



The

# Union Mail

Vol. 68 No. 7 | October 2025

Published by the NY Metro Area Postal Union

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

## *New York Metro Area Postal Union President Jonathan Smith Elected President of the the American Postal Workers Union*



# Don’t confuse this Comma for a Period!



Jonathan Smith

I said I wasn’t going to cry, but here I am because this truly hurts. Not every goodbye means the story is over. This isn’t goodbye, thank you, Metro, for teaching me how to grow. Sometimes love doesn’t end; it transforms.

I am inspired by God to do my job to the best of my ability, knowing that even at my very best I was only going to be is perfectly, imperfect. I have always taken the approach that failure is not an option. I have been your president since 2012, but I have been a Union representative since 1998.

Thank you, NY Metro. It’s been one of my greatest pleasures working with you. NY Metro raised me from being a boy to the man and leader, I am today. I’ll always cherish the memories. Thank you for helping me grow professionally, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. I’ve learned so much from you all, and your love and guidance has been instrumental in getting me to my new role as APWU National President.

One of the things that I love most about my job is getting to see a myriad of members, of all ages, races and religions with all different concerns but one goal to serve the American people! You all definitely kept me on my toes, and I loved every second of it!

I found joy in growth, surrounded

by an Executive Board and membership that made every day interesting. We got through Anthrax, Hurricane Sandy, Bombs found in the mail, fires at the NDC, Black Outs, and COVID-19. What a testament to the strength of the Metro members. Through it all the mail always got through.

I was groomed and mentored by great leaders like Moe Biller, Bill Burris, Elizabeth Powell, and Eleanor G Baily. Josie McMillian, Florence Summergrad, Chuck Zlatkin, Mark Dimondstein and many more.

I’m not built to break. I’m Metro strong; Pressure made me. I’m not lucky, I’m chosen. I don’t chase; I attract. They counted me out, but I was just studying my lessons. My silence isn’t a weakness; it’s a strategy. I don’t compete; I create. I don’t fold; I focus. I’m blessed, battle-tested, and walking in purpose. This is what it means to be Metro strong.

Joesph Martir NY Metro Executive Vice President will assume the office of President, He has been with my administration since 2012, he is experienced, capable, knowledgeable and committed to fighting to carry on the legacy of NY Metro leadership! I fully endorse and support him being the next Great Metro President. Metro, please give Joe your full support; he cannot do this alone.

I give God all the glory! For allowing me to stay focused and never forgetting who I am. I never, for a second, sacrificed my morals and character to win this election! From the bottom of my heart, I want

to thank everyone who supported me and voted for me. I’m truly thankful to each of you. Your support has been instrumental in shaping my vision for the potential of APWU. Let’s continue to uplift and inspire one another through our shared passion for this great union that we all love. Let’s grow together as we continue to strengthen our union, built on the foundation of love, commitment, and determination. Nothing is impossible if we remain united!

I’m still your President and Metro will always be My home, don’t confuse this comma for a period, the struggle continues. ☐

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## LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT:

# The Postal Service: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

In the annual Gallup Poll, the Postal Service was the only federal agency that received more positive ratings than negative ones. FEMA, CIA, CDC, FDA, EPA and IRS ratings are now at or near their all-time lows in the twenty years of the poll. The last year was brutal for the other agencies. The positive rating for FEMA was down 20 points, the CIA was down 10 points, the CDC 9, the FDA and EPA 7, and the IRS down 6.

A majority of those polled gave positive ratings to the USPS: 40 percent of the people surveyed felt that the Postal Service did a good job while 16 percent felt the USPS did an excellent job. 30% of those polled gave the Postal Service a fair rating while only 13% felt that the Postal Service did a poor job. The lowest rated of the 17 agencies in the survey was the VA with only 25% positive ratings.

According to a GAO report, weekly papers which in 2014, were supposed to be delivered to the homes of subscribers within three days, were now up to 25% being delivered late, in some cases, up to nine days late! Publishers have said that they have had problems with the Postal Service for years, but with the institution of the “Delivering for America” cost-cutting plan which resulted in the closing of distribution centers all over the nation, the problem was only getting worse!

Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) spoke to his fellow senators about a report he received from an alleged

whistleblower detailing that the Postal Service was hiring registered sex offenders as mail carriers. Grassley attempted to verify the accusations with the Postal Service but it would not provide him with a list of names of the registered sex offenders. The Postal Service, on July 7, 2025 did confirm to Grassley that the Postal Service in 2024 employed 150 registered sex offenders. The letter said that 102 of the 150 has “access to the public,” and of the 102, 77 were mail carriers.

What disturbed Grassley the most, was that the Postal Service admitted that it doesn’t track the routes of the registered sex offender employees and has no idea of the locations that these employees are delivering their mail.

## Rep Budzinski Steps Up for Postal Workers and the Public We Serve

Nikki Budzinski, who for years worked as a union organizer, first for LIUNA and then for the International Association of Fire Fighters, before spending seven years at the UFCW, working as their national political director, introduced the Protect Postal Performance Act in Congress. The legislation states that until the USPS gets its on-time delivery rate back up to 90% there should not be any more consolidation of any postal distribu-

tion centers. This legislation fights back against the damage done by the Delivering for America Act which hurt on-time delivery of the mail. Budzinski represents the 13th Congressional District in Illinois since 2022.

## Phony Postal History Published by Postal Management

On October 15, 2025 Jefferey Adams the Vice President of Corporate Communications for the Postal Service, published “Delivering Since 1775 – 250 Years of Delivering, In the Community. Inside USPS, Postal History” This report supposedly details the evolution of the Postal Service. But this skill for postal management isn’t able to tell the truth about the real history that took place. Adams, not surprisingly, disrespects postal workers. He writes, “After years of debate, in 1970, the Postal Reorganization Act brought profound transformation, molding us into the independent, self-financing U.S. Postal Service,...” Hey Adams! Years of Debate? None of this would have transpired without the historic Postal Strike of 1970! Adams is a fake, a phony, and a fraud by not giving credit to the courageous postal workers who went on strike forcing the government to take the actions that resulted in the Postal Reorganization Act. ☐



# Delivering for America – How the United States Postal Service Built a Nation Celebrating 250 Years of the USPS



By James H. Bruns  
Published by Melcher Media  
New York 2025

Book Review by Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

This attractive coffee table book “DELIVERING FOR AMERICA – HOW THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE BUILT A NATION; CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF THE USPS” sells for \$50. The USPS wanted to do an anniversary book written about the 250 years of its own history. It is the first official book to chronicle the 250-year history of the United States Postal Service, told through stories and visuals.

There have been a number of books detailing the history of the post office, two of the best are

“First Class: The U.S. Postal Service, Democracy, and the Corporate Threat” by Christopher W. Shaw with a forward by Ralph Nader 2021 and “Neither Snow nor Rain: A History of the United States Postal Service” by Devin Leonard 2016. Both books have been reviewed in The Union Mail previously. Both of the books come from a strong point of view that neither shies away from the importance of the post office nor the problems the service has had to endure and the ones it has created.

The USPS states, “‘Delivering for America’ is both a celebration of and a reflection on the legacy of the United States Postal Service.” It views this book as, “our turn to tell our story.”

And while it does an excellent job

in recording the history of the Postal Service from 1770 to the present day, it is important to remember as you read it that it is management’s version and unfortunately that becomes apparent in the way the postal unions are represented throughout this history.

In telling its story, the USPS aims for it to be a positive recounting of its history, “Today, USPS is 640,000 employees strong, with 31,000 retail centers and 256,000 delivery vehicles, delivering more than 400 million pieces of mail and packages to more than 330 million people daily. This book is dedicated to our community heroes—all USPS employees, past and present—as we continue to deliver for America today and for hundreds of years to come.”

The Post Office was founded by the Second Continental Congress on July 26, 1775, with Benjamin Franklin as the first postmaster general, even before the nation itself existed. The postal system has been an important part of American history since then. The ability of the post office to make it possible for citizens all across the nation to communicate with each other helped create the country and sustain its ability to survive.

James H. Bruns does a masterful job of taking us from the beginning of the post office and how the Revolutionary War provided the initial growth of

the post office into an organized postal system and how it expanded because of the establishing of a plan for the Northwest Territory. George Washington’s power and popularity was advanced through the newspapers of the day, so he had a positive attitude to making it possible for newspapers to be sent through the mail. When the government was established to be housed in Washington, DC the post office went along with it. And when wars started the mail service became even more essential. And when the country grew so did the need for a postal system. The book also delves into how the postal service was a lifeline during the Great Depression and continues to shape our lives today, through cutting-edge advancements like electric vehicles, automation, and email.

Bruns shows why the USPS is the most popular federal agency right up through today. The story is enhanced by the book being filled with rare photographs, documents, and artifacts—many never before seen in print.

“Delivering For America – How The United States Postal Service Built A Nation” is a good read for anyone with curiosity about how this nation developed, but it is a must read for anyone who works for or has worked for the United States Postal Service. There is much to learn about this magnificent institution and this book is a good way to get that knowledge. ☐

# Trump’s War Against the Postal Service Will Continue

By Chuck Zlatkin

Some say that Donald Trump declared war on the U.S. Postal Service in order to make it harder for people to vote by mail. Others say that Trump’s desire to end early voting stems from his belief that the 2020 was “rigged and stolen.” As a matter of fact, Trump hired an expert to substantiate his claims of voter fraud in the 2020 election. Unfortunately for Trump, Ken Block of Simpatico Software Systems stated, that his research never yielded anything to support Trump’s claims—and instead wholly debunked them. It doesn’t matter to Trump. He continues to state that the rigging of the 2020 election is “the biggest scandal in American history.”

There are those who believe that Trump’s concentration on the Postal Service stems from his one-time feud with Jeff Bezos, owner of the Washington Post and Amazon CEO, who Trump felt got a “sweetheart deal” from the Postal Service.

It is also a fact that the Heritage Foundation, the right-wing think tank that has great influence in the Trump White House, has supported the privatization of the Postal Service from its inception. Remember, early on, Trump wanted to fire the Postal Board of Governors and merge the Postal Service with the Commerce Department. While, in reality, it would take an act of Congress to make Trump’s desired changed to the Postal Service, Trump still would like to make massive changes to Postal Service.

During Trump’s first administra-

tion there was a report proposed to cut postal services and shift cost for retirement benefits to make the Postal Service more profitable before privatizing it. Later on, a task force was created by Secretary-Treasurer Steven Mnuchin proposing cutting services and ending collective bargaining rights for postal workers.

The Washington Post reported in December of 2024 that then President-elect Trump had discussed privatizing the Postal Service with members of his transition team including Howard Lutnick his nominee for Commerce Secretary. Lutnick was a long-time proponent of postal privatization.

When David Steiner became the 76th postmaster general of the United States, he told employees that he wants to “preserve” the agency’s independence. Steiner does not report directly to Trump — he was selected by the USPS’ board of governors, who are appointed by the president — but The Washington Post reported that Trump made the final call on his hiring. Remember, Steiner replaced Louis DeJoy. DeJoy was appointed by Trump and had to pass scrutiny because he was such a large donor to Trump’s campaigns. But DeJoy fell out of favor with Trump, because he resisted Trump’s moves to privatize the Postal Service and that led DeJoy to resign. Brian L. Renfro, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, called the selection of Steiner as a “direct assault” on postal workers.

It was also recently announced that Michael Kubayanda, chairman of the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), is leaving the agency, after serving for more than six years. Kubayanda is stepping down, after challenging some of the more controversial parts of a 10-year USPS reform plan. Kubayanda’s term lasts through November 2026, but he told Federal News Network that he’s stepping down from the agency “completely on my own accord.”

The PRC is composed of five Commissioners—each of whom is appointed to a six-year term of office by the President and confirmed by the Senate. It will be interesting to see who Trump will appoint to fill this vacancy.

While Trump might not be making the Postal Service headline news at the moment, the appointment of David Steiner as PMG, his eventual pick for the PRC, and his implementation of his postal policies make it clear to those who work for the Postal Service and those who depend upon the existence of a public Postal Service that our struggle continues. ☐









# Postal Service Items in the News

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

The public view of the Postal Service is often shaped by what issues the media presents. Here are a few stories recently reported:

## September 25 Government Shutdown and the Postal Service

One big story was the concern as to whether post offices would remain open when the government would be shut down. On September 25, 2025, the Postal Service issued a statement confirming that postal services would not be interrupted by a shutdown, “Because we are an independent entity that is generally funded through the sale of our products and services, and not by tax dollars, our services will not be impacted by a government shutdown.”

## Holiday Cost Increases

The public was also concerned when the Postal Service announced the “temporary” cost increases for the holiday season. Back when the Delivering for America 10-year plan was announced to “return The Post Office to financial sustainability”, increase in prices was forecast. Over the summer, the Postal Service announced price hikes for the holiday season which would affect Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, USPS Ground Advantage and Parcel Select. The price hikes are already in operation and will remain until January 18, 2026. Customers will pay an increase that range from 30 cents to \$13 depending on the package service, weight of the package and delivery zone.

## 14 New Sorting and Delivery Centers Open on November 1

While Representative Nikki Budzinski (Dem. IL) called upon the Postal Service to not consolidate any distribution centers, the Postal Service announced on September 25, 2025 that it will launch 14 new sorting and delivery centers (S&DCs) on November 1, 2025. The Postal Service stated that “These S&DCs are an integral part of the Postal Service’s Delivering for America plan to create a best-in-class processing and delivery network. The S&DCs will revitalize our network of nearly 19,000 delivery units—the last stop for mail and packages before they are delivered by our carriers. The Postal Service has targeted key markets where it is beneficial to aggregate delivery units into fewer, larger, centrally located S&DCs—leveraging both repurposed and new facilities—to simplify the entire network and create a more reliable and efficient Postal Service.”

The Postal Service has post office locations at each of the planned 14 sites. The Postal Service claims the conversion to sorting and delivery centers will not result in any post office closures or changes to retail or PO Box delivery services. This remains to be seen. The new facilities will combine work previously processed by delivery units locally.



## Postal Regulatory Commission Chairman to Step Down

Chairman of the Postal Regulatory Commission Michael Kubayanda is stepping down from the agency after more than six years of service. Kubayanda was initially nominated to the PRC by then President Trump in 2018 and later became vice chairman. In January 2021, President Biden appointed Kubayanda to be the PRC’s chairman. As chairman, he saw, that “there’s a need for strong oversight of the Delivering for America plan.” Kubayanda said, “We stepped up in the face of a lot of pressure, and I think we did a good job of providing transparency and oversight.” The PRC criticized key components of former Postmaster General Louis DeJoy’s 10-year plan. DeJoy had blamed PRC’s inaction adding to the worsening financial health of the USPS. Until Trump submits his own nominee for PRC chair, vice chairman Robert Taub will serve in the position.

## U.S. Postal Service v. Konan

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in U.S. Postal Service v. Konan. This is bizarre considering that there is “the postal exception” where it is impossible for people to sue the Postal Service for claims “arising out of the loss, miscarriage, nor negligent transmission of letters or postal matter.” The decision that the Court is making is based on if there is intentional non-delivery of mail is loss, miscarriage or negligence. The claim is that postal employees chose not to deliver mail to this location

. “Lebene Konan, a Black property owner, leased two rental residences in Euless, Texas, and retrieved business and tenant mail from a central mailbox daily. In May 2020, United States Postal Service (USPS) employee Jason Rojas changed the lock on the mailbox at one of Konan’s properties without her approval, halted mail delivery, and demanded ownership verification. Even after USPS’s

Inspector General confirmed Konan’s ownership, Rojas and another USPS employee, Raymond Drake, allegedly continued marking mail addressed to Konan and her tenants as undeliverable. Konan claims this refusal of service extended to her second property and was racially motivated, causing loss of rental income and disruption of essential communications.”



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

To facilitate the ability of the New York Metro Area Postal Union (NYMAPU) to respond in support of our sisters and brothers from other unions, the New York Metro Area Postal Union Political Action Team (PAT) has been formed. As a member of the Political Action (PAT) you are committed to being part of the force that will represent NYMAPU at

actions put on by our fellow unionists when you are able. The idea of having a dynamic Political Action Team is so that there will be sufficient membership from NYMAPU to be able to attend functions with participation will not just fall on a few. The more members we have on the Political Action Team the stronger we will be and the easier it will be for PAT members to participate

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

Thank you to Diane Erlanger for facilitating this new leg of our political outreach team.

If you are interested in being part of the dynamic NYMAPU Political Action Team, please contact **Diane Erlanger** at **(212) 563-7553 x105** or **diane.erlanger@nymetro.org**



POSTAL PRIDE

The votes were tallied on October 7, 2025 for the APWU National Election for President: Jonathan Smith 13,545, AJ Jones 11,855. Yes! New York Metro Area Postal Union’s president, Jonathan Smith will be the new president of the American Postal Workers Union! His inauguration is November 1 and his term begins on November 12. New York Metro is more than proud of Jonathan Smith. He has been our president since 2012 and has served us well. He has delivered for our members and the public we serve. Jonathan has proven to us that he is a hardworking, honest leader with an open mind and loving heart. Wherever he was needed by our members, Jonathan Smith showed up with energy, commitment, and passion. Metro members knew, that for them, Jonathan’s door was always open. Jonathan promised in his campaign for APWU President, that he “intends to address our issues with truth, openness, and common sense. Furthermore, he vows to give us the respect we deserve and the professionalism that the office of APWU President requires. Our Future Is Now!

Current APWU President Mark Dimondstein said, “Congratulations to Brother Smith and all those candidates who prevailed in this election. I would also like to salute all those candidates who stood up and offered to serve. Elections like these demonstrate the power of our union’s democracy.”

City & State magazine listing “The 2025 Labor Power 100 New York’s most influential union chiefs and worker advocates – Jonathan Smith, President, New York Metro Area Postal Workers Union has served as the president of the New York Metro Area Postal Workers Union for more than a dozen years. This year, he’s looking to go national, seeking to be president of the American Postal Workers Union and its 200,000 U.S. Postal Service employees and retirees. Jonathan Smith is running on a campaign of experience and openness.”

NY Metro members know that Jonathan Smith is the right person at the right time for this job. He is what we need to deal with the current Postmaster General David Steiner, the board member from FEDEX, and the Trump administration’s antipathy to the Postal Service. Jonathan Smith has said, “When they show you who they are believe them the first time. Not looking forward to what Trump shows unions and the working class the second time!”

Metro members understand that Jonathan Smith is clear-headed. Our faith in him is strong because he knows what our members do and what they face from postal management and the time in which we live. “We do not deliver Republican mail. We do not deliver Democratic mail. What we deliver is America’s mail,” says President Smith.

Postal News Briefs

The U.S. Senate adopted a resolution last week recognizing the 250th anniversary of the Postal Service.

“It’s a testament to the important work we do, and how long we have been doing it, that the United States Senate took this gratifying bipartisan and unanimous action to salute the Postal Service’s 250th anniversary,” said Postmaster General David Steiner.

Approved by voice vote, the resolution highlights the organization’s unique place in American history and praises it for embodying “the spirit of innovation, determination, longevity and resilience of the United States.”

It ends by inviting Americans “to join in the celebration ... by writing a letter, buying stamps, or recognizing a postal employee.”

The resolution was co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of 14 senators.

Congressman Brian Mast asks USPS to honor Charlie Kirk with a stamp

It is bad enough that President Trump has given Charlie Kirk the Medal of Freedom but Rep. Mast’s request to honor Kirk with a stamp must be fought. Kirk has made many racist and anti-Semitic comments over the years which cannot be ignored and must make him ineligible to be on a U.S. Postage Stamp. Mast is a Republican from Florida.

California appears poised to become one of the first states in the nation to take over the job of protecting its workers

Gov. Gavin Newsom’s signing of Assembly Bill 288 in September effectively preempts federal law, allowing California workers and organizers to bring workplace complaints or charges directly to a state-run agency and sidestep the dysfunctional National Labor Relations Board.

The measure would throw a lifeline to unions and workers currently stymied by what amounts to the dismantling of the NLRB — but only if it survives a fierce legal challenge, like the one currently playing out in New York over a similar law. Newsom signed the bill knowing that it’s likely to quickly be tied up in court, a reality the bill’s author also freely acknowledges.

So why bother? State Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood) said, “We will not sit idly by while our workers are being exploited.”

APWU LOCAL BLDG. CORP

September report will be available in next month’s Union Mail.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 19

5:30pm  
General Membership Meeting  
Via ZOOM

**\*\*There is no General Membership Meeting in December**

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

Members Only!

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

**\*\*For news, upcoming events and more, visit our website at [nymetro.org](https://nymetro.org)**

**SISTERS!** As an APWU member, you are a member of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. (Post Office Women for Equal Rights). Prior to the pandemic, all sisters were invited to P.O.W.E.R. meetings at the Union Office on the 4th Thursday of every month at 1:00pm. Because of social distancing concerns, Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization, and Chairperson of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R, told the Union Mail that we would be holding the P.O.W.E.R. meetings on ZOOM at a later time -- 5:30 pm.



NEXT MEETING:

**Wednesday, November 26**  
ZOOM Meeting ID #239-026-1053  
[Follow ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.]

SCAN ME



**FOR UNION NEWS, EVENTS,  
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COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

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