FOR SALE!

Thank you to all members, employees, customers, and supporters of our great USPS for coming out in solidarity to this fantastic rally.



Labor Day and the Labor Day Parade



This year's parade will be Saturday, September 6th.

It is important that New York Metro Area Postal Union (NYMAPU) has a strong showing at this year's Labor Day Parade on Saturday, September 6, 2025. Postal workers and all of labor are a major target of the anti-labor Trump Administration. Trump and his lackies have made no secret of their antipathy for a public Postal Service and unionized postal workers. If they could have their way the Postal Service would have been already privatized with postal workers replaced by non-union workers earning far lower wages.

The Trump Administration, postal management, and right-wing elected officials will be watching to see how big the Labor Day Parade is and which unions are participating, and in what numbers. One of the biggest fears of the elites is a growing, militant movement of workers.

If you care about your job, your working conditions, and your future retirement, it is important that you attend this year's Labor Day Parade. And it is as important that you make sure your co-workers turn out and that you all bring your relatives, friends and neighbors to show support for a public Postal Service which serves all.

In the 19th century, working people were employed as laborers

in factories, mills, and mines where they worked long hours under very dangerous conditions. Employees, including children, were often required to work 12 or more hours a day, six days a week, in crowded, poorly ventilated spaces.

Labor Day and the Labor Day Parade has an important history that has impacted working people for generations. The first Labor Day Parade was held on the first Monday in September 1882 in New York City at Union Square. There was no holiday. People risked their jobs to attend the parade. Yes, 10,000 workers walked off their jobs to attend.

Workers were making a statement. Thousands of workers representing many trades, holding their union banners, accompanied by marching bands were making their concerns known.

Remember, there were no labor laws. Workers were demanding workers' rights including an 8-hour workday, an end to child labor and equal pay for women.

The Labor Day holiday was created because of the power of the labor movement. Business owners reluctantly had to begin to accept workers' demands for better treatment as time passed. In 1914, Henry Ford doubled the wages of his workers to

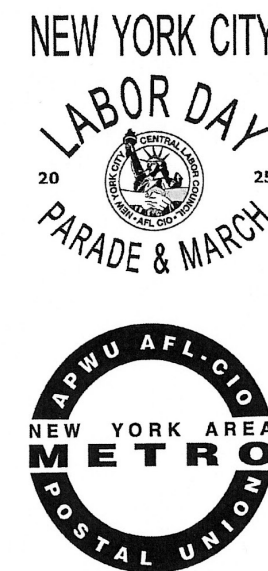
\$5 a day. He then cut workers work time from nine hours to eight hours a day in 1926. This wasn't a gift of charity by Ford, his profit doubled in two years.

During the New Deal, in 1938, the Fair Labor Standards Act was passed which limited child labor, set up the minimum wage, and mandated a shorter workweek with overtime pay for longer hours. By the 1940s the normal week for workers was established as five eight-hour days.

These were direct results of the work of a militant labor movement. We need to keep this in mind. The first Labor Day Parade was viewed by over 20,000 people and it was a huge success. People around the country were hearing the call for workers' rights and those in power needed to act, in 1894, President Grover Cleveland moved to make Labor Day a national holiday.

Our struggle continues and the need for public displays of who we are and what we are demanding, is as important now as ever. Make no mistake, the significance of our participation in the 2025 Labor Day Parade is vital to the protection of our jobs, benefits, and our place in society as respected postal workers. ☐

JOIN NEW YORK METRO AT THE LABOR DAY PARADE & MARCH



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 2025

**PLEASE MEET BY 9:45AM AT
44TH STREET BETWEEN
5TH AND 6TH AVENUE**

FOOD AND WATER WILL BE PROVIDED

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

Stephen Starring Grant, 50, had, what he thought was, a secure career, as a seasoned marketing consultant. He ran a behavioral economics lab, collaborated with best-selling academics, and gave talks at important conferences. But then in March of 2020 he was laid off. He had cancer and immediately needed health insurance, so he got a job with the Postal Service knowing that in addition to those important benefits he would be with an employer who wouldn't be going out of business. In addition, he found himself back home in his old hometown in Virginia, now working as a rural letter carrier.

Grant shares with us all the aspects of his experience in a book he wrote, "Mailman - My Wild Ride Delivering the Mail in Appalachia and Finally Finding Home" published by Simon and Schuster. The book is described as "an exuberant, hilarious, and profound memoir by a mailman in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, who found that working for the post office saved his life, taught him who he was, gave him purpose, and educated him deeply about a country he loves but had lost touch with."

Grant counters all the recent negatives aimed at the Postal Service from President Donald Trump's administration. Trump had expressed a desired to fire the members of the Postal Board of Governors as a first step toward privatizing the Postal Service. Grant lets us see how deeply Americans are touched by the Postal Service, so much more than any other government agency.

Grant fully understands the role of the Postal Service in America. The nation is more than just the people who live in it. It is how they connect with each other that matters most. The means of communication, therefore, is of great importance. What the Postal Service does is vital. His respect for the women and men who do the work is great. They walk that last mile to deliver the mail no matter what. He himself, on his brief time on the job, got knocked unconscious, almost got hypothermia, and deals with angry dogs and emotionally disturbed people.

Grant lets us know that he thinks it is all worth it because postal work connects people to their community, which gave him great satisfaction being of service to the community. To Grant the Postal Service is far from being outdated; it remains an essential part of our nation.

Postal News Briefs

APWU Approves New Contract with 95% Voting in Favor

The American Postal Workers Union on Thursday approved a three-year labor contract through Sept. 20, 2027, with 95% of the membership who voted, voting in favor.

Union officials touted no-layoff protections, cost-of-living-adjustments and general wage increases for the next three years. "Every member should be very proud of this huge accomplishment," said APWU President Mark Dimondstein in a statement. "Our power at the bargaining table was driven by the strength of your solidarity and unity, the foundation of our union."

Trump's hiring freeze has jeopardized postal workers' health care

Trump administration's hiring freeze and efforts to drastically reduce the size of the federal workforce includes undergirding the U.S. Postal Service's new employer-sponsored health benefits program. It could fail as a result of the President Trump's hiring freeze which interfered with the hiring of IT workers to take over the PSHB's underlying data platform from a government contractor. And the deferred resignation program took away even more employees who were slated to work on it.

USPS: Should it become a private business? Or is it an essential part of America as is?

President Trump has reportedly called the USPS "incompetent" and "untrustworthy." Dr. Parker Sheppard, a research fellow for The Heritage Foundation's Center for Data Analysis says that the remedy is to "sell off the post office and allow it to run as a private business," opening core mail and package markets to full competition and ending congressional price and service controls." Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D-MD) tells the Congressional Subcommittee on Government Operations, "The Postal Service has an immense duty dating back to its creation—it powers communities and businesses, it keeps Americans healthy, it reinforces democracy, and it bridges geographical, economic, and cultural divides."

Postal workers want to know, "Where does the new PMG stand on privatization?"

An uncertainty that postal workers are worried about is whether or not the new Postmaster General is considering privatizing the Postal Service, which has been rumored over the past year. "There's always going to be concern with it, especially when he comes from FedEx. FedEx is a good company, an efficient company. FedEx used to fly a lot of the USPS mail. Will he lean towards doing privatizing or something similar to that that he feels would be more efficient, more cost-effective?"

APWU LOCAL BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance May 1, 2025	\$ 540,954.88
Total Revenue May 2025	\$ 130,017.53
Operating Expenses May 2025	\$ 110,809.05
Total Net Income May 2025	\$ 19,208.48
Ending Balance May 31, 2025	\$ 560,163.36

Beginning Balance June 1, 2025	\$ 560,163.36
Total Revenue June 2025	\$ 167,906.87
Operating Expenses June 2025	\$ 460,439.78
Total Net Income June 2025	\$ (292,532.91)
Ending Balance June 30, 2025	\$ 267,630.45

CALENDAR

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

Wednesday, September 17

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***

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, September 24
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.**



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