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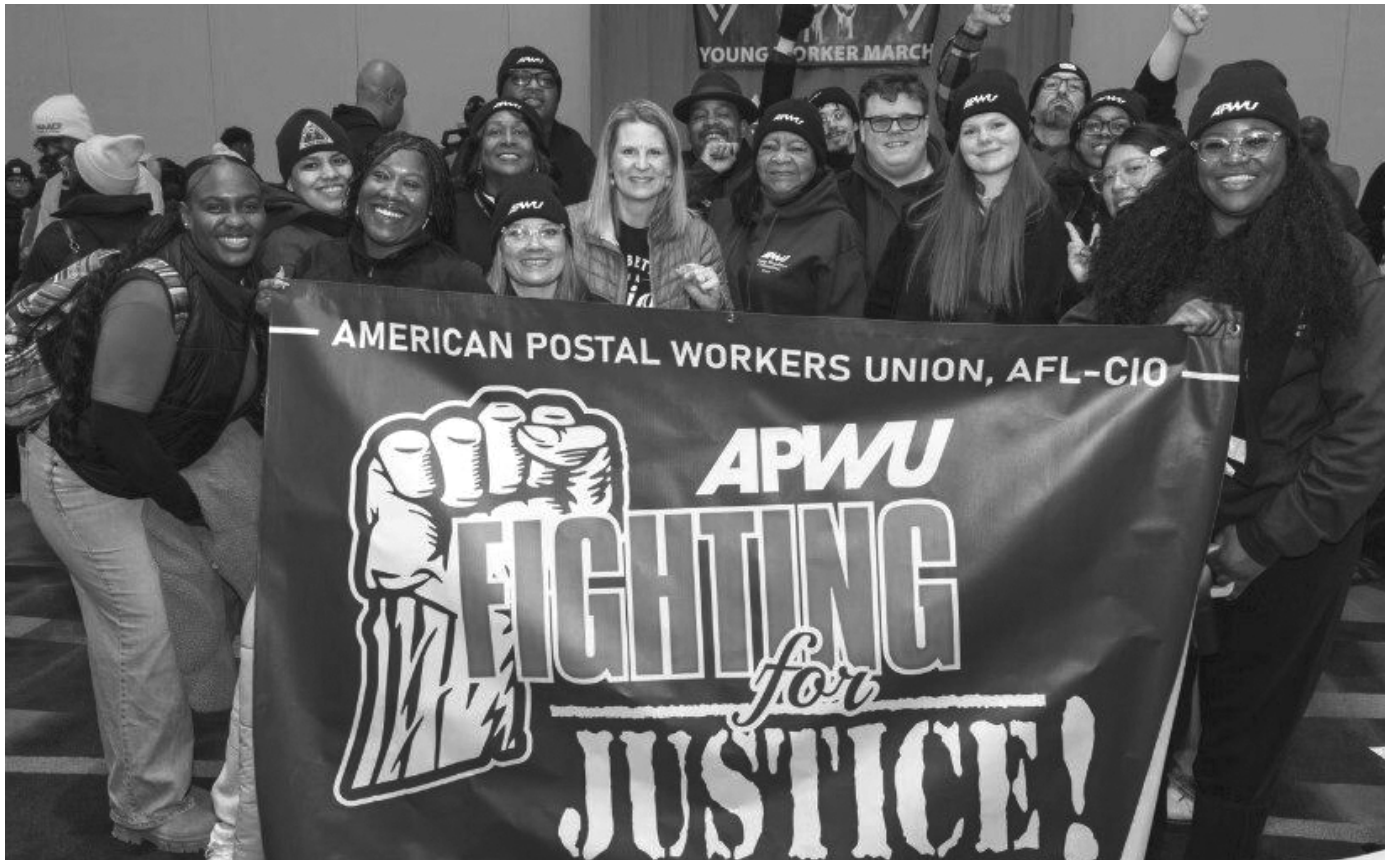
Union Mail

Vol. 69 No. 4 | May/June 2026

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.

METRO STRONG ALL DAY LONG *When We Fight, We Win*



"The old saying remains true: the job you save may be your own."

BE PROACTIVE: THE JOB YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN



Joseph Martir

One of the greatest strengths of our Union is the vigilance and involvement of our members. Every day, postal employees witness operations on the workroom floor that directly impact our bargaining

unit work and job security. That is why I encourage each member to remain proactive and alert to violations involving Article 7 Cross Craft and Article 1.6 Mail Bargaining Unit Work Violations.

Too often, management attempts to blur the lines of our negotiated agreements by assigning work outside the proper craft or by permitting work that belongs to bargaining unit employees to be performed improperly. These violations do not simply affect one employee or one section. They have long-term consequences on staffing, excessing, and ultimately the preservation of jobs.

The old saying remains true: the job you save may be your own.

Members should also remain vigilant about station closures, curtailed window operations, or reductions in retail service hours. These actions impact our customers, our communities, and our bargaining unit employees and should be reported immediately. Unilateral decisions that reduce service or staffing frequently result in additional work disruptions and provide management with yet another opportunity to justify eliminating jobs.

When bargaining unit work is lost or eroded, management uses those losses as justification for reducing staffing and disrupting the lives of dedicated postal employees. Every violation left unchallenged becomes another tool management can use in their continued effort to weaken our crafts and diminish our rights under the collective bargaining agreement.

I urge all members to document what they observe, promptly notify their immediate supervisor, and request their Union representative. Document every infraction! It is imperative that you have dates, times, locations, and detailed information. Note who, what, where, when, and why. Your vigilance strengthens our ability to enforce the contract and protect the integrity of our work.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to National Business Agent Peter Coradi for his fierce and unwavering advocacy during the recent Article 12 excessing event in NJI/NDC. Through his outstanding representation and mastery of the collective bargaining agreement, Brother Coradi demonstrated that management's excessing actions are improper and that the excessing event must be cancelled. His dedication to protecting our members and defending their contractual rights exemplifies the strength and solidarity that define our Union. We are grateful for his leadership and steadfast commitment to holding management accountable when it attempts to disrupt the lives of our members. NJI/NDC Director Cassandra Black and Sister Sherell Taite-Pridgen, Assistant Director of Maintenance, provided indispensable support and advocacy on the work room floor. Their leadership, professionalism, and dedication to workers have been invaluable.

In addition to pursuing contractual remedies, I have been meeting with Bronx and Manhattan congressmembers to advise them of the egregious conduct, contractual violations, and punitive management practices that postal employees and our customers continue to endure. These discussions have focused on chronic understaffing, station closures, service disruptions, safety concerns, and management decisions that unnecessarily disrupt the lives of our members. It is imperative that our elected officials understand the real-world effects on postal workers and the communities that depend

upon a reliable Postal Service. While management may view these actions as business decisions, we recognize their human impact and the uncertainty they create for our members.

Our response must be equally steadfast. We must continue to educate ourselves, enforce our contractual rights, and stand together in defense of our jobs, our safety, and our dignity. A strong Union is built not only by its officers and stewards, but by engaged members who understand that protecting bargaining unit work today safeguards opportunities for tomorrow.

Together, we will continue to hold management accountable and ensure that the rights secured through collective bargaining are preserved for future generations of postal workers. ☑

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Young Leadership in Action: Ebony Wright is in the Fight

By Andrea Adleman, Editor



■ *Ebony Wright, Assistant Clerk Craft Director, at the Young Workers March on Washington, hosted by AFGE Young, AFL-CIO*

Ebony Wright has no time for nonsense. She works full-time, raises her son as a single parent, and has too many union titles to fit on a business card.

Sister Wright is a Canal Street Station clerk who became Assistant Director of the Clerk Division in late 2025. She began as a postal support employee in 2019, then secured a full-time career position and became a steward.

Sister Wright says she learned from the “leadership, guidance, and passion” of NY Metro executive officers, especially Secretary-Treasurer Denisha Dobbins and Jonathan Smith, former NY Metro president and current national APWU president. “Their readiness to take action and lead without fear or pressure from outside noise continues to inspire me to push myself beyond limits and remain committed to advocating for the membership,” said Sister Wright. “Through their mentorship, I have learned the importance of integrity, accountability, and standing firm in defense of employees’ rights and protections under the contract. Their example has motivated

me to continue growing as both a union representative and a leader within the APWU.”

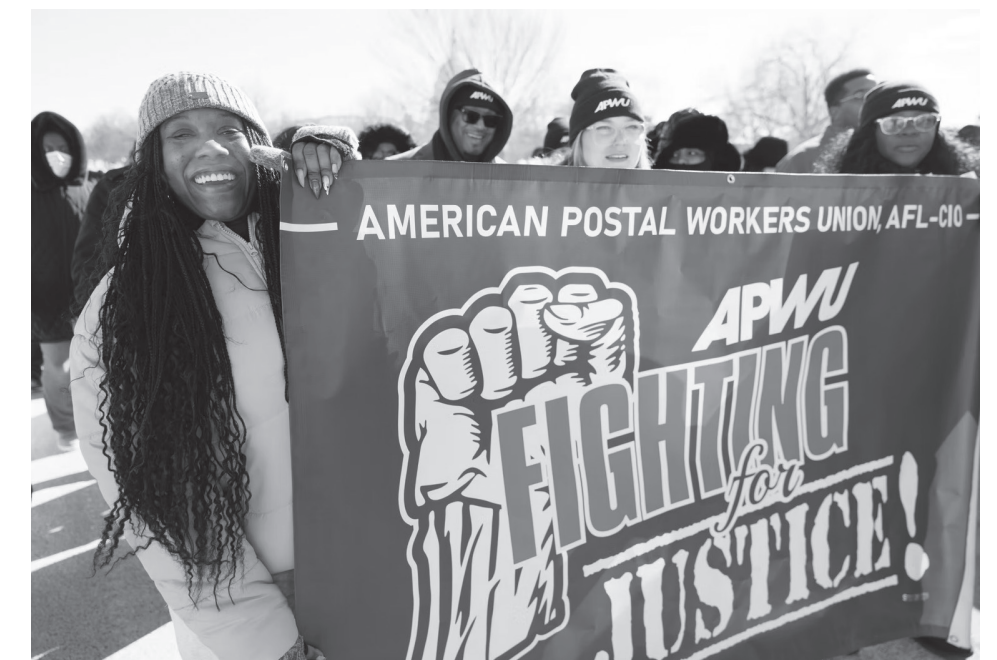
National officers have recruited Sister Wright into leadership positions. She serves on the APWU national Young Members Committee, representing the Northeast Region. She assumed this position in early 2026, having been nominated by Northeast Regional Coordinator Tiffany Foster.

Sister Wright joined other APWU activists for the first national Young Worker March on Washington in February 2026. The march united labor and civil rights advocates in a fiery statement of people power, despite the frigid temperature. When the march took place, the thermometer read -1 degrees, but that didn’t immobilize the action.

“It was powerful to stand alongside young workers from across the country who all shared the same passion for protecting workers’ rights, strengthening our unions, and fighting for a better future,” said Sister Wright. “One of the biggest things I gained from the experience was perspective. It reminded me that the issues we face in our individual workplaces are not isolated. Workers everywhere are dealing with understaffing, safety concerns, intimidation, burnout, and attacks on labor rights. At the same time, I learned just how powerful solidarity can be when workers come together with one voice and one purpose.”

The march, organized by the young workers of the American Federation of Government Employees, gave Sister

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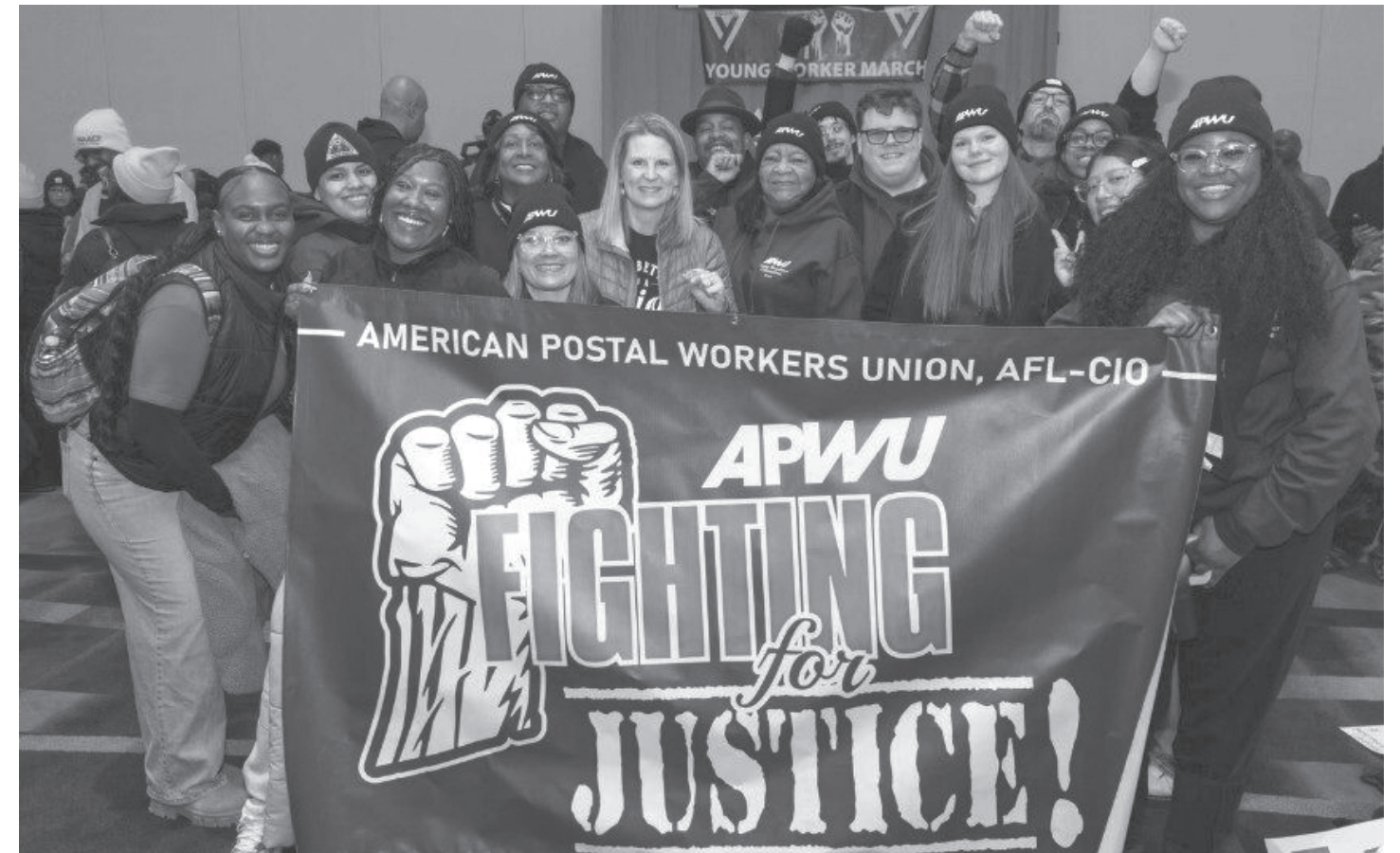


Unions march in Washington DC in support of young members.

Wright a “sense of unity and empowerment.” It “reinforced why representation matters so much. Young workers are often told to stay quiet, accept poor treatment, or avoid getting involved, but being in D.C. showed the exact opposite. There was something inspiring about being surrounded by people who were not afraid to speak up, challenge injustice, and advocate for change.”

Overcoming fear is how Sister Wright became a fighter in the first place. When her job was threatened, she was very afraid, but received life-changing support from the union.

“In December 2022, I found out I was pregnant, and during one of the most vulnerable times in my life, management attempted to push me out,” said Sister Wright. “I did not know the contract, I did not fully understand my rights, and I felt alone. Then I met a union representative who fought for

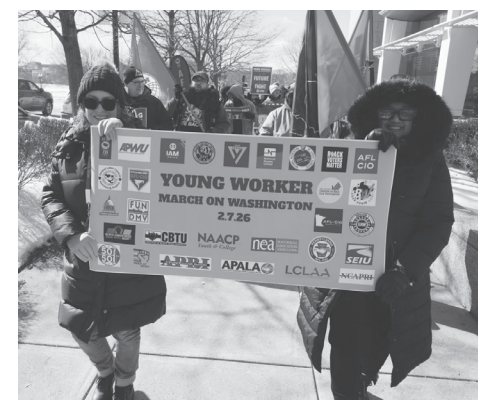


me, educated me, and made sure I was treated fairly. That experience changed my life and inspired me to become a steward myself.”

Sister Wright learned by watching former Clerk Craft Director Yancy Thomas, who fought and won on her behalf. From here, Sister Wright felt compelled to reciprocate. “I wanted to become for someone else what Ms. Thomas was for me — a voice, an advocate, and a source of strength when they needed it most.”

Sister Wright is clear-eyed about the challenges in increasing young membership. “A lot of young workers do not trust institutions, and, honestly, I understand why,” she said. “Many people have experienced being overlooked, unheard, or treated like they are disposable. I do not try to convince them with slogans or promises. I speak from experience.

“When a young worker asks me why they should join the union, my answer is simple: because every worker deserves protection, a voice, and someone willing to stand beside them when things go wrong. The union is not just a building, title, or institution. The union is the people willing to fight beside you when you cannot fight alone. It is education, protection, representation, and solidarity.”



Strength in Numbers: NY Metro Stewards Attend State Convention

By Andrea Adleman, Editor

NY Metro stewards sharpened their skills at the New York State APWU Convention, held on Long Island in early May. Union members from all corners of the Empire State came together to build power, gain knowledge, and get inspired to keep fighting for postal workers and public services.

Christopher Donoghue, a Motor Vehicle steward at the New Jersey International Network Distribution Center, said he got a “lot of new information to put in my toolbox. I feel better and more confident. I learned what to look for and to report.

“I met National Business Agents and a lot of knowledgeable members,” said Brother Donoghue. “I learned what’s going on in other areas and I got information I can use. I cleared my schedule to go and it was the best thing ever.”

Andrew Harrison is a clerk at FDR station who represents workers at six Manhattan stations. He benefitted from the workshops that discussed the technological, economic, and political pressures on the Postal Service. The threats are great, but so is Harrison’s drive to fight back.

“Honestly, all this convention did

was motivate me even more,” said Brother Harrison. “It made me want to go back out there and fight harder than ever before. It also reminded me how important it is that every one of us gets out and votes during the midterms because the future of our jobs and our union rights depend on it.

“What I want to tell every union brother and sister reading this is simple: do not give up. Do not become desensitized. Management will throw everything they can at us to try and break us, frustrate us, and make us lose hope. Do not let them.



■ (Left to Right, Top to Bottom) NY Metro Leaders Joseph Martir, Sherell Taite-Pridgen, Christopher Donoghue, Daisy Degout, Dawud Lee, Tyrone Blount, Glenda Morris, Diane Erlanger, Deborah Bethea, Plynie Williams, Denisha Dobbins, Ebony Wright, and Desiree Roberson

“If we stand together, support one another, and continue fighting for these jobs, we can secure not only our futures, but the futures of our children, grandchildren, and generations after them — but only if we tap into the passion that all of us have inside and continue to fight.”

DVD motor vehicle operator Daw’ud Lee came away determined to educate the public about the ways privatization would affect the Postal Service.

“We learned that being a steward isn’t just about the grievance process,” said Brother Lee, a shop steward. “It’s about getting people to understand your mail is under attack, your parcels are

under attack. We have to reach not just workers in the post office but people in the community. The Postal Service is a national treasure. We need to treat it as such.

“I take pride in my job. The post office is a great place to work. There are lots of opportunity and benefits to workers. As workers, our first responsibility is to show up to work and hold fellow coworkers accountable. Make a friend. We have to look out for each other. We are stronger together at a time when management wants to divide and conquer.”

Steward Desiree Roberson valued the opportunity to compare notes with other stewards and learn the different ways to handle cases. She was introduced to Post Office Women for Equal Rights and appreciated learning about its advocacy for women’s and workers’ rights. NY Metro has a POWER chapter that meets monthly. See the meeting information on the inside back cover.

“What made it worthwhile is that we all are fighting for what’s right and we were together to get more knowledge from each other,” said Sister Roberson, a Morgan P&DC clerk. “Each one, teach one.” ☰

In Loving Memory of Sister Brenda Jackson



NY Metro mourns the loss of Sister Brenda Jackson, a leader and bright light from our ranks. Sister Jackson was a postal worker for 39 years, beginning as a maintenance support clerk at the New Jersey International Network Distribution Center. She stepped up as a steward and devoted decades to supporting postal workers in the Maintenance Division and all crafts.

Sister Jackson passed away on April 15 at the age of 76. Her funeral was held at Monumental Baptist Church in Jersey City, where she was long active as a deaconess devoted to compassionate support.

As a women’s rights activist, Sister Jackson was a leader of the NY Metro POWER chapter. She was also an officer of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW).

Barbara Harris-McKenzie, a retired NY Metro member, was so close to

Sister Jackson that they were considered interchangeable. If one woman was called by the other’s name, she answered just the same. “Brenda was a go-getter for the people she believed in,” said Sister Harris-McKenzie, noting that Sister Jackson was the first woman maintenance steward at the facility. “She knew how to talk to people. If you were upset, she knew what to say to calm you down.”

When Sister Jackson began working for the Postal Service in the early 1970s, there were few women in the maintenance craft. “It was challenging for her, but she held her own and earned respect,” said Sister Harris-McKenzie. “She wouldn’t let you pull one over on her. She refused to let you make her a second-class citizen.”

As a women’s rights activist, Sister Jackson was a leader in the NY Metro POWER chapter. She was also an officer of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). ☰

AFL-CIO Spotlights Steward Afroja Khatun for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The AFL-CIO included NY Metro steward Afroja Khatun in its series of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month profiles in May. Sister Khatun represents the best of NY Metro — a dedicated and courageous leader who uses her voice to bring joyful justice to the workplace. The article reads:

For Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, AFL-CIO is spotlighting various Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who have worked and continue to work at the intersection of civil and labor rights in the United States. Today's profile is Afroja Khatun of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU).

Afroja Khatun is a shop steward, trustee, health plan representative and vocal champion of her union, the New York Metro Area Postal Union (APWU Local 10). A natural leader, she was recruited to observe and then lead her local's new hire orientation classes. She received the local's 2025 Committee on Political Action award for her commitment to promoting rank-and-file political engagement.



Afroja Khatun receiving a recognition award at the NY Metro Steward Appreciation Dinner, 2026

<https://aflcio.org/2026/5/18/asian-american-native-hawaiian-and-pacific-islander-heritage-month-profiles-afroja-khatun>

UPCOMING: Exclusive Workshop on Federal Retirement Benefits

Upcoming in July will be two Federal Retirement Benefits seminars, one on New York City and one in New Jersey. Hosted by PWR Retirement Group, seminaer glaos include:

- maximizing your OPM retirement kit benefits
- FEGLI premium increases & how to manage them

- TSP distribution options made simple
- smart tax reduction tips for federal employees
- free financial consultations for union members

Free breakfast and lunch is to be provided. Address and registration information is to come. To know more

from PWR Retirement Group, call 202-359-9000 or email info@pwrretirementgroup.us.



NY Metro Says No to Kings

Director of DVD Howard Satterfield marched for democracy with tens of thousands of New Yorkers on March 28. Protesters took to the streets to declare “No Kings” in the U.S.



“I used it as an opportunity to engage and educate fellow citizens about attacks on the federal work force, including postal workers,” said Director Satterfield. “I shared how this is negatively impacting the nation as a whole and how vital it is to have a public postal service. The rally I attended just happened to be in front of the main post office, so I wore my ‘U.S. MAIL NOT FOR SALE’ shirt. I also spoke with some of the postal employees, including a few truck drivers who are APWU members. I listened to their opinions and encouraged them to get in the fight to save the USPS from being privatized.”



Howard Satterfield, Director of DVD, at the No Kings protest on March 28, 2026



Making Cents and Sense of Article 28

Mention Article 28 and any postal worker will get nervous. It's understandable, but facts are here to overcome fear.

NY Metro members got to the truth of the matter in a training class this spring. APWU National Maintenance Business Agents for the Northeast Region led a training to advise members how to best handle Article 28 cases. The article states what happens when management makes a financial claim against an employee for salary overpayment or lost, damaged, or stolen equipment.

It's serious, but procedures are in place for workers to exercise their rights.

NY Metro President Joseph Martir expressed his appreciation to the National Business Agents for sharing their knowledge and equipping union representatives to better support postal workers.



Postal News:

House Subcommittee Reveals Debate Over Postal Service's Future

Posted by APWU.org on March 18, 2026.

The House Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing on March 17 to discuss "Oversight of the U.S. Postal Service: The Financial Future Under Postmaster General Steiner."

In addition to the postmaster general (PMG), David Marroni of the Government Accountability Office was called to testify.

The PMG's testimony underscored the financial difficulties facing the USPS. The Postal Service projects it will run out of cash in the next year if it maintains the "status quo," Steiner said.

To avert a crisis and ensure continuity of mail service, the PMG requested that Congress extend the USPS's borrowing authority. By law, the Postal Service can only borrow money from the U.S. Treasury, and its borrowing limit is capped at \$15 billion. That borrowing cap has not changed since the early 1990s.

The APWU supports this short-term measure.

The postmaster general also urged Congress and the administration to adopt reforms that would recalculate the Postal Service's Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) obligations and allow USPS retirement and health funds to be responsibly invested in higher-yield funds. These two reforms alone would save the Postal Service billions of dollars per year and right decades-old injustices in the treatment of the USPS's retirement obligations.

The APWU supports these changes and has worked for years on Capitol Hill to see them realized.

The postmaster general noted that there are opportunities to increase revenue by "reimagining mail" and partnering with the government to provide more service. He noted in particular that other federal

agencies partner with private-sector competitors to deliver packages, something the USPS should be doing as an integral part of the government.

One cost-saving measure raised by the postmaster general is of particular concern to the APWU. The PMG raised the prospect of increasing the non-career postal workforce to reduce labor costs. Short staffing and turnover are already affecting service and the APWU will oppose any effort to increase the use of non-career employees in our crafts.

"Postal management is ringing the alarm bells to spur Congress to act," said APWU President Jonathan Smith. "We are committed to working with the USPS and Congress to achieve some common-sense solutions to avert a crisis and keep the country's mail and packages moving."

"But let's be clear," Smith continued, "America's postal workers are not prepared to pay for decades of Washington's stalling on doing what's right to help address the Postal Service's finances."

"We will work with anyone who shares our commitment to providing the prompt, reliable, and efficient service promised under the law," Smith concluded. "The APWU will continue the fight for good jobs at the post office, and a Postal Service that continues to meet the needs of the public we are so proud to serve."

President Smith submitted a statement for the record in advance of the hearing, and APWU's legislative team will continue to work with members of Congress as discussions evolve. 📄

apwu.org/news/house-subcommittee-reveals-debate-over-postal-services-future



APWU LOCAL BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance February 2026	\$ 1,025,994.10
Revenue Income February 2026	\$ 191,567.09
Operating Expenses February 2026	\$ 130,344.06
Total Net Income February 2026	\$ 61,223.03
Ending Balance February 2026	\$ 1,087,217.13

Beginning Balance March 2026	\$ 1,087,217.13
Revenue Income March 2026	\$ 162,694.19
Operating Expenses March 2026	\$ 133,692.89
Total Net Income March 2026	\$ 29,001.30
Ending Balance March 2026	\$ 1,116,218.43

CALENDAR

Wednesday, June 17

5:30pm

General Membership Meeting

Via ZOOM

****There is no Union Meeting during July and August**

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

Members Only!

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

NY METRO P.O.W.E.R.

SISTERS! As an APWU member, you are a member of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. (Post Office Women for Equal Rights). Monthly P.O.W.E.R. meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday at 5:30pm via ZOOM. For more information, contact chairwoman Deborah Bethea at deborah.bethea@nymetro.org

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, June 24 @ 5:30pm

ZOOM Meeting ID #462-755-2390

[Follow ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.]



For news, upcoming events and more, visit our website at nymetro.org

JOIN THE NY METRO EMAIL BLAST!

Scan the QR code below to stay up to date on Union news, events, and more!

**Please allow 3-5 business days to verify your New York Metro membership.





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