



The

# Union Mail

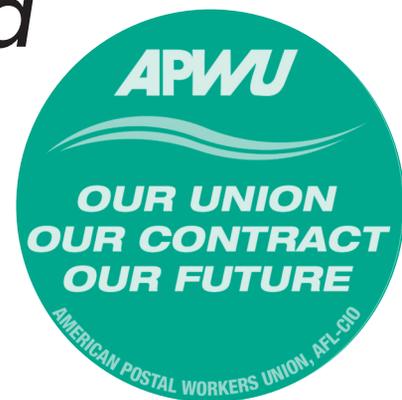
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Published by the NY Metro Area Postal Union

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

## *Our Union, Our Contract, Our Future*

*The fight is on! We get good contracts by showing solidarity with the negotiating team. Wear your union shirts and gear. (Wristbands for those in postal uniforms.)*



*See page 9*

# How will history remember today's postal worker?



**Jonathan Smith**

On July 1, 2021, APWU National had a virtual birthday celebration for APWU's 50-year anniversary. If you did not see it, you missed a

**Jonathan Smith** treat. You can go to APWU.org and read a lot of the union's history for yourself. I decided that I would use my article this month to illustrate some vital points.

A union is not like a club or organization that you join, it is a lifestyle that must become a part of the way you think, feel and act. The union must be protected and guarded, for it is the primary source for how we put food on the table, a roof over our heads and clothing on our backs. It sent my kids to college; it put that car in the garage, and it provides a pension for when I grow old. It allows me to go to the doctor when I am sick, and it even relieves my family of the stress of burying me when it is my time to leave this earth. I love my union because it has provided me a pretty good life.

Before the national postal unions were created in 1971, workers had to beg Congress for any advancements in the workplace. Imagine if we had to wait for Congress today in order to get a raise or better working conditions -- this same Congress that is trying to take away health care, voting rights and our hard-won ability to bargain with the employer for wages, hours, and working conditions.

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. Many postal workers working a fulltime government job still qualified for food stamps and government assistant programs.

From 1967 to 1969, postal workers did not receive a raise at all while Congress raised their own salaries by more than 40%. Congress has continued this trend today by refusing to raise the federal minimum wage (\$7.25/hour). The minimum for a Senator is \$193,400 per year, not including "expenses" and the outlandish money in campaign contributions from companies like UPS and FedEx, who lobby to privatize the Postal Service. In 1970, there was no way for postal workers to fight because the same government that would not give us a raise made it illegal for postal workers to strike.

Our forefathers and mothers said enough was enough. On March 18, 1970, they went on strike, risking everything to make things better for the postal workers of today (yes, you and me!). The strike was instrumental in winning the rights we as postal workers enjoy. It led to the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, which granted postal unions the right to negotiate with management over their wages, benefits and working conditions. In lieu of the right to strike, a binding arbitration process was established for resolving contract disputes.

APWU was founded on July 1, 1971. In 1973, 1975, and 1978, the APWU, NALC, NPMHU, and NRLCA bargained jointly. Together, the postal unions were a powerful

force against management. Going forward, unions dropped off and the APWU has bargained on its own. Separate negotiations made the union's bargaining power much weaker. At the same time, being an "open shop," means not everyone has to join the union. Dropping out of the union is not a protest, it is a weapon in management's hands.

Many postal workers are scared to open their mouth, scared to write statements, scared to become union representatives, scared to protect the rights that were won way back in 1970. Scared of what?

What they should be scared of is the attack on our jobs! We are at a particularly dangerous time as we enter contract negotiations. We're working under a PMG who has no history or stakes in a public Postal

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**Flo Summergrad**, editor

**Chuck Zlatkin**, managing editor

**Bernadette Evangelist**, graphic designer

To contact your officers, call 212.563.7553.

www.nymetro.org

**President**  
Jonathan Smith Ext. 108

**Executive Vice President**  
Vacant

**Dir. Ind Relations**  
Edward Dalton Ext. 106

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Joseph Martir Ext. 107

**Dir. Organization**  
Diane Erlanger Ext. 105



## LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT

# Congress steps up for Postal Service

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

When postal reform legislation was introduced into both houses of Congress in May, there was a sense that HR 3076 in the House and S 1720 in the Senate -- the Postal Fairness bills, which would remove the burden of the pre-funding retirees' healthcare from the Postal Service -- would pass. When there was bi-partisan support in committee in each house for the legislation, the sense these changes could happen soon was further heightened. There, however, will be additional legislation necessary to accomplish all aspects of these bills.

On June 6, *The Washington Post* suggested that the FBI investigation into PMG DeJoy could threaten the "fragile bipartisan and cross-industry coalition" that came together in support of financial relief for the Postal Service.

Congress was not waiting to take action to protect the Postal Service from DeJoy's plans. The leaders of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee in the Senate, Mike Quigley (D-IL) the Chair, and Steve Womack (R-AR) the Ranking member of the Committee, came together for a manager's amendment. Members of congress use a manager's amendment to make changes to a bill where they suspect that it will gain support by not using the usual committee process and expediting action.

A manager's amendment can achieve movement facilitated through bi-partisan support.

Both parties decide ahead of time on what is to be done, eliminating what could be endless hours of debate on the floor.

Two parts of the bi-partisan amendment dealt specifically with the Postal Service. One had to do with First-Class Service Standards. The committee was concerned with the recent proposal for extended First Class Service Standards to as long as five days. The Committee was concerned that such changes would further erode public confidence in the Postal Service. The Committee directed the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) "to analyze the feasibility of restoring service standards for market-dominant products that were in effect on July 1, 2012, including an examination of the resources and structural and operational changes needed, and the impacts on market growth and revenue. . . If service standards are decreased from their January 2021 levels, the PRC shall also conduct a similar analysis of the costs and benefits of restoring USPS service and performance levels to their January 1, 2021, levels. The PRC shall report to the Committee on its findings within 1 year of enactment

of this Act."

The second part of the manager's amendment concerns The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 (PAEA) which required the PRC to review the existing rate and classification system 10 years after the enactment of the PAEA. The PRC adopted rules providing greater pricing flexibility to the USPS, and proposed increasing certain postal rates effective August 20, 2021, by approximately 7%. The Committee felt that the size and timing of this rate increase was problematic. Specifically, they were concerned that the PAEA process did not account for the impact of the pandemic, including factors such as higher package revenues and emergency funding provided to the USPS. The Committee directed the PRC to study these factors and report to the Committee within 270 days on the rate increases proposed by the USPS.

These two actions by the Senate subcommittee which force the PRC to do substantive studies on postal rates increases and service standards are making it more difficult for DeJoy and the Postal Service to push through changes that will have a detrimental impact on those who depend upon a public Postal Service. At a time when there seems to be too much inaction in Congress on issues that matter, this subcommittee took meaningful action that will aid in protecting our public Postal Service. ☐



# Postmaster General Louis DeJoy under investigation by the FBI

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

On June 3, 2021, *The Washington Post* published the news that the FBI is investigating PMG Louis DeJoy “in connection with campaign fundraising activity involving his former business.”

This was a bombshell announcement! The Postmaster General of the United States being investigated by the FBI and called to testify before a grand jury is major news.

Agents have reportedly been interviewing current and former employees of DeJoy and the business, New Breed Logistics, in connection with allegations that employees donated to Republican candidates and were later reimbursed with workplace bonuses. It is also reported that he was issued a subpoena. Of course, DeJoy’s spokespeople deny that he had done anything wrong.

There was speculation that the announcement alone could force DeJoy to have to resign, but while that hasn’t happened, perceptions of the Postmaster General may be changing rapidly.

## DeJoy delay goes on

It is now the summer of 2021; mail has been slowed dramatically by the policies of the current Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) has held public hearings on the Postal Service’s desire to institutionalize the delay of the mail. (Understand that these hearings are just advisory. USPS management only has to ask for the advisory. It doesn’t have to follow it. In other words, regardless of what the PRC finds, the Postal Service can do whatever it wants.)

Yes, Postmaster Louis DeJoy is still in power. It is now over one year since the Postal Service has been run by DeJoy. When he came into office, he made clear that his agenda was to slow the mail, raise prices, shorten hours at post offices and close more mail processing plants. These attacks on the public Postal Service were crystallized in the Postal Service’s ten-year plan, “Delivering for America,” published on March 23, 2021. The introduction to “Delivering for America” was co-signed by PMG DeJoy and the Chair of the Board of Governors (BOG), Ron Bloom, showing full support for these ruinous policies.

For many months there has been a growing call in both the media and in Congress to replace DeJoy, which grew louder after the ten-year plan was unveiled. Calls for the PMG to be fired were not uncommon.

The leadership of the postal unions didn’t join the call. There was speculation that with the APWU beginning contract negotiations with the Postal Service and the NALC just signed off on a new contract, neither was looking to be too critical of the PMG. In fact, the NALC has expressed great support for DeJoy’s biggest booster, BOG Chair Bloom, even calling for him to be appointed to a full second term. Bloom had openly endorsed the ten-year plan and stated that he felt that DeJoy was the best man to carry it out.

## NALC and DeJoy

There has been a change in the public position of the NALC. *People’s World* reported that NALC

President Fredric Rolando sent the BOG a formal letter on June 18, just before its latest meeting where DeJoy’s plans were on the agenda. He told the Board, “We are not in favor” of DeJoy’s delays “for three reasons,”

■ The first reason, wrote Rolando is “high public opposition” to DeJoy’s cuts and slowdowns.

■ “Second, the damage to the Postal Service’s brand of quality by reducing service” while raising first-class mail prices—another part of DeJoy’s plan—“could trigger greater volume losses” than USPS forecast. “The Postal Service’s high favorability rating with the public” of more than 90% “is one of its greatest assets. It should not be squandered.”

■ Finally, DeJoy’s closures and slowdowns will save the USPS \$169 million yearly, “a fraction of 1% of its current operating costs. . . As a matter of operating strategy, these paltry savings do not justify the long-term damage to the agency’s brand,” Rolando wrote.

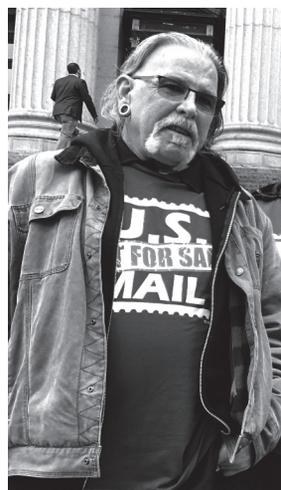
The new critique of DeJoy by Rolando could be the signaling of a parting of the ways between Bloom and DeJoy.

As of yet, neither the NALC nor the other national postal unions have called for DeJoy’s removal. NY Metro Postal Union has been on record calling for dumping DeJoy as PMG and replacing Bloom immediately on the Postal BOG. Removing Bloom is a first step. All that is needed is for President Biden to announce that he is filling the vacancy. ☐

# Thank you, Kevin Walsh!

**A**fter 43 years in the Postal Service, NY Metro's Executive Vice President Kevin Walsh announced his retirement from both the USPS and his union position as of July 1, 2021. Kevin assures us he will still be around and active in union campaigns.

Kevin Walsh started as a clerk at Morgan P&DC in 1978. He was always a member of the NY Metro Area Postal Union and became a shop steward in 2000. In 2013, he ran with the United for Change Slate and became the Local's Director of Organization and later moved to Director of Industrial Relations, where he oversaw literally thousands of grievances from Manhattan, the Bronx, DVD, and the NDC.



Kevin's concerns for the labor movement did not stop with grievances. He organized the pickets for the Stop Staples! campaign and coordinated our participation in rallies

to Save America's Postal Service and march in the NYC Labor Day parades. Kevin carried the Local's banner at demonstrations against Stop and Frisk laws, for keeping postal stations open, and in support of the Verizon strikers. When the Letter Carriers Union held a vigil for the carrier killed on his route, Kevin went to Washington at his own expense to join the rally. As the



Organization Director, he was in contact with activists in our area and brought all labor and progressive causes to the attention of our Executive Board. He was the face of our Local at the NYC Central Labor Council and he was an organizer and speaker with the Bernie Sanders Presidential campaign. Kevin traveled to Detroit for the Labor Notes Conference and brought back information on organizing effective union campaigns. At the 2016 APWU National Convention it was Kevin Walsh who took the mic on the floor to support NY Metro's Black Lives Matter resolution, which had been introduced to the 2000+ delegates by President Smith. After



Kevin's stirring speech, the resolution was passed unanimously. Within NY Metro, Kevin kept on top of arbitration cases and shared all contract information with our stewards and members. When Tiffany Foster moved into the NE Regional Coordinator job, Kevin Walsh was the obvious choice for Executive Vice President. He was unanimously endorsed by the Executive Board.

President Jonathan Smith says he will miss Kevin as a leader and a friend. At the June general membership meeting, the President spoke for all of us in thanking Kevin for his many years of service to the members: "Kevin, you displayed dedication, commitment and a cool calm



demeanor under pressure. You taught me leadership is more than knowledge; it is also about attitude. You left it all on the field, my friend, giving the members of NY Metro everything you had. Thanks for the memories, support, and most of all your friendship! Welcome to the next stage of your life, where every day is the weekend! Wishing you much joy and happiness as you begin a new chapter in your life." ☐

# These are our leaders! NY Metro Area Postal Union Officers sworn in for 2021–2024

On May 19, 2021, NE Regional Coordinator Tiffany Foster performed the ceremony of inducting the NY Metro Area Postal Union officers for the term of 2021 – 2024. Although it was conducted on Zoom, the event was still a moving experience. The officers take a serious oath of office that commits them to the American Postal Workers Union and the safeguarding of all union documents and records. These are the officers who will lead our Local through the battles ahead for the next three years. ☰

**President** *Jonathan Smith*  
**Executive Vice President** *Kevin Walsh*  
**Director of Industrial Relations** *Edward Dalton*  
**Secretary/Treasurer** *Joseph Martir*  
**Director of Organization** *Diane Erlanger*  
**Legislative/Political Director** *Charles Zlatkin*  
**Coordinating Vice-President** *Deborah Bethea*  
**Director Bronx Installation** *Daisy DeGout*  
**Assistant Director Bronx Installation** *Matthew Lebron*  
**Director Clerk Division** *Florence Summergrad*  
**Assistant Director Clerk Division** *Naimah Mustafaa*  
**Director Motor Vehicle** *Denise Holland*  
**Director of Maintenance** *Glenda Morris*

**Assistant Director of Maintenance**  
*Sherell Taite-Pridgen*  
**Director of Morgan P&DC** *Jacquelyn Owens*  
**Assistant Director of Morgan P&DC** *Kim Smith*  
**Director DVD P&DC** *Howard Satterfield*  
**Assistant Director of DVD P&DC** *Shawntai Downes*  
**Director NJI/NDC** *Jeffrey Lizardi*  
**Assistant Director NJI/NDC** *Cassandra Black*  
**Trustee** *Barbara Harris-McKenzie*  
**Trustee** *LaTonya Kindall*  
**Trustee** *Lillian Yousif*  
**Trustee** *Allison Ward*  
**Trustee** *Phynie Williams*

## Welcome new stewards!

Six workers stepped up to help NY Metro fill the gaps left by stewards retired or absent due to COVID-19 related issues. Three of them are PSEs who will be able to represent the many PSEs who are having problems and questions at work.

These six completed a week of Shop Steward training on June 11, 2021, and are now certified as stewards in their stations.

**Nyeema Dickerson** – *Hellgate Station*  
**Shayna Smith** – *MVO at the MVM*  
**Enela Kamza** – *Maintenance at FDR Tour 2*  
**PSE Randy Nelson Smith** *representing PSEs at Southern Boulevard*  
**PSE Brittany Howard** *who will represent Tour 2 PSEs at the NDC*  
**Che' Magwood** *who will represent Tour 3 PSEs at DVD*

These stewards are ready to hit the ground running. They bring energy and enthusiasm to the job.

Hopefully, their good experience will encourage other members to become stewards when we have nominations for NY Metro Shop Steward elections this October. ☰



**Back row: L to R: Brittany Howard; Che' Magwood; Randy Nelson Smith; Nyeema Dickerson; Jonathan Smith**  
**Front row: Shayna Smith; Enela Kamza**

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# Introducing the new officers

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**Shawntai Downes**  
*Assistant Director of DVD P&DC*

Shawntai Downs has been in the Postal Service for 12 years. As one of the early PSEs, she benefitted when the APWU developed a Memorandum of Understanding that enabled PSEs to be converted to career positions.

In 2016, Shanwn tai became a shop steward “to speak for the ones who can’t speak for themselves.” She feels the steward job is “not for everyone and only the strong survives.” She “looks forward to working with the Union for decades to come.”



**Matthew Lebron**  
*Assistant Director Bronx Division*

Matthew Lebron credits Bronx Director Daisy DeGout for getting him interested in being a shop steward. He wanted to do his part after being in the Post Office since 2014 (SSDA) and thanks Daisy for her guidance and love.

Matthew has worked in stations all over the Bronx. As a PSE he was in Morrisania Station, Tremont Station, and Williamsbridge Statin. When he was able to bid as a career employee, he added Jerome Station, the Bronx Auxiliary Pool, Boulevard, and finally Baychester Station, where he is now. He is very excited to put all that experience and knowledge into the Bronx Assistant Director position.

Matthew has really enjoyed the Union work as a steward. He says, “It’s very fulfilling and really makes me feel like I’m making a difference!” Now he’s ready to take it to a new level, saying, “It’s my absolute honor to be Assistant Director. I look forward to serving my Union brothers and sisters of NY Metro.”

Matthew Lebron’s enthusiasm will be a big boost to the members and an asset to the Executive Board. He brings a great attitude to the struggle: “Daisy and I have our work cut out for us, but we still manage to have fun!”



**Sherell Taite-Pridgen**  
*Assistant Director Maintenance Craft*

Sherell Taite-Pridgen has worked for the Postal Service for over 28 years, first as a clerk, then 20 years as a custodian. She came to the NJI&NDC from DVD in 1998. In June of 2016, she answered the call to step up and be a shop steward.

This May, Sherell took on the responsibility of Assistant Director of the Maintenance Craft for the Local. She says she is extremely honored and grateful for “the recognition I have received for my work and the part I play in helping New York Metro’s Union serve its brothers and sisters in the Metropolitan area. Having the position of Assistant Director is very important to me because now I’m able to help others enjoy the Longevity of having a career with benefits and not just a JOB. I look forward to the challenges ahead as we prepare ourselves for the future while leaving a legacy for the generations to come.”

To express her feelings upon taking the oath of office, Sherell quotes from the poet Maya Angelou: “I came as 1 but I stand as 10,000.”

Together we stand in the fight for equality and justice for all!

# The Union Mail wins 10 awards!

The Metro New York Labor Communications Council represents those who give voice to workers, their unions and organizations. Since 1974, they have celebrated the best in labor journalism with an annual contest. Awards (plaques and certificates – no money!) are presented and a chosen Labor Communicator of the Year makes a speech and chairs a panel. This year’s awardee was Bill Fletcher, a longtime labor activist, fighter for racial justice and writer. During the last APWU contract campaign, Bill worked with the APWU and trained Contract Action Team (CAT) lead-



ers on how to organize co-workers.

In the 2021 contest, for publications from 2019 and 2020 (two years combined due to COVID), our Local’s publication, *The Union Mail*, won an unprecedented ten (10!) awards. Especially satisfying was that the winning submissions spanned all the categories we entered and honored the work of many of our contributors.

Because of pandemic conditions, the awards ceremony on May 6, was virtual which meant only the First Place winners could be fea-



ured onscreen. It was exciting for us to watch because three of our submissions were First Place. These were: Best Op Ed – Jonathan Smith, *Preserve our history to prepare for the future*; Best Unique Performance – Chuck Zlatkin, *Stop Postal Privatization* (series); and Best Photograph – Bernadette Evangelist, *Rally for the People’s Post Office*. This prize-winning photo of the demonstration on the steps of JAF features many of our members who participated.

The cover of the May/June 2020 issue won two awards: Best Headline: *Postal Worker—Heroes on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic*, and Best Photo – Jeffrey Lizardi’s picture of clerks working on the Parcel Sorting Machine at the NJ NDC. The July/August 2020 *Union Mail* cover won second place in Best Graphic Design for Bernadette Evangelist’s collage of “Superheroes



work here!”

Many postal workers throughout our Local could see themselves in the pages of the paper and take pride in their essential work.

The bobblehead of Postmaster Louis DeJoy, designed at our request by T.R. Nimen, was awarded second place honors for Best Original Artwork. Chuck and Bernadette won multiple awards with Chuck’s Op Ed, *Stop the Sale of the Postal Service*, and Bernadette’s beautiful photo of the late Eleanor Bailey, *Eleanor always*



active. Flo Summergrad got an Honorable Mention for her feature on *The First Female Recession*.

We can be especially pleased at this recognition from active labor communicators. While many unions hire professional journalists to produce their publications, most of our staff comes from the postal workforce. All the members of NY Metro Area Postal Union can be proud of this accomplishment. *The Union Mail* represents what we all do, as postal workers and as a leading local in the APWU. ☐

# Our Union, Our Contract, Our Future

By Flo Summergrad

**N**egotiations for the new Collective Bargaining Agreement (contract) began on June 22, 2021, between APWU and the US Postal Service. The current CBA expires on September 20, 2021.

The very fact that we are sitting at a negotiating table is a significant victory for postal workers. Until 1971, we had unions but no rights to reach a contract through collective bargaining. Wages were determined by Congress, and that kept postal pay extremely low. People worked long hours and were still eligible for public assistance!

In the 1960s, Postal unionists picketed Congress in Washington demanding fair money for our work. They passed out peanuts to symbolize what postal workers were paid.

The final straw was when Congress voted its members a raise on their high salaries, but only came through with a pittance for postal workers. This led to the walkout in NYC and the Great Postal Strike of 1970. The courage and commitment of postal letter carriers, clerks, mail handlers, maintenance, and drivers brought key areas of mail to a halt. A major victory of the strike was the establishment of national postal unions with the right to collective bargaining.

Negotiated contracts vastly improved wages, hours, and working conditions for postal workers. Our national leaders have spent months preparing for the bargaining in 2021.

The heroic efforts of postal work-

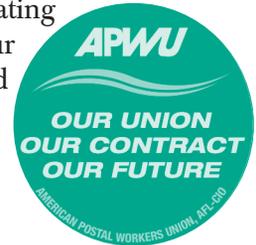
ers to deliver mail during the isolation and stress of the COVID pandemic is APWU's theme during this set of negotiations. President Dimondstein's opening remarks call for "full recognition on management's part that postal workers have courageously stepped up to the challenge as front-line essential workers."

We have earned good pay and benefits and we deserve them.

The fight is on! We get good contracts by showing solidarity with the negotiating

team. Wear your union shirts and gear.

(Wristbands for those in postal uniforms). ☐



## How will history remember today's postal worker?

*continued from page 2*

Service. He comes out of a business background where profit is king and job cuts mean bonuses for the cutters.

DeJoy began his slash and burn attack with a Reduction in Force (RIF) of postal management. Across the country, involuntary demotions and layoffs for them will be completed October 8. If DeJoy is willing to sacrifice top managers in the march to his business model of the post office, there is no doubt what his intentions are toward the workers.

The reason DeJoy started with the non-union employees is because

union workers are shielded from layoffs by our contract, Article 6 of the APWU/USPS Collective Bargaining Agreement is "No Lay-Off." We also have a Memorandum of Understanding on Excessing that workers deemed "excess" cannot be moved more than 50 miles.

Today our union is fighting to keep these and other contract rights. Make no mistake. This is a war. To wage that war, the union has to mobilize an army. A winning army can't be built on complaints and fear.

We have the legacy of the strikers

of 1970. Fear was not an option. They chose to fight; they knew management was not their friend; they stuck together; and they won.

How will history remember today's postal worker? Let's not be the generation that lost what our predecessors won. Together, we can be the fighters of today. We are the workers who delivered during the pandemic. We are the ones who kept democracy alive through vote-by-mail. It is time to draw on the courage of our militant history and take the struggle forward. ☐

## POSTAL PRIDE

# Mascot of the Railway Mail Service—early victim of abusive supervisor

In 1885, Owney, a terrier mutt, was adopted by the workers at the Albany, NY, Post Office. He loved the smell of mail sacks and began riding the mail wagons. When the post office developed a network of RPOs (Railway Post Offices), Owney rode everywhere in the mail cars. The postal clerks always took care of him. The Milwaukee Journal commented: “Post Office Owney. . . is the property of 7,000 railway clerks!”

RPO cars were attached to passenger trains. Where there was no scheduled station, postal clerks would heave sacks for that destination off the moving train. At the same time, workers used trackside hooks to pull outbound mail onto the RPO.

Handling the sacks on moving tracks was risky and train wrecks were common. But for 10 years and thousands of miles, any train with Owney on it never had an accident. He was so beloved at post offices across the country, that wherever he stopped gave him an honorary dog tag. Soon he was wearing so many tags that Postmaster General John Wannamaker had a special vest made. The PMG named Owney the Official Mascot of the Railway Mail Service.

In 1895, Owney was sent on a publicity trip around the world. This irked some jealous postmasters, who spread lies that the dog was “annoying the workers.” This ended tragically in 1897, when Owney was accused of biting someone. The Toledo postmaster immediately had the dog shot, outraging postal workers and Owney fans everywhere.

But the postal clerks won in the end. They donated money to have the dog preserved for posterity. Owney, in his proud tag-covered harness, has been on display for over 125 years, now at the Smithsonian. On July 27, 2011, the Owney Forever stamp was issued. While the abusive postmaster is long forgotten, the little mascot is honored and loved 📧

## Postal News Briefs

### USPS LIFTS TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

As of June 10, 2021, the USPS rescinded the limitation on all business-related travel during COVID-19. However, no employee will be required to travel to the NCED (National Center for Employee Development) before August 19, 2021. Those traveling can request to use their personal vehicles. Such use will be liberally approved, but there will be a cost comparison and the traveler may have to pay some money to the USPS.



### TODDLER USPS TRUCK IS A TRIBUTE TO POSTAL HEROES

Trax collaborated with the USPS to pay tribute to the role postal heroes played during the pandemic. The ride-on truck has a mail slot, a rear door that opens, headlights, and a horn. The child can enjoy “playing mail” with a stand alone mailbox and 3 plastic envelopes. It runs like other ride-on toddler toys with a foot pedal and rechargeable battery. It is fun for children 3 to 5 and is also a great learning experience about delivering mail. (Costs \$229)



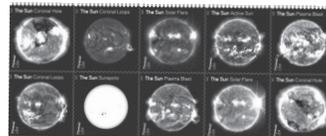
### ORGANIZING AMAZON—THE TIME IS NOW!

Jeff Bezos is gone, but conditions at Amazon have not improved. In June, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters voted to target Amazon’s operations. They are creating a division with the resources to focus on Amazon organizing. These efforts will bolster the work of “Amazonians United,” who are workers at Amazon’s sorting and fulfillment centers and also among the huge number of tech workers at Amazon Headquarters in Seattle.



### SCIENCE OF THE SUN FOREVER STAMPS ISSUED

In June, 2021, the Postal Service issued a bright and beautiful series of stamps celebrating the sun. These Forever stamps are images from the NASA Solar Dynamics Observatory, a spacecraft launched in 2010 to watch our sun. The ten stamps designed by Antonio Alcala are colorized to correspond with wavelengths of the sun. Their glorious colors will brighten envelopes and inspire people to learn about the science of the sun. 📧



## CALENDAR

As per the NYMAPU Constitution  
NO MEETINGS JULY or AUGUST  
*Have a great summer!*

### Wednesday, September 15

5:30 pm  
General Membership Meeting  
via Zoom

### Wednesday, October 20

5:30 pm  
General Membership Meeting  
via Zoom

### Zoom instructions

#### Members Only!

- Download Zoom app
- Open link
- Enter Meeting ID #5483042304
- Mute audio
- Video must be on

ALL COVID-19 MOUs extended  
through August 6, 2021

### APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of March 1, 2021	\$1,318,989.86
Total Revenue March 2021	\$ 182,406.74
Operating March 2021	\$ 132,324.04
Total Net Income March 2021	\$ 50,082.70
Ending Balance as of March 31, 2021	\$1,369,072.56

### APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of April 1, 2021	\$1,369,072.56
Total Revenue April 2021	\$ 79,166.63
Operating Expenses April 2021	\$ 223,315.45
Total Net Income April 2021	\$(144,148.82)
Ending Balance as of April 30, 2021	\$1,224,923.74

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



Prior to the pandemic, all sisters were invited to P.O.W.E.R. meetings at the Union Office at 1:00 pm, the 4th Wednesday of every month. We are working on alternatives.

Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization and Chairperson of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R., told The Union Mail: "In light of the COVID 19 Pandemic, P.O.W.E.R. meetings are canceled until further notice. Stay tuned for more information."

## LARGE NUMBERS OF PSEs CONVERTED!

Under the June 21, 2021, Memorandum of Understanding between the USPS and APWU, re: Additional Function 1 Staffing, 6,982 PSEs will be converted to career status by August 14, 2021.

For our Local, this means conversions at our Function 1 facilities – Morgan P&DC, DVD, and the NJI&NDC. On the table published by the Postal Service, this will mean more than 70 career positions in Morgan; 33 at the NDC; and 40 at DVD. **This will be well over 100 PSEs converted!**

## Juneteenth made a federal holiday!

Juneteenth is the eleventh official holiday recognized by the federal government. This date is the commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers brought word of freedom to the Texas gulf. This was more than 2 years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which was intentionally kept secret from the slaves it affected.

Making this a national holiday is an acknowledgement of the terrible and shameful history of chattel slavery in the United States. President Biden calls it "a day of profound weight and profound power, a day in which we'll remember the moral stain, the terrible toll that slavery took on the country and continues to take, what I've long called America's original sin." The hope is that we can learn from this bitter history in order to heal and grow stronger.

The APWU applauded this bipartisan act of Congress and immediately demanded that the Postal Service recognize Juneteenth as a paid holiday for postal workers.



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



Periodicals class  
POSTAGE PAID  
at New York, NY

## CHECK IT OUT

### APWU Health Plan Fair for new employees

From the day a PSE gets converted to career, you are disenrolled in your health plan. You only have a 60-day window to enroll in a Federal Employees Health Benefits plan. For those who are coming on board soon, it is worth checking out the APWU New Employees Health Plan Fair. **Register now!**

### New Career Employee Virtual Health Fair Schedule

July 19, 1 pm – 3 pm ET, Register Now  
August 4, 3 pm – 5 pm ET, Register Now  
August 13, 12 pm – 2 pm ET, Register Now  
August 23, 3 pm – 5 pm ET, Register Now  
September 9, 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm ET, Register Now  
September 17, 10 am – 12 pm ET, Register Now