



The

Union Mail

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

Historic Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 poised to become law



Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) holds press conference on Sunday, February 13, 2022, to announce imminent passage of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022

[See page 3](#)

MARCH IS WOMENS HISTORY MONTH

[See pages 5 and 11](#)

Support your shop stewards!



Jonathan Smith

I am encouraged by how many new stewards stepped up during the steward elections. I looked in their eyes during steward training and I saw fear, but I also saw determination. I saw doubt that they were ready to take on such a huge task, but by the end of that week, I slowly saw their confidence, hunger, and determination to learn.

No one is a born shop steward. New stewards must be nurtured and protected until they are strong enough to fend for themselves. Which brings me to the point of this article: The steward is a spokesperson for employees in specific work locations. They don't get paid a lot of money; there are no special perks they get outside of tee shirts, and a steward appreciation dinner that the union gives every year (not last year because of COVID-19); and they might get a steward appreciation certificate or an award occasionally. And they also pay union dues just like everyone else. Being a shop steward is a matter of the heart, not the head.

There are people that are very smart, but they are lousy shop stewards because they don't have the patience. They are not good listeners; they don't study the contract so they are constantly arguing their opinion, which has absolutely no weight in the grievance procedure. No one cares what you think; it's what you can prove using contract and evidence. A steward's job is to

police and enforce the contract. What does that mean? Police means to make sure that management is not violating the rules in the contract. Example: Jobs are awarded by seniority instead of who management thinks will work the hardest (kiss the most butt). OT is by seniority on a rotating basis for all employees on the OTDL. When management violates the contract, then the Union must ENFORCE the contract. Enforce means bring to management's attention what the contract requires and if they don't comply, file a grievance.

Unfortunately, when management violates the contract, the members foolishly expect the union steward to curse management out, make them do the right thing. These are the same employees who are too scared to write a statement. What they really want is to get their way. They don't care what the contract requires. What some workers want is additional privileges, instead of appreciating the rights they do have through the Union's efforts, such as, annual/sick leave, vacation, pension, rights to a grievance procedure, health care, no layoff clause, and more. These are often NON-members, or people who drop out because they don't get their way.

I talked to many of the stewards who decided not to run again in the shop steward election, and I found out something interesting, they didn't run again NOT because they were tired of fighting management or they were tired of the work, not even because they were not being paid much money. They left because they were tired of the complaints of an ungrateful membership. They felt

unsupported by the people they were trying to protect; they were tired hearing everyone's gripes and complaints that were not grievances but personal wants. Worse yet, even when they won cases for the members, never did they hear thank you or how was your day or weekend.

I say put up or shut up. If we had members fight as hard as they complain we would have the most powerful steward system in APWU. If workers support their stewards, management backs down. Solidarity means power. If the supervisor hears griping over grievances, they play people against each other and against the Union. They blame the Union for management's bad policies or wrong actions. When you support your stewards, we all win. ☐

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Cover photo by Bernadette Evangelist

The Postal Reform Act of 2022

Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

It was an historic day when on February 8, 2022, the House of Representatives, by a bi-partisan vote of 342-92, passed HR 3076: the Postal Reform Act (PRA) of 2022. It was a long time in coming. What this legislation does is remove the stifling burden that was placed on the Postal Service with the passage of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) in 2006, that required pre-funding of future retirees' health benefits 75 years in advance, and that it had to be done within a ten-year window. The PAEA needed to be reversed and it ended up taking 16 years to accomplish it.

Now that it appears that the PAEA's damage will be eradicated with the Postal Reform Act of 2022, it is possible to see that the Postal Service, postal workers, and those who depend upon the Postal Service will be better served. [As *The Union Mail* goes to press, the companion bill to HR 3076 is being introduced into the Senate with 14 Republican co-sponsors, and with the assurance by President Biden that if the legislation reaches his desk he will sign it.]

Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY CD 12) is the chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and worked tirelessly along with Ranking Member Representative James Comer (R-KY CD 1) to secure the necessary votes to ensure bi-partisan passage of HR 3076 when it was brought to the floor for a vote. All Democrat members voted for it and a majority of Republicans

were on board as well. In addition to eliminating the pre-funding burden, the PRA makes six-day delivery of letters, flats and packages a matter of law. Up until now, six-day delivery needed to be included within the Appropriations package and therefore was susceptible to political assault from time to time. The threat is removed with six-day delivery becoming a matter of law.

Another key aspect of Postal Reform legislation has to do with Medicare. Since 1983, the Postal Service has been paying \$billions into Medicare. Through Medicare Integration, postal workers and retirees will be fully involved with Medicare. Retirees will not see changes in their coverage choices, but new retirees will be compelled to choose Medicare Part B in addition to Medicare Part A. This will make the retiree's health plan the supplemental coverage to Medicare. 80% of postal retirees have voluntarily made this choice already. The provisions of Medicare Integration will become effective on January 1, 2025.

Part of the reason that Postal Reform legislation received such support at this time had to do with the fact that when the Congressional Budget office scored the bill, it found that the legislation would actually

save the federal government over \$10 billion over the next ten years. When members of both parties saw that the legislation would not only cost nothing, but would bring massive savings to the government, they decided to get on board. The Postal Service itself will save over \$45 billion over ten years from this legislation. In addition, the bill calls for increased transparency by the Postal Service. The USPS is required by this legislation to create on their website a public "dashboard", which will supply information on how well the Postal Service has performed during the week. The public will now be able to see exactly if there are any slowdowns in mail service, and be able to track areas where there may be persistent problems and failures in service. Besides being important information for the public in determining the quality of service, this information will enable the union to have additional data it can use. ☐

UPDATE! February 15, 2022:

Incredibly, a technical error was made in transmitting the bill from the House to the Senate, necessitating the Senate to get unanimous consent from its members to consider the Postal Reform bill. On February 14, Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) voted no, stopping the bill in its tracks. The bill will now have to be introduced in the Senate as a new bill before it can be voted on. This could take weeks or months, or possibly could doom the legislation totally. ☐



What is iCOP? Ask DeJoy.

Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

Postmaster Louis DeJoy's detrimental influence is everywhere. Jana Winter of *Yahoo News* reported last April that the Postal Service has been running a program of surveillance on American citizens called iCOP, the Internet Covert Operations Program that the public had not heard about. The Postal Inspection Service under the direction of PMG DeJoy was using iCOP as the motivation for tracking and collecting Americans' social media posts, focusing on those involving protests. "Analysts with the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) Internet Covert Operations Program (iCOP) monitored significant activity regarding planned protests occurring internationally and domestically on March 20, 2021," says the March 16, government bulletin, marked as "law enforcement sensitive." People had no idea that the Postal Service was involved in such activity until *Yahoo* broke the story.

The iCOP program was started originally to help find the movement of illegal firearms and opioids through the mail. It makes sense that the Postal Inspection Service would be concerned with the mail being used for criminal enterprises. *The American Spectator* reported that "the USPIS is not authorized to surveil the 'Net for threats to public order generally. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and other agencies have that responsibility. The fine print on the *Situational Awareness Bulletin* claims the surveillance was based upon authority granted by 18 U.S. Code 3061. That is curious

because that portion of federal law only empowers postal inspectors to "investigate criminal matters related to the Postal Service and the mails."

But that's before DeJoy. In the *Yahoo* article, Rachael Levinson-Waldman, Deputy Director for the Brennan Center for Justice said, "Based on the very minimal information that's available online, it appears that [iCOP] is meant to root out misuse of the postal system by online actors, which doesn't seem to encompass what's going on here. It's not at all clear why their mandate would include monitoring of social media that's unrelated to use of the postal system."

Looking at DeJoy's history, we can conclude that DeJoy probably saw iCOP as a handy means of detecting any threats against him or his cronies that might be emanating from protesting groups or individuals. Chief Postal Inspector Gary R. Barksdale met with members of Congress behind closed doors to answer their questions about iCOP after the *Yahoo* story broke. He told them that threats against the PMG increase whenever he appeared in the news.

Calls continue to fire DeJoy

It is clear through the reign of Louis DeJoy as Postmaster General of the United States (PMG), he has not delivered to the American people the "prompt, reliable and efficient service" that the mission of the Postal Service promises. His failure has not been ignored by the growing chorus of members of Congress calling for the firing of Louis DeJoy or the many editorial writers at national and

local publications also calling for DeJoy to be fired. Back on August 19, 2020, only a couple of months after he began as PMG, 86 national organizations wrote a joint-letter to the Postal Board of Governors demanding that DeJoy "must immediately resign or be dismissed." But, sadly, in 2022, DeJoy is still the PMG! Part of the explanation may come from the fact that a good number of Republican federal elected officials received ample donations from multimillionaire Louis DeJoy and his wife prior to his becoming PMG. These Republican members continue to sing the praises of DeJoy stating how good it was to finally have a "businessman" in charge of the Postal Service.

They are not alone. All four national postal unions have refused to call for DeJoy to resign or be fired, as well. Three of the four have successfully negotiated collective bargaining agreements with DeJoy, with the fourth beginning negotiations later this year. What remains to be seen, is now that the unions have their new contracts, whether they will begin to oppose DeJoy's *Delivering For America* ten-year plan as it delays the mail, raises prices, cuts hours at post offices, and closes processing plants. Many rank-and-file postal workers feel threatened by his ten-year plan's apparent aim to eliminate their jobs in the long term. It is a major mistake to underestimate DeJoy. His history as a "businessman" shows that he is no friend to workers and shouldn't be trusted with the future of a public Postal Service ☐

By Flo Summergrad



March is Women's History Month. This is a time to focus on those women – past and present – who helped move socie-

ty forward. In 2022, *The Union Mail* is celebrating the work of the APWU Legislative and Political Director, Judy Beard. For nearly fifty years, Judy Beard has been an asset to the Union in countless ways, but nothing has been as significant as her work since becoming APWU Legislative and Political Director in 2016. The slogan of her 3rd biennial Legislative Conference, “Keeping Up the Pressure, Fighting for Justice!” is a good characterization of Judy Beard’s life and work.

Our own excellent Legislative and Political Director, Chuck Zlatkin, says: “Judy Beard has brought being Legislative and Political Director to a new level. She is a hardworking and dynamic Director who has the best interests of our members in mind while she fights to make sure that we get all we need from the legislative and political world. When legislation is being considered that impacts postal workers, we can rest assured that Judy Beard is there representing us.”

Judy Beard’s clear speaking and

solid arguments have enabled her to convince Congressmen and Senators on both sides of the aisle to vote in the interests of postal workers. In 2018, her intense lobbying efforts with President Dimondstein killed an amendment that would have prohibited the USPS from ever offering financial services. In a stunning surprise, the House stopped the attack by a bipartisan vote of 212 to 201.

From 2020 to now, Judy’s efforts have built a strong coalition in support of the Postal Reform Act. By putting issues before party affiliations, Judy Beard wins the hearts and minds of lawmakers and of our union members.

Union history

Judy Beard started her postal career in Detroit in 1970. In title and in fact, she was also the “Union Minorities and Women Leadership Program Specialist,” at the U. of Michigan School of Industrial Relations. Moving on to Washington, DC, she worked for many years as the Executive Assistant to the National Secretary-Treasurer of APWU, where part of her job was educating Local officers about their fiduciary responsibilities to the Union. In 2002, she was invited to do this for the NY Metro Executive Board.

Judy’s skill as an organizer is finding a way to get people to listen. Coming into a situation where members of the board had become increasingly hostile to one another, she did not jump right into her presentation. First she showed *At the River*

I Stand, a documentary about the 1968 Memphis Sanitation strike and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Viewing this powerful film reminded the board members that they were on the same side in the struggle. By the time Judy began her talk, they were ready to listen and learn.

In 2007, Judy Beard became the first elected National Director of the APWU Retirees’ Department. In addition to keeping her 40,000 members informed on senior issues, Judy found ways to get retirees involved with the Union. She developed a program where people could speak out on their concerns. She mobilized the energy of retired workers into calls, letters, and other political pressure to protect postal jobs and their own rights and benefits.

As Legislative and Political Director, Judy Beard uses articles, speeches, and public programs, to make political issues clear to the members through real examples. At APWU’s 3rd biennial Legislative Conference, for instance, she brought Stacey Abrams in as a living case of the effects of voter suppression. Discriminatory laws that disenfranchised many Georgia voters cost Ms. Abrams the gubernatorial election by a razor thin margin. Judy drew the lesson that every vote does matter.

No one comes away from Judy Beard without enthusiasm and a way to use it in the fight for justice. Thank you, Judy! ☑

NY Metro Area Postal Union Shop Stewards

This is a list of all currently certified Shop Stewards for NY Metro. [Several more will be trained and added in the future.]

President Jonathan Smith, the officers, and the members of NY Metro thank all those who have served as shop stewards. We thank everyone who stepped up to run in the recent steward elections. Whether you won or lost, you showed your desire and commitment to our union. Please continue to be active in the fight! ☑

BRONX

Nina Cutie, Riverdale
Matthew Lebron, Baychester, Hillside, Esplan.
Juan Santiago, Fordham/Bot Gdns/Mt.Carmel
Maria Serpa, Woodlawn, Cranford
Skye Tabron, Blvd, Hunts Point
Plynie Williams, Hub/W Farms/ThrogsNeck/Wakefield

MORGAN

Shayna Smith, MV 3
Berrice Franklin, MV 3
Victor Francis Carpentier III, Clerk 3
Peter Boyer, Clerk 3
Pete Nunez, Clerk 3
Tyrone Blount, Clerk 3
James Moore, Clerk 3
Jacquelyn Owens, Clerk 3
Allison Ward, Clerk 2
Eveyanna Cortez, Clerk 3
MD Rezbul Kabir, PSE
Afroja Khatun, PSE 2
Nyeema L. Dickerson, Clerk 1
Kim Smith, Clerk 1
David A. McNeil, Maint 2
Edward Correa, Maint

MANHATTAN Stations

Brando Christian, VMF, MV
Ladonna Smith, VMF, MV
Rahsaan George, VMF, MV
Reuben Diaz, VMF, MV
Enela Kamza, FDR, Maint
Anupam Chowdhury FDR
Tammie C. Rambert, Cooper, Clerk
Naimah Mustafaa, Planetarium, Clerk
Emma Jewell Easton, Murray Hill, Clerk
Lenora F. Calanni, Stuy./Tompkins Sq, Clerk
Noelle Robyne Mena, Ansonia, Clerk

Lillian Yousif, Ft. Wash, Clerk
Denisha D. Dobbins, Cathedral, Clerk
Don Ryan, Peck Slip, Clerk
Brittany Nelson, Wall Street/Han, Clerk
Deborah Bethea, Church Street, Clerk
Latonya Kindall, JAF, Clerk

NDC

Brittany Howard, PSE 2
Sylvia Jordan, Clerk 1
Lisa Hanks, Clerk 1
John C. Oh, Clerk 2
Marie A. Ladson, Clerk 2
Yolanda Sweeney, Clerk 2
Florence Summergrad, Clerk 2
Elwillie Graham, Clerk 3
Heywana Fitzgerald, Clerk 3
Jerry Holley J., MV 2
Wilfredo Diaz, MV 2
Cassandra Black MV 1
Martin Ippoito, Maint 1
Sherell Taite-Pridgen, Maint 1
Drusilla Crowley, Maint 3
Vivek Chopra, Maint 3
Francine Allen, Maint 2

DVD

Gynteen Cuthbert, Clerk 1
Shawntai Downs, Clerk 3
Rickey Smith, MV 1
Idris Talbott, Clerk 1
Kelly Wilder, Clerk 2
Melissa Wimberley-Jones, Clerk 3
Che Magwood, Clerk 3
Diana Benders, Maint 1
Ayub Abdul-Haqq, Maint 1
Jose Narvaez, Maint 3
Natalie Anderson, Maint 3

New stewards train for a week

“It was wonderful!” – Marie Ladson, new steward

From January 24 – 28, 2022, nineteen new stewards attended a week of Shop Steward training at the NY Metro Area Postal Union office in Manhattan. The group contained workers from every craft (Clerk, Maintenance, and Motor Vehicle) and had representatives from stations in the Bronx, Manhattan, and the two facilities in New Jersey – DVD and the NJI&NDC.

Due to COVID protocols, the trainees were spread out, so there was social distancing. Information that they would need was set up on a table when they came in, so there did not have to be a lot of sharing and touching.

President Jonathan Smith taught

the classes with participation by Vice President Martir and other officers who came in when they were able. At the beginning, he introduced key articles from the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and explained the Joint Contract Interpretation Manual (the “JCIM”). By the middle of the week, people were given questions to take home and answer, and there was role-playing the different parts (Supervisor, Grievant, Steward) to put the information into practice.

The atmosphere was pleasant. It was serious work, but no one was made to feel pressured or ignorant. The object was to learn how to do the job they want to do. There was a

lot to learn, but people realized they retained more than they thought they would. After all, these were all people with experience on the job at the post office, so it made sense.

The purpose of the training is to arm the stewards with the basic tools they will need to represent workers on the job. At the end of the week, these new stewards will find they have more knowledge of the Contract and the grievance procedure than the vast majority of postal supervisors. As they put the lessons into practice, they will learn more and more. Newly certified stewards are encouraged to ask about anything they don’t know. The officers and experienced stewards will be there to assist. ☑



Attendees in alphabetical order by first names, followed by their home station: Afroja Khatun (Morgan); Anupam Chowdhury (FDR); Emma Jewell-Eaton (Murray Hill); Francine Allen (NJI&NDC); Idris Talbott (DVD); Jerry Holley, Jr. (NJI&NDC); LaDonna Smith (MVMF); Maria Serpa (Woodlawn); Marie Ann Ladson (NJI&NDC); MD Rezbul Kabir (Morgan); Nina Cutie (Riverdale); Noelle R. Mena (Ansonia); Peter Boyer (Morgan); Rahsaan George (MVMF); Reuben Diaz (MVMF); Skye Tabron (Hunts Point); Vivek A. Chopra (NJI&NDC); Vladimir Ruiz (NJI&NDC); Yolanda Sweeney (NJI&NDC).

COVID-19 Test Kit Fulfillment Pilot is APWU work

On January 12, 2022, APWU President Mark Dimondstein signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the US Postal Service about the **COVID-19 Test Kit Fulfillment Pilot**. This is being done “To facilitate the federal government’s efforts to deliver at-home COVID-19 test kits to American households in response to the coronavirus pandemic,” the parties have agreed to open 40 Postal Service Annexes (PSAs) throughout the country to do this work.

This pilot will be discussed as it evolves. Right now it is slated to last for 75 days from January 12, 2022. For this effort, the limits on PSEs have been extended. Meanwhile, full time workers on the ODL

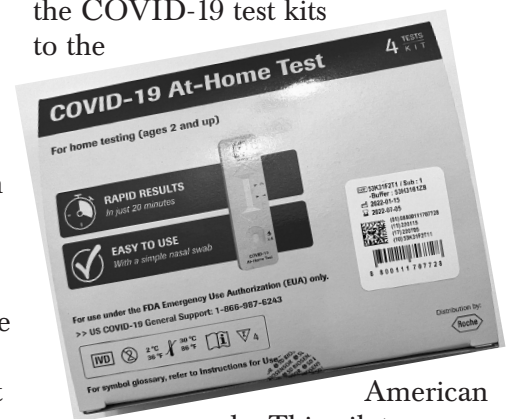
assigned to the Annex will have maximum OT opportunities up to 12 hours a day and 60 hours a week. (Up to a month into the pilot, no full time clerks have been assigned to the NDC Annex.)

In our area, the Postal Support Annex (PSA) is considered part of the NDC facility. It has been set up in Lyndhurst, NJ. Those PSEs let go from the NDC for “lack of work” on December 31, 2022, were given the option to work at the PSA. With other PSEs who were laid off from other North Jersey facilities, there are now over 200 PSEs working at this Annex, handling the COVID-19 test kits packaging and mailing.

This work is being overseen by Postal Headquarters and the MOU

requires daily inventory control over the COVID-19 test kits.

This is a very important job and we are eager to have it be a success. The Postal Service was chosen to get the COVID-19 test kits to the



American people. This pilot can lead to more APWU work in the future. We can do it! ☑

April 28 is Workers' Memorial Day

Workers' Memorial Day is the day to remember those workers killed on the job. In the famous words of Mother Jones, activist and organizer for the Mine Workers Union: “Pray for the dead, and Fight like hell for the living!”

It is not enough to grieve for the members of NY Metro Area Postal Union who died on the job due to management violations of safety protections. We must use those deaths to organize for on-the-job safety. Fighting for the living means enforcing regulations before a tragedy occurs. Afterwards is too late.

We Remember the deaths of NY

Metro members that could have been prevented:

DEATH 1979: MH Mike McDermott was pulled into the gears of the extendible belt at the NJ Bulk Mail Center (BMC, now NDC) because all limit switches that would have stopped the machinery were disabled to make mail run faster.

DEATH 1993: TTO Willie Gonzalez was hijacked and murdered for the money he was carrying on a remittance run in the Bronx. He had reported that he was being threatened and followed but he was ignored and unprotected.

DEATH 1994: Maintenance

Mechanic Eddie Domingo was crushed by the Sack Sorter at the NJ BMC because there was no machine guard over an in-running nip point.

DEATH 2016 – Clerk Nadia Assad was hit and killed in the parking lot of the DVD plant in Kearny, NJ. Complaints had been made about poor lighting and signage but never corrected.

All these risks had been reported and ignored before the workers were killed. So it is not enough to file complaints. Demand follow-up and correction!

APWU's April 28 call:
Stand Up for Safe Jobs! ☑

This is what solidarity looks like!

From Tamilia Colbert, President of APWU Local #114, Amarillo TX

At a recent meeting with several Presidents from around the country, President Jonathan Smith mentioned the training that our Local holds for new stewards. He invited the other Locals to attend. Those from Amarillo, Texas, made the trip and were so happy that they did. This is a beautiful letter of thanks from their Local President.

I greatly appreciate President Smith allowing and welcoming Amarillo Local #114 to attend the week long steward training. The training was incredibly beneficial in clarifying the role of a steward to those who are new to this position. I believe that this is how it should be when a sister Local is in need of help no matter the size. We as a Union should always be as willing and welcoming as the New York MetroArea Postal Union. We enjoyed your city and your hospitality and will always be thankful.

I had a chance to sit down with our stewards that attended and heard nothing but great things about the training.



Delegation from APWU Amarillo Local with NY Metro officers

I have listed a few of them below:

- The “hands on” training given by Jonathan and Joe was second to none
- The way that Jonathan required

Class participation should always be included in training, it broke the nervous shell that we had

■ The mock training allowed us to see exactly how it would be when it is our time to go and battle management while representing our members

■ We are proud to say that we have been educated and trained, we are ready to hit the ground running

■ Grade A Quality training which provided us with the insight and necessary tools to become comfortable in the shoes of a steward

Thank you for reaching out. I think it is awesome to let your members know how active you all are even outside of the New York Metro Area. ☑


In Memoriam: Winfield Odom

Retired NY Metro Steward and Officer Winfield Odom passed on 1/23/22.

Debbie Bethea remembers him with love and respect.



Mr. Winfield Odom. Oh what a good man. He was like a big brother to me. We became stewards together. He was a serious union man. I remember some jobs were about to be abolished at Church St. Station due to the 9/11 Terror Attacks. He said, “OH NO! We as postal workers have been through enough.” He then engaged the neighboring communities, politicians and worked with management to successfully keep those jobs. He along with other union officials proved how necessary those positions were.

I was very impressed by his devotion to the APWU and New York Metro. He pushed me to become more involved in the union and brought me in to become a VP. He was a good friend. We will miss you Mr. Odom. A true fighter. Never a sellout. 

POSTAL PRIDE

Postal workers are delivering COVID-19 test kits to America!

Those PSEs who would have been laid off at the conclusion of the Postal peak season have had the opportunity to be employed at the 40 Postal Service Annexes which are serving as fulfillment centers for COVID-19 test kits.

The Biden administration has committed to distributing 500 million rapid test kits to the American public. That's half a billion free tests, which are being packed, addressed, and mailed by the US Postal Service. This is being performed as a pilot project by APWU-covered employees. Its success will be a success for the USPS and for the American people.

This effort is part of a federal program to provide free at-home COVID-19 tests with free shipping to every residential address and residential PO Box™ in the United States. They will also be shipped to APO/FPO/DPO addresses and U.S. territories and possessions.

Just as postal workers were entrusted with our votes, our prescription medications, and our letters and packages, we are the ones who will deliver COVID-19 rapid test kits to every American household. There are four tests in each box, with a limit of one box per household. People can sign up online or over the telephone.

This is a real public service. Kits and shipping are FREE. No credit card or payment information is needed. No signature is required for delivery. ☑

Postal News Briefs

SUPREME COURT BLOCKS OSHA STANDARD ON COVID-19

Six of the nine Supreme Court Justices knocked down OSHA's Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) on COVID-19, saying it's not a workplace issue. Justices Breyer, Sotomayor, and Kagan argued that in workplaces, people are trapped, with little capacity to mitigate the risk of being exposed to the virus. Going to a restaurant is a choice; work isn't. Most workers are indoors for 8+ hours with limited control over conditions and co-workers. By defeating the ETS, the Court left workers without legal protection against COVID.



APWU DEFEATS POSTAL "SAFETY AMBASSADORS" PROGRAM

On the eve of a national arbitration regarding the unilateral imposition of the "Safety Ambassador Program," the Postal Service agreed to permanently withdraw the program and any guidelines or manuals related to it. APWU argued that the SAP violated the joint labor/management safety responsibilities in Article 14. In many post offices, management excluded the Union from its contractual role in enforcing a safe work environment, by hand-picking "ambassadors". The settlement returns to Article 14 norms.



SEN. CARPER URGES DeJOY TO CHANGE TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Senator Tom Carper (D-Del), sent a letter to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy calling for a reversal in current plans for 90% gasoline vehicles. He agrees with the EPA that electric trucks would be a cleaner, more sustainable fleet. Carper, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, expressed concern that the "USPS Environmental Impact Statement" on these vehicles was a fundamentally flawed analysis. Contrary to DeJoy's claims that switching from a gasoline fleet would cost the Postal Service more, electric trucks would actually save money. He wrote: "I believe the USPS has a prime opportunity to lead the effort to address climate change by transitioning the USPS delivery fleet to electrified vehicles."



Senator Carper

OSHKOSH CORP SEEKS TO MOVE POSTAL TRUCK PRODUCTION TO NON-UNION PLANT

The state-funded Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has been assisting the Oshkosh Corporation to retain thousands of Wisconsin jobs. From 2015 to 2020, DYK Truck has received \$55 million in tax credits.



Recently, labor support helped Oshkosh get the contract from the USPS for its new line of electric vehicles. Then the company announced plans to move production to a non-union plant in SC. This has outraged workers and the UAW. County Executive Tom Nelson has called on WEDC to suspend the company's tax credits unless they cancel this union-busting move. He says, "If they won't listen to the language of economic and labor justice, make them hear the one language they do. Money." ☑

CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 16

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting
via Zoom

Wednesday, April 20

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting
via Zoom

Wednesday, May 18

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting
via Zoom

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

Members Only!

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

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2022 | \$1,354,039.68 |
| Total Revenue January 2022 | \$ 163,260.48 |
| Operating Expenses January 2022 | \$ 226,982.20 |
| Total Net Income January 2022 | \$ (-63,721.72) |
| Ending Balance January 31, 2022 | \$ 1,290,317.96 |

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. Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization and Chairperson of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R., told The Union Mail: Moving forward, the NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. meeting will resume at 6:00 PM via ZOOM. Next meetings: March 23, 2022, at 6:00 pm. April 27, 2022, at 6:00 pm. May 25, 2022, at 6:00 pm. ZOOM Meeting ID# 239-026-1053 [Follow ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.] *NY Metro Area Postal Union



All COVID-19 MOUs and Liberal Leave Policy extended through April 8, 2022

Leona Draper is NE Retiree National Convention Delegate



NY Metro is pleased and proud that Leona Draper has been appointed NE Retiree National Convention Delegate to fill the vacancy left by the sad passing of Dolores Young last July. Five Retiree National Convention delegates (one from each Region) are chosen in the union's national elections for 3-year terms.

Leona Draper is a clear example that the fight doesn't end with retirement. She started her postal career in

March, 1967, and retired in October, 2009, after 42 ½ years. But she never missed a step in the fight for social justice inside and outside the Postal Service. Leona has marched to represent APWU in everything from the demand for FMLA, to the fight for immigrant rights and the World March for Women.

Leona was a steward for 25 years, also serving as a Trustee for the Local. She has been an active member of the Post Office Women for Equal Rights (P.O.W.E.R.) from its start, and was the NE Regional Coordinator from 2003-2005. She also served two terms representing

APWU on the Executive Board of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). Coming up at a time when there were very few women workers in the Post Office, Leona Draper was an inspiration to other sisters. Many NY Metro women gained the confidence to become stewards from her example.

Leona Draper has been a full dues-paying member of NY Metro Area Postal Union for 55 years. She is honored to take on the job of NE Retiree National Convention Delegate, and says: "I am a proud and dedicated union member, always and forever!" 📧



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

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CALL YOUR SENATORS!

The U.S Postal Service is a National Treasure that must be preserved.

*Call your Senators at (844) 403-0836 and tell them to vote “**yes**”
on The Postal Service Reform Act of 2022. Remember to call twice:
once for each of your Senators.*

unionmail@nymetro.org