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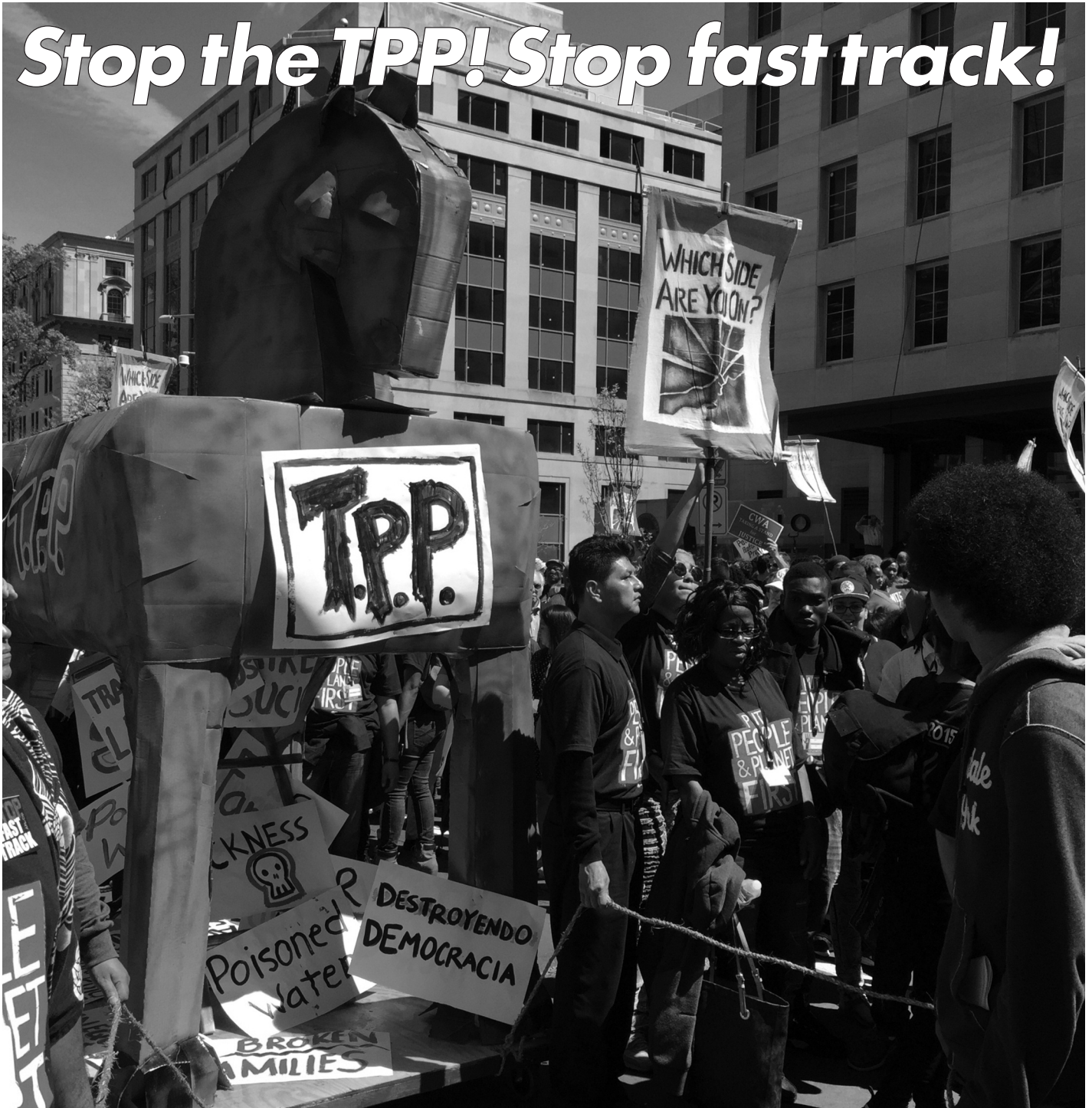
# Union Mail

Vol. 58 No. 4 | May/June 2015

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.

## Stop the TPP! Stop fast track!



What is the TPP? Why are we against it? See article pp. 6/7

# Postal workers: Get ready to go to war



**Jonathan Smith**

**A** lot of things are happening that will test your mettle.

Many of the old and experienced managers are leaving. A lot of the new folks have no knowledge or commitment to the mission of the US Postal Service.

They are only concerned with making a name for themselves and will step over, around or on anyone who gets in the way. Very arrogant. Very nasty. No respect for our workers or our contract.

At the same time, in March, the Postal Service unilaterally decided to drop clerk scheme requirements. Dropping schemes sounds like something positive, but, in fact, it is a path to creating a “universal postal worker” who can be used anywhere at management’s will. With no schemes, for example, management will claim that Mail Handlers can perform clerk duties. Their goal is to create a wedge between the crafts and turn us against each other at a time when there is a building alliance among postal unions. Inter-craft fighting would have a negative impact on any positive postal legislation and on the APWU contract negotiations with the USPS.

Our contract is up May 20th. We are at the eleventh hour and in mid-April, the Postal Service has not yet presented a financial package to the Union.

They will come with a team of lawyers, economists, and technicians, prepared to convince an arbi-

trator that the USPS is broke. They will also come loaded with employee surveys – Voice of the Employee or Pulse or whatever they call it – to show that we “LOVE” our wages, hours, and working conditions. The Union has put the word out to refuse to fill these out: “Don’t let them take your Pulse!” They are not a legitimate survey of workers’ opinions, but a tool to use against us in negotiations. Management purposely hands them to each worker to intimidate people into filling them out. The post office uses them to play to the arbitrator.

The USPS will also stress that they are paying large sums in overtime and out-of-schedule premium caused by the Network Rationalization plan. Since January, the Postal Service has made no effort to correct this situation. At arbitration, they will blame the union and the contract rules for their financial situation.

The contract goes before an arbitrator if we are not able to come to a negotiated agreement. Both sides are supposed to bargain in good faith. So far, the Postal Service has been unreasonable on the big issues. As part of this hard line, the USPS is going forward with their consolidation plan regardless. Plants will be closing as early as June 2015.

We’ve been lucky. During our three years in office, we have not had a single person involuntarily excessed out of the installation. But we will feel the impact of plant closings in other ways.

Both Queens and Stamford, CT. are slated for consolidation. Since they are within a 50 mile radius of

installations represented by our local, Article 12 mandates that any residual vacancies in our area have to be with-held so that there are landing spots for excessed employees.

We must defend these rights for our brothers and sisters. The career employees coming here involuntarily will not be happy. Some will be forced into retirement. Others will make the long trek to keep food on their family’s table.

Over the last 8 months, we were very successful in getting PSEs converted to career. But the Article 12 with-holdings means there will be no opportunity for conversions in the near future.

The USPS consolidations are hurting everyone—the most senior and most junior workers.

This is a fight for survival. We have to go to war. ☒

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# All hands on deck!

By Tiffany Foster, Executive Vice-President



**Tiffany Foster**

**C**ontract negotiations began on February 19, 2015, and APWU is fighting for its members to have a fair contract and provide a good service to the American public.

Since then, APWU President Mark Dimondstein has been doing what hasn't been done before; he's keeping the members informed about the progress of negotiations via Town Hall Calls and APWU.org (members only section). May 6, 2015, was the third Town Hall Call members were invited to take part in. NY Metro leadership sent Flashes to stations and plants encouraging members to register for this opportunity to get first-hand information about contract negotiations. If you missed the Town Hall Call, don't worry. In between Town Hall Calls, President Dimondstein posts on the APWU.org website an update of the negotiations and how you can get involved to help fight for a fair contract.

While on the website, APWU.org has a lot of information posted regarding all crafts. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the website, and if you haven't read the Collective Bargaining Agreement, we suggest you do. An informed and educated membership is a strong membership. It's one thing to say they are violating my rights and another thing to actually know that they are

instead of thinking they are.

Look out for information coming to your station and facility regarding the National Day of Action on May 14, 2015. On this day all across the country, APWU, its sister unions and supporters will be conducting press conferences and/or passing out flyers in front of post offices to get the support of the public for a good contract and good service. APWU will be mailing out postcards to every member addressed to Postmaster Megan Brennan that say, "I Stand with Postal Workers." A collective effort is needed by all. Not just APWU members, but we should ask our family and friends to sign and mail a postcard as well. **THIS CALLS FOR ALL HANDS ON DECK.** Let's show the Postmaster we are serious about obtaining a good contract and providing good service to the American public. If needed, and I hope it is, APWU will be sending each local additional postcards.

Not only are we in contract negotiations, but at the same time we are still fighting for Congress to do the right thing and stop the USPS from closing and consolidating plants across the country, provide and restore service to the American public. Remember, we are part of the American public and the change in service standards affects us as well.

On 1/27/2015, H.R.54 was introduced to the House of Representatives requesting that the USPS take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect

as of July 1, 2012. The service standard changes which are called the Network Rationalization went into effect on 1/5/2015. The changes have adversely affected the public so much that seniors are receiving their medicine late; mail that normally took 1 to 2 days to receive is taking a week. For example, NY District Labor Relations mailed a priority letter to the union office; it took 7 days to receive it. (Labor Relations are the people who decide our members' cases at Step2 and they are located at 380 W. 33rd St.—a block away!) Under the old service standards, we would have received this letter the next day.

We need all members to step up to the plate and help fight for a good contract and good service. Please call your member of the House of Representatives at (202) 224-3121 and tell them to support H.R. 54. It takes more than just a few to fight and preserve; it takes us all. You must understand that a union is only as strong as its members. We need you all to get more involved. There are many ways you can participate in the fight to save our jobs, get a good contract and good service. One way is to help with the weekly Staples protest. The schedule is always posted on the NY Metro Facebook page and the union's website and sign up to be on the Members' Only email blast. This can be done by filling out the cut out on the back of your *Union Mail* and sending it in. The fight is ours to win or lose. Which end do you want to be on? ☐

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

# Republicans in Congress punish postal employees and retirees

By Nora Mendez

There's a story of a lawmaker who's part of a political machine confronting a more virtuous colleague and telling him, "You think it takes guts to stand up for what is right? You know what really takes guts? Standing up for what's wrong and doing it day after day."

By that standard most of our lawmakers should be considered gutsy souls. In March both the House and the Senate passed budget resolutions for Fiscal Year 2016 that refuse to ask the wealthy to contribute a single dollar to deficit reduction, putting the entire burden on the working-class, seniors, low-income children and families. Both bills would cut trillions of dollars over the next 10 years to Medicare, children's healthcare, food stamps, earned income tax credits, child tax credits, Pell grants and Social Security, while increasing military spending.

The House and Senate budget committee chairmen Rep. Tom Price, (R-GA), and Sen. Michael B. Enzi, (R-WY), continuing the right-wing's rhetoric that government workers are nothing more than faceless parasites without families, mortgages and futures, are using both chambers to attack federal employees' and retirees' earned pay, health and retirement benefits by:

- Reducing the federal workforce by 10% through attrition.
- Requiring federal employees to

contribute more toward their retirement plan with no increase in benefits, resulting in a 6% pay cut.

- Compelling postal employees to pay a greater share of their health insurance premiums by stripping them of the right to negotiate over contributions and turning FEHB into a voucher program.

- Eliminating most of the FERS "special retirement supplement."

### Attack on TSP

Perhaps the most shocking proposal of Rep. Price's budget plan is changing the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan G Fund to 0.01 percent to "save" \$32 billion over ten years.

Going after the TSP "is a new one," said TSP spokeswoman Kim Weaver, who has seen "nothing like this before" and strongly opposes this change. She said the House's budget proposal would make the G Fund virtually worthless.

Ironically, in March, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew "borrowed" from the TSP G Fund and the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund to keep the federal government from going over the debt limit. Raiding our pensions is nothing new. The Treasury has used these "emergency measures" in the past to help the government meet its spending requirement.

### Attacks continue

In another attempt by the Republicans to gut federal employ-

ees' retirement benefits—postal workers included—Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR) has introduced a bill which seeks to change the formula retirement benefits are based on. Currently federal employee retirement benefits are based on an employee's highest three years of salary. But Rep. Westerman's bill HR 1530 seeks to change the formula to the five highest years of salary.

"There is no justification for these pay cuts," said APWU President Mark Dimondstein. "The Postal Service is 'off-budget' and doesn't get a dime of taxpayer money," he pointed out, "and postal pension accounts are almost fully funded. These pay and benefit cuts are the latest disrespect heaped upon the good working-class folks in federal and postal employment. We reject these ugly attempts to turn 'public service' into dirty words and public servants into piggy banks."

Since 2011, Congress has cut federal employee wages and benefits by \$159 billion. No Democrats voted in favor of the budget resolutions for Fiscal Year 2016.

### Union-busting

A bill introduced by Rep. Jody Hice (R-GA), H.R. 1658, would amend U.S. Code Title 5 to limit the circumstances when official time may be used by federal employees. If stewards were forced to process grievances off the clock, a union's ability to enforce the contract would be severely weakened. ☐

## GOOD CONTRACT! GOOD JOBS! GOOD SERVICE!

# Make our 'cause' the people's cause!



By Flo Summergrad

**T**he 2015 negotiations opened in February under a cloud of negative propaganda about the future of the Postal Service. The forces of privatization, including the billionaires who lust for the profits of our industry, members of Congress, and the corporate media, have been waging a smear campaign calling the USPS “obsolete” and in financial crisis. The threat to the livelihoods of organized postal workers is greater than ever in our history.

Postal management is bringing the fictions of poverty and irrelevancy of our work to the bargaining table. In rebuttal, the union must rely on revealing the truth—the need for the public Postal Service exists. With increased hours and the potential of expanding functions to include postal banking, licenses and internet services, the future of the USPS could be bright. The pressure for this has to come from the customers – the 99% of the American public who use and need the post office.

While postal management is approaching negotiations in the same old way: lie about the economics, demand labor concessions, and refuse to bargain in good faith, the APWU is employing a new approach. APWU President Mark Dimondstein explained, “To be victorious, we will have to conduct our fight for a good contract very differently than we have in the past. Negotiations will still go on at the

bargaining table, but to be successful we must win support from the people of the country for our goals – good, stable postal jobs and a strong Postal Service that belongs to them.” Dismantling the USPS does not only hurt postal workers. “It also robs the people of speedy delivery of their medicine, their online purchases, local newspapers, bill payments, letters and invitations. And it robs communities of a vital public service, secure jobs, a strong tax base, and important infrastructure.”

The recent Gallup polls show that the Postal Service still ranks highest as a trusted federal agency. Despite its difficulties, “the overall image of the agency has remained remarkably positive,” the polling company said. “This reservoir of goodwill may serve the Postal Service well as it strives to adapt to the changing world in which electronic communication and commerce are rapidly replacing the traditional mailed letter.”

To get the word out, we need the active involvement of all members – not just stewards and officers. This means bringing the message to our local businesses, community organizations, church and school groups. It means expanding our connection to the public. On tax day, for instance, our Moe Biller Chapter retirees joined APWU members around the country by leafleting post offices to let customers know that they pay ZERO TAXES toward our services.

On that same day, April 15th, our local supported the national Fight for 15, joining with the just demands of low paid workers for decent wages and rights to a union.

National Secretary-Treasurer Liz Powell, who is helping lead the contract campaign, stressed that, “We also must make sure that we are united within our own ranks,” by making sure that “more senior workers understand the importance of improving conditions for PSEs, and that new employees understand the importance of protecting retirement benefits. And we must strive together to end the three-tier pay structure that divides our workforce.” Active members are forming Contract Action Teams to involve co-workers in the fight. Stickers, posters, and bracelets have been distributed. Any and all additional suggestions are welcome.

Also, for the first time in our history, workers are asked to be involved. There have been telephonic “town hall meetings” available to all members. Questions can be submitted and President Dimondstein gives live responses. Submitting your phone number for ongoing text messages and email addresses for information will put you in the loop. You can also go into the “Members Only” section of the APWU website to keep up with updates. “Despite the obstacles, I believe we can win a good contract,” said President Dimondstein. ☒

# TPP: A global corporate coup disguised as a trade agreement

By Nora Mendez

**T**he Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a secret trade agreement being negotiated behind closed doors by officials from the United States and 11 other countries with the help of 600 corporate trade lawyers. *The public, Congress, and the press cannot see the draft TPP text.* The TPP threatens to undermine democracy by entrenching corporate power in virtually every area of our lives—from food safety and the environment, to workers rights and access to healthcare. The TPP is about much more than trade. It is a global corporate coup.

A compilation of secret TPP documents has been leaked and of the TPP's 29 draft chapters, only 5 deal with traditional trade issues. Most would set rules on non-trade matters that affect our lives. The TPP would grant corporations, including foreign ones, extraordinary new powers to attack the laws we rely on for a clean environment, essential services and healthy communities. These corporations can sue the U.S. government via private courts called “investor-to-state dispute settlement” (ISDS), steering clear of national jurisdiction. This tribunal of private lawyers, judges and arbitrators would be authorized to order the U.S. government to hand millions of our tax dollars to the corporations for laws that they find inconvenient.

America's worst joboffshoring corporations, global banks, agribusiness, and pharmaceutical giants want this deal to be another corporate power tool like NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement).



Photo by Bernadette Ewinglist

**APWU, other unions and grassroots activists protest the TPP and fast track at a march and rally in Washington, DC in April.**

Consumer, labor, environmental, and other public interest advocates want transparency in the process and a “Fair Deal or No Deal.” U.S. negotiators are pushing proposals that not only replicate the worst of NAFTA, but have championed outrageous new corporate-favored terms.

■ **Food Safety**—The TPP places profits of multi-national corporations like Monsanto, Dupont and others over the food security of individual nations. The U.S. could be required to ban U.S. food safety rules on pesticides, labeling or additives.

■ **Job Loss**—This deal is slated to include extreme foreign investor protections that help corporations offshore jobs. The TPP also lets corporations sue countries for lost profits caused by labor laws, which will hinder safety regulations.

■ **Higher Medicine Prices**—PhRMA would get extreme new privileges that would jack up prices and cut consumers' access to life-savings medicines.

■ **Benefits for Banksters**—Wall Street wants to use the TPP to roll back new safeguards many nations have passed to get banks and securities firms under control and restore financial stability.

■ **Internet Freedom**—Internet Service Providers could be required to “police” user activity (i.e. police *you*), take down internet content, and cut people off from internet access for common user-generated content.

■ **Public Services**—The TPP would include rules limiting how governments may regulate the service sector—utilities, transportation, educa-

*continued on page 7*

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## TPP: A global corporate coup disguised as a trade agreement

*continued from page 6*

tion and more. FedEx is a strong supporter of the TPP. If the TPP is approved, FedEx would be empowered to “sue” the U.S. government if a government agency like the U.S. Postal Service frustrates FedEx’s profit expectations. The ISDS could order the U.S. government to hand millions of dollars to FedEx for laws that they find inconvenient such as the U.S.P.S.’ monopoly of First

Class Mail.

The Obama administration plans to sign the TPP by early 2015 by using an authority known as “Fast Track.” Fast Track threatens the democratic process of the constitutional checks and balances of Congress.

Take action before this corporate power tool disguised as trade deal kills your job and formalizes corpo-

rate rule over our lives. Get informed, join the fight! Contact your Senators, Representatives, and state legislators. Ask them to demand release of the secret negotiating texts and stop the TPP corporate power tool agenda that slams us 99 percenters. We cannot afford another job-killing, unsafe-import-flooding, democracy-crushing NAFTA-style trade deal. ☐

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# May Day 2015: The workers united, will never be defeated!

*By Flo Summergrad*

**F**or over a hundred years, May Day has endured as a symbol of the power of the international working class. This workers’ holiday, was founded in tribute to the strength of American labor’s fight for the 8-hour day. But May 1, 2015, dawns on a weakened U.S. labor movement. The gains of the past generations are wiped out. Only 12% of U.S. workers are organized. Half the states have passed so-called “right-to-work” laws, allowing employees to opt out of paying dues to the unions that represent them. Legislation protecting civil rights, women’s rights, and labor rights is being rolled back.

But instead of being crushed, the fighting spirit of labor is being invigorated from the grass roots up. The “Fight for 15 and a Union” is creating a sense of solidarity among workers in low wage industries. A movement that started small with a Black Friday protest at Walmart and a one-day walkout by fast food workers has been joined by thousands—expanding

to home health aides, car wash attendants, adjunct professors, and more.

Unionized postal workers are part of this forward momentum. In the ‘70s, the four postal unions negotiated together to lay the basis for a strong collective bargaining agreement. Coming off the successful wildcat strike in 1970, there was a spirit of militancy. A joint contract, national rallies, and shop floor struggles kept postal workers in the



forefront of the labor movement. But during the next 25 years, postal management pitted the crafts against each other; joint bargaining split apart and the strength of our national work force was weakened. It was not until last year that the imminent danger of postal privatization brought a united response from the four major postal unions. On March 11, 2014, the national Presidents signed a Proclamation of a Postal Union Alliance to defend the public postal service.

This joint effort has continued to build strength through national actions and a developing Grand Alliance with community and labor organizations throughout the U.S. Postal workers, united, are being empowered through the connection to the fights of other workers and organizations. As we stand together with the struggles of labor and oppressed peoples of the world, we embody the fighting spirit of May Day. This is the path to victory. ☐

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# Arbitrator rules against Motor Vehicle subcontracting

By Flo Summergrad

**I**n an arbitration victory called “an outstanding success” by APWU President Mark Dimondstein, Arbitrator Stephen B. Goldberg sustained a grievance on Motor Vehicle Subcontracting. In May 2013, MVS craft officers filed a national level dispute in response to the USPS threat to subcontract highway mail at 162 Postal Vehicle Service (PVS) sites.

NY Metro Postal Union remembers the war waged against postal management in 2012 to protect the Motor Vehicle jobs. We won the fight against contracting out all TTO jobs at the NJI&NDC. In March, 2013, the APWU won an arbitration beating back the threat to contract out all driver jobs in the state of California.

At that time, NE Regional Motor Vehicle NBA Joe LaCapria warned his MVS constituents that was not the time to sit back. “This arbitration

victory is not a silver bullet. But it is a good foundation to challenge postal subcontracting in the future. This is the first of many battles we must win against management’s attempt to eliminate postal Motor Vehicle Service. We have to dig in for the fight.”

He was right! By April 26th of that same year—barely a month later!—the Postal Service notified the Union that it was looking to subcontract PVS throughout the country. Once again, our brothers and sisters in the Motor Vehicle craft took on the challenge. Arbitration hearings were held for four days in October, 2014.

On March 25, 2015, we won. Arbitrator Goldberg ruled that the Postal Service had failed to comply with the Motor Vehicle Craft Memoranda of Understanding in the 2010-15 Contract. Under these MOUs, management may NOT

contract out nor begin consideration of contracting out PVS work before complying with the procedures that are in the written Collective Bargaining Agreement. Implementation of the award was remanded to the APWU and USPS; if no agreement is reached, Arbitrator Goldberg retains jurisdiction over the resolution.

## **The struggle continues**

MVS Director Michael O. Foster said, “While this was a significant decision, I can’t even imagine what the USPS will do next to impact the lives of PVS drivers. Present Postal management has greatly undervalued the contributions of MVS operators to the mission of the USPS, and the revenue of the mail we transport.”

This victory takes place against a background of national contract negotiations. It is a time for all of us to stand together. ☐

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# Another reason not to contract out USPS motor vehicle work

By Flo Summergrad

**H**eadline: “Mailing company employee gets prison for stealing \$3.6 million worth of over-the-road containers from USPS.”

From 2010 to 2014, two drivers for a contract company used the truck to remove postal BMCs from

USPS Capitol Heights bulk mail facilities. After filling the contract truck with empty over-the-road containers, the two men spray-painted over Postal Service markings. Then they brought the postal BMCs to a metal recycler and sold them for scrap—at about \$1300/load.

By the time they were caught and prosecuted, Aaron Howard and Michael Muir had pocketed \$404,797 for 2611 containers. It cost the USPS more than \$3,694,565 to replace the BMCs.

You think they should have used our drivers instead of contractors? ☐



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# April 15th — Fight for 15!

By Flo Summergrad

**N**ational protests and marches on April 15, 2015, closed down many fast food restaurants and rallied more than 60,000 workers behind the demands for \$15/hour and the right to a Union. Two years ago, this campaign started small. A few hundred McDonalds and Wendy's workers staged a one-day strike in New York City.

This small movement swelled into the largest demonstration of low wage workers in U.S. history on Wednesday, April 15, 2015. In addition to the fast food

industry, workers from Walmart, home health aides, airport employ-

ees, adjunct professors, and others have become part of the move-



**Hotel and fast food workers in NYC mobilize as part of national action to "Fight for \$15 and a Union" on April 15, 2015.**

ment. Organized labor has provided financial and technical support, with a primary role played by the SEIU (Service Employees International Union). Mary Kaye Henry, President of the SEIU, summed up the importance of this movement: "I believe we are forcing a real conversation about how to solve the grossest inequality in our generation. People are sick of wealth at the top and no accountability for corporations." [☞](#)

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## Pressure forces Walmart/Target wage increase

By Flo Summergrad

**W**hile still well below the \$15/hour that workers are seeking as a living wage, the raises granted in the last month by Walmart and Target are significant. They come in response to mounting public pressure.

Walmart is America's largest employer. While the owning Walton family rakes in billions in profits, labor actions like strikes and protests on Black Friday have exposed that many of the half million Walmart workers in the U.S. depend on food stamps and Medicaid for survival. Although consumers shop at these retail giants for low prices, they are

learning that they are paying in another way. Tax money is needed to make up for the poverty-level wages paid to Walmart employees.

Over the last two years, the efforts of OUR Walmart (Organization United for Respect at Walmart) and the progressive movement as a whole have kept the pressure on. In addition to increasingly negative public opinion, low pay has also meant high turnover. This March, the company gave in. Abandoning its contention that higher wages would have a negative effect, Walmart announced a mini-

mum of \$9/hour in April 2015, \$10/hour in February 2016. A month later, Target (which had flatly refused to raise its minimum wage) also announced an increase to \$9. This victory followed waves of petitions, calls, emails, and tweets from around the country.

Paul Krugman, the Op-Ed columnist for the NY Times, wrote that although the increases are minimal, "far more important, is what Walmart's move tells us—namely, that low wages are a political choice, and we can and should choose differently." (*NYT*, 3/2/15) [☞](#)

# Black Lives Matter movement builds

By Flo Summergrad

**V**iolent and discriminatory law enforcement is being called a national emergency. Reports of police killings of unarmed black men and youth has become commonplace. Many begin with a simple traffic stop, based on racial profiling. This has exposed the hidden fact that fatal force is disproportionately used in black and Latino communities. This is not new in American history. But it is shameful that this legal lynching continues unabated into the 21st century.

Phone cameras and the internet have broadcast evidence of unjustified force. Public outrage and attention is developing into a powerful movement that “Black Lives Matter.” There is increasing pressure for federal regulations on police qualifications, training, and accountability.

## Connect the labor and civil rights movements

Last July, President of the NC NAACP, Reverend Dr. William Barber, a leader of the burgeoning Forward Together Moral Monday movement in the South, addressed the APWU National Convention. His reminder of the deep connection between the labor and civil rights struggles was met with a standing ovation.

Now is the time for the labor movement to put that understanding into practice. In a blog that came from his heart, NY METRO Local President Jonathan Smith emphasized that this is everyone’s issue. “We say racism is wrong but at the same time we accept it as a normal part of American society.

People of all colors should be marching in the streets of Ferguson not because this is a black or white issue but because it is a human issue. . . . Until those not being oppressed [are] as outraged as those being oppressed, then we are supporting an unjust system!”

Richard Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO, described the mass protests as “a deeper feeling that our justice system is biased against communities of color.” Leaders of the UE, the SEIU, AFT, and other unions, including APWU, have taken a stand.

With their communities, with their schools, with their churches, our members are getting involved. It is critical that our union Locals openly take on this battle for justice. Linking the fights against economic and racial oppression is not just morally righteous—it is also a recipe for victory. ☐



**APWU officers and members at Justice For All march and rally in Washington, DC in December 2014.**

## In Memoriam

**LINDA J. NOBLE**

*Retired NYMAPU Officer*



**L**INDA J. NOBLE was employed by the Postal Service as a clerk in 1970. She joined NY Metro Area Postal Union at the very beginning. She attended rallies, demonstrations, and other union activities.

In 1976, Linda became a shop steward. She later served her union in the positions of Craft, Field Vice-President, Executive Secretary, and Director of Industrial Relations. She was chosen for the Union’s Rank-and-File Advisory Committee, and was a full-time officer from 1987 until her retirement.

To broaden her knowledge in all phases of unionism, Linda participated in labor studies through NYC Central Labor Council and Cornell University School of Industrial Relations. Linda was a pioneer for the advancement of women in the APWU. She was a founding member of POWER (Post Office Women for Equal Rights), as well as a member of the CLUW (Coalition of Labor Union Women). She was part of APALA (the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance), and the NYC branch of the NAACP.

The oldest of seven children, Linda was born in Brooklyn and educated in the NYC school system. She was the proud mother of four children—two sons and two daughters.

Linda’s tireless efforts in the labor movement contributed immensely to a better work life for all working people, particularly postal workers. She is remembered by NYMAPU and will be missed. ☹

*Photo of march by Bernadette Evangelist*

## CALENDAR

### Wednesday, May 20

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Installation of Officers

Hotel Pennsylvania

401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)

Sky Top Room, 18th Floor

### Wednesday, June 17

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Hotel Pennsylvania

401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)

Paris/Zurich Room, 6th Floor

### Friday, June 19

7:00 pm

NY Yankees v. Detroit Tigers

Tickets \$30

## APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of 03/01/2015	\$ 110,175.20
TOTAL REVENUE 03/2015	\$ 99,036.40
Total Operating Expenses 03/2015	\$ 104,215.04
TOTAL NET INCOME 03/2015 (LOSS)	\$ -(5,178.64)
Closing Balance as of 03/31/2015	\$ 104,996.56

## May/June

### Don't Buy Staples! Rallies

will be scheduled throughout our area in New York and New Jersey. Keep your eyes out for emails, Flashes, or call the Union office for times and locations.

Call Kevin Walsh 212-563-7553 ext.105 with any ideas for a rally at a Staples near you.

## NY METRO PICNIC

Tickets available @ Union Office

(info at [nymetro.org](http://nymetro.org))

**July 11, 2015**

Quassy Amusement Park

\$25/member (bus—additional \$5)

**Picnic tickets will be sold at the May & June Union meetings!**

## NY Metro Area Postal Union Election Results

### Executive Vice President

**Tiffany Foster** 681

McCrae Darby 375

### Director of Organization

**Kevin Walsh** 719

Deborah Bethea 338

### Director of the DVD

**Darren E. Smith** 671

Melissa Wimberley-Jones 395

### Assistant Director of the DVD

**Howie Satterfield** 652

Rosalind Clark 392

### Director of Motor Vehicle Craft

**Denise Holland** 151

Rickey Smith 94

### Assistant Director Maintenance Craft

**Glenn Weekes** 140

Dr. Eduardo Hernandez 77

## Scholarship Winners

In 2014, our local was selected by APWU to be part of the Local Rewards Project with UNION PLUS. This participation enabled NYMAPU to offer scholarships to members, spouses, and children. (See Nov/Dec *Union Mail*.)

The members and their winning family members are:

**Kevin Smith** – Mailhandler, NJI & NDC

Son, **Andrew Smith**

**Tiffany Foster** – Executive Vice President, NY Metro

Daughter, **Briah Foster**

**Robert J. Bazik** – Clerk, Church Street

Daughter, **Susan Bazik**

**Justo Arias** – MVS, Morgan

Daughter, **Isabel Arias**

**Mikhail Barbakov** – MVS, Morgan

Daughter, **Tamara Barbakova**

**Earl Pearson** – MVS, DVD

Daughter, **Anika Pearson**



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

Periodicals class  
POSTAGE PAID  
at New York, NY

## NY METRO AREA POSTAL UNION ELECTION RESULTS

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COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

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