



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.

***"If we can unionize Amazon..., then workers anywhere can unionize their workplaces."*—ALU Bulletin #16**



Christian Smalls, Amazon Labor Union leader, speaking at Union Square rally on September 4, 2021

Amazon Union win April 1, 2022 – See pages 8 & 12

2021-2024 CONTRACT RATIFIED! SEE PAGE 6

What are you celebrating?



Jonathan Smith

I was just reading this morning that a federal judge voided a national mask wearing mandate on airplanes and mass transit. The post office has recently lifted the mandate and I see postal workers cheering. My question is, what are you celebrating?

Have we forgotten almost a million American citizens have died from COVID-19? Have we forgotten that millions more have died and are dying worldwide? Have we forgotten that many of those dead were our co-workers, relatives, and friends? Has someone been told that we have discovered a cure and I just have not heard the good news yet?

Do you realize that once they lift the mask mandates, many of the COVID protection policies will soon follow? On the job, there will be an end to COVID service talks, liberal leave policy, social distancing, gloves, sanitizers, as well as masks. Management is already harassing workers who are sick or whose child-care providers are afraid to help with school age children.

Do you realize that the union fought for these simple protections, not just for postal workers, but for our society as a whole. This was to protect your children, your elderly parents and grandparents who are at home waiting for you to come home from work. These are people whose health is at risk if we get careless. Is the inconvenience of wearing a mask work risking their lives? Please tell

me what you are celebrating?

Maybe if you had to attend as many funerals as I have attended in the last couple of years, you would see things differently. And, remember, death is not the only risk of this illness. Many people have been left with other health problems after COVID 19. How many of our friends and loved ones are coping with lung damage, weakness, loss of taste and smell, kidney and heart disease that resulted from time on ventilators or in bed. And many of the long-term effects are not even known yet.

The frustration is that many of those that died did not take COVID-19 seriously. Many people let their guard down because they believed that the pandemic was over. While the union would never support mandatory vaccinations, we do support common sense protection. Wear your mask and gloves because they save lives. I also believe that the wash-up time in each installation should be at least 15 minutes because it is imperative to wash your hands and arms more thoroughly than ever before. There should also be regular breaks to wash hands and change gloves, the way postal workers were given extra time during the anthrax crisis.

There are people who believe that health protections are dictatorial and threaten our freedom. No one should be "free" to harm others. Please open your eyes. There are more people dying in Hong Kong, right now, than there were at the worst of the pandemic. Hello! People are still dying from COVID-19, and it is my understanding that it has mutated into yet another strand

of the disease. This variant is called BA.2. This is some scary stuff because no one knows how contagious this strand is or if the COVID vaccines work against this variant. Yet you celebrate. Why?

I will continue to fight to restore the mask mandate. I will continue to insist that gloves, masks, and sanitizer, be made available by the Postal Service. I will fight against Clerks being required to work in the lobby. I will insist on social distancing. I will continue to encourage all postal employees to wear their masks. I will not get complacent and let my guard down.

I have seen this virus destroy too many families and take too many lives. A real end to the pandemic would be cause for celebration. With the danger still spreading, there is absolutely nothing to celebrate. ☒

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Cover photo by Pamela Drew

Postal reform is finally here!

Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

On Wednesday, April 6, the Postal Reform Act of 2022 (PSRA) was finally signed into law by President Biden. As you recall, the legislation passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan vote: 342-92, followed by the same kind of support in the Senate: 79-19. After years of lobbying, educating, mobilizing, and agitating members of Congress to the importance of postal reform, the “skinny” bill became law. Much of the essential work for this success came from the leadership of APWU and President Mark Dimondstein and Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard.

What does this new law mean to you?

Some will say that making it law for the continued six-day delivery of letters, flats and packages, or the elimination of the crushing 2006 PAEA pre-funding of future retirees’ health care 75 years in advance, or Medicare integration, were the most important aspects of the new law. Hard to argue with that, but it needs to be highlighted that this Postal Service Reform Act removes the threat of job loss because of privatization for the near future.

Retirees will find it difficult to understand that current postal workers were worried about their jobs. One of the main reasons that people became postal workers in the past was because it was secure employment. The impact of the PAEA provided the excuse for plant closings and station closings over the past 15 years which threatened job security. This is gone for now because of the PSRA. Of course, that is not to say



Mark Dimondstein and Judy Beard with President Biden at the bill’s signing ceremony at the White House.

the PMG DeJoy won’t be able find a new excuse for closings further on down the road if he wants them.

Postal Board of Governors receives two new members

The Postal Board of Governors (BOG) impacts postal workers with everything it does, but nothing is more important than the hiring of the Postmaster General. The only way to get rid of a Postmaster General is for the BOG to fire him or her. The President of the U.S. cannot do it! With Louis DeJoy as PMG, the makeup of the BOG is more important than ever.

DeJoy was appointed by a BOG of all Trump appointees, both Republicans and Democrats. But the two new governors do not seem ready to oust him.

The nominees from President Biden: Dan Tangherlini and Derek Kan appeared before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, showing they were of like minds on basic issues and were looking forward to working together on the BOG. Tangherlini is a Democrat and Kan a Republican. When questioned about the 10-Year Plan, Kan

said that he would investigate it when confirmed. When asked about improving efficiency, Tangherlini did not mention the delays inherent in the 10-Year Plan, but said that he would “investigate postal real estate to find ways to make gains in efficiency.” This was an alarm for postal activists who remember the struggles they were fighting to prevent post offices from being sold.

Assuming that Tangherlini and Kan will both be confirmed by the Senate, DeJoy will still have the support of most of the board as it is comprised, even though the last five appointees come from Biden. If Kan joins with his fellow Republicans in support of DeJoy and Trump Democratic appointee Moak stays loyal to DeJoy until his term runs out December 8, that is the DeJoy majority. Tangherlini joining with Democrats Stroman, Hajjar, and Independent Amber McReynolds couldn’t oust DeJoy even if that’s what they all wanted to do. Republican William D. Zollars can also be replaced on December 8 of this year.

It is essential that the White House be convinced by those committed to a public post office -- especially the national postal unions! -- that the two positions be filled by public servants with a track record of support for the Postal Service. In other words, there need to be appointees independent enough to join with those prepared to remove DeJoy. Our task is to organize public dissatisfaction so it pressures our union leaders and the White House to share this goal. ☐

Louis DeJoy: The teflon PMG

Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

It is now the spring of 2022, and somehow, Louis DeJoy is still Postmaster General of the United States (PMG). With members of Congress, like Representative Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and major publications like Newsweek calling for him to be fired, DeJoy's staying in office is quite an accomplishment. DeJoy has been linked to many scandals from his initial selection process as PMG to his purchasing \$300,000 bonds from the firm of then chair of the Postal Board of Governors Ron Bloom (his boss) to his refusal to divest \$30 million in stock when appointed PMG, and his alleged campaign finance violations in North Carolina. And yet, DeJoy is still the PMG. Even today, there is a new scandal brewing. As Jake Johnson reports in his excellent piece in Common Dreams "Report Shows DeJoy Owns Stock in Maker of Covid Tests Delivered by Postal Service," DeJoy is accused of owning stock in Abbott Laboratories, the company that produces the BinaxNOW at-home coronavirus test that people could order through a website that would be delivered to their homes via the Postal Service. The Project on Government Oversight (POGO) uncovered that DeJoy shows "no evidence of him having fully divested that stock." POGO argues that DeJoy, in failing to relinquish his Abbott stock while participating in the project, may have violated a federal conflict of interest law.

DeJoy once again is apparently going to make money on his invest-

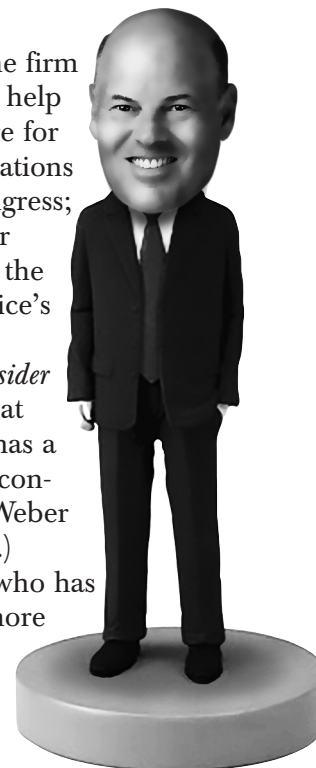
ment in Abbott as the Postal Service carries out the plan created by the White House. He went further with his apparent insider knowledge. From POGO, DeJoy not only owned Abbott Laboratories stock, but on "January 11, two days before the federal government formally announced that it had awarded Abbott Laboratories a \$306 million contract for the test kits, DeJoy, having knowledge of what was to transpire, purchased call options for \$65,000." A call option is an agreement between a buyer and a seller to exchange a stock at a pre-arranged price by an agreed upon time. DeJoy made a smart play. The question is whether it was legal. On March 24, the federal government awarded a contract modification to Abbott Laboratories, worth over \$1 billion for test kits.

Currently, DeJoy is in the midst of a public relations campaign with the apparent task to "humanize" him. He has been interviewed by Jacob Bogage of the *Washington Post* and Eric Katz of *Government Executive* so far. Their articles with the DeJoy interviews are more like puff pieces than hard-hitting journalism. This is a tribute either to DeJoy's ability to intimidate or to the talents of the PR firm to shape the message.

The PR firm handling this can consider its campaign a success. Again, it is hard to determine if this campaign has been put together by RLF Communications, his North Carolina PR firm hired to deal with the election fraud; Patomark Global

Partners, the firm he hired to help him prepare for his investigations before Congress; or to Weber Shandwick the Postal Service's PR firm. (*Business Insider* reported that the USPS has a \$4 million contract with Weber Shandwick.)

DeJoy, who has garnered more publicity than all his predecessors combined, is now attempting to sound respectable as the PMG desirous of protecting the future of the Postal Service. And if you can look away from his penchant for enriching himself, his family and his cronies from his "good works," and overlook his periodic outbursts of arrogance (whether in front of a Congressional committee or in a press interview), you might find yourself believing him. But if you examine the facts, and you are a person who believes that the post office must remain public, or you are a postal worker wanting to do your job and be assured that you will have one in the future, you have no choice but to join those voices who are already out there calling for Postmaster General Louis DeJoy to be fired! ☒



Joy follows confirmation of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court

By Flo Summergrad

There was literally dancing in the streets when Ketanji Brown Jackson was confirmed at the newest U.S. Supreme Court Justice. On April 8, 2022, people were invited to dance in front of the Supreme Court. On April 9, the Office of the Mayor in partnership with community groups like “She Will Rise,” staged a celebratory block party in Northwest Washington, DC. Children jumped rope, rollerbladers spun figure eights, and the Howard University Showtime Marching Band, cheerleaders, and the Ooh La La Dance Line put on a show. There were speakers and music. People carried signs, cheered and took photos of this historic event. Artist Nia Keturah Calhoun unveiled a mural that mixes this joy with a recognition of the racism and sexism that met the candidate’s nomination.

For the first time in 233 years, a Black woman has risen on merit to one of the most powerful positions in the U.S. government. Justice Jackson’s parents attended schools segregated by race. Her guidance counselor warned her not to “set her sights too high” by applying to Harvard. Yet she aced Harvard and Harvard Law School and was the editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, winning respect for her calm wisdom and sharp mind. She went on to an impressive legal career, both as a federal public defender and a federal judge.

The muralist summed up this historic moment: “This woman



descended from slaves and now she’s interpreting the law of the land in the highest court.”

Although most Republican Senators showed their disrespect by walking out after Jackson’s Supreme Court confirmation, three voted on principle with their Democrat fellows. One was Mitt Romney (R-UT), who admitted that he would not always agree with her decisions on the Court, but said that “she more than meets the standard of excellence and integrity.”

At a time when the Trump appointees have moved the balance on the Court further and further to the right, the addition of Ketanji Brown Jackson is a ray of hope.

Good news for workers

On April 5, a coalition of labor leaders, representing tens of millions of workers, put out a joint statement supporting Ketanji Brown Jackson for the U.S. Supreme Court. Their endorsement stresses her impressive qualifications; her legal career demonstrates that Judge Jackson can be trusted to “uphold the Constitution and maintain fidelity to the rule of law, considering every case on its merits without favoring

powerful corporations.”

While her outstanding qualifications prove that this was not the token appointment alleged by the racist right, the judge’s race and gender do matter. The joint statement says: “Working families also know a federal bench that reflects and respects the diversity of our nation is vital to robust and informed decision-making . . . Representation matters in our justice system where cultural experience shapes the decisions made by judges.”

On April 7, APWU President Mark Dimondstein congratulated Judge Jackson on her historic appointment as “the first African American woman and only the sixth woman ever to serve on the court.” He added, “For decades, anti-worker forces have turned to the judiciary to gut union power, erode our democratic rights, and delay urgently needed climate action. We need Justices on the Supreme Court who will side with workers over big corporations.” Judge Jackson will fill that role. “Her record on lower courts has shown a commitment to upholding workers’ rights, in particular the collective bargaining rights of federal employees.”

In the words of the labor leaders’ joint statement, confirmation of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson is “a step towards creating a more just system by demanding a Supreme Court that looks more like America and serves all of us.” ☑

Contract ratified by 94%

For many postal workers, this was their first chance to vote to ratify a contract between the APWU and the USPS. The last two national agreements were handled in interest arbitration, a process by which the workers have no say. Taking a contract dispute to arbitration is always a risk because the workers have no voice in the decision. In 2022, 94% of the members who voted approved the contract, which was ratified as of February 28, 2022, and will be in effect until September 20, 2024.

This 2021 National Agreement was mailed out to the members of all crafts –Clerk, Maintenance, and Motor Vehicle – with a simple ballot form to vote it up or down. An extra week was added for the ballots to be sent in–due (not surprisingly!) to mail delays.

This was a team effort of all the APWU leaders. The Clerk Craft Team, led by Brother Lamont Brooks, the Maintenance Team led by Brother Idowu Balogun, the Motor Vehicle Service Team led by Brother Mike Foster, and Support Services led by Steve Brooks, spent many days and nights fighting for contract language that would improve things for the workers in each craft. This added strength to the overall APWU negotiations, because the USPS negotiators saw that we are united.

Our negotiators were empowered by knowing that 200,000+ postal workers all over the country were behind them. With wristbands, t-shirts, and other symbols of solidari-



ty, workers had a strong presence in the field. Surviving during the last two years of COVID has brought us together. Knowing how important the mail is –both delivering needed goods during the pandemic and delivering the votes for national and local elections–has empowered postal workers in the streets, at the windows, and inside the plants.

There were no give-backs in the contract. There is still a 50 mile limit on excessing. No-lay-off after six years remains in effect. (Career employees on the rolls as of 9/20/21 will have no layoff for the life of this contract.) Pay increases (including full COLA regardless of craft and years of service) are being computed by the accounting techs. Juneteenth is now added as a postal holiday.

President Mark Dimondstein and each Craft officer emphasized that a labor contract is not the end. It is a work in progress. There are still areas that need improvement. There are still battles to be fought.

Vance Zimmerman, the Director of Industrial Relations and chief spokesperson, left us with this comment: “I am proud of this Agreement and am happy that the membership recognized the hard work of the National Negotiating Committee, the other officers who

helped with the negotiations, and the diligent work of our support staff to make this contract a reality.”

Sadly, due to family health problems, Vance Zimmerman has stepped down from the job he loved because he can no

longer give 100%. We in the APWU who have worked with him over the years know he always gave more than that 100%! Vance was the Maintenance NBA for the Central Region from 2000 on until he took on the job as APWU National Director of Industrial Relations. He was proud to represent APWU in two sets of contract negotiations and he did the APWU proud as well.

Vance left us with an excellent contract and the thought that: “Now the work of implementation begins in earnest.”

Implementation means applying the Agreement to the workplace – contract enforcement. Contract enforcement is our job in the field. The officers, the stewards, and – YES – the members have to make management abide by the language won for us in the National Agreement. Wages (Pay and COLA increases) will be programmed into the system, but the rules for hours and working conditions are only useful if we understand and enforce them.

Of course a Collective Bargaining Agreement is a work in progress. Each set of negotiations, we send our troops out to fight to make it better. ☑

[Highlights of the Craft Agreements on page 9 and can be viewed in full at apwu.org.]

APWU pay raises and COLA

- Scheduled implementation date PP12/22
- Retro pay will cover the delay

Due to the needed reprogramming of the payroll system to incorporate all the pay changes under the new APWU/USPS contract, these increases will not be reflected in our paychecks until PP13/22. (This is the check we will receive June 24, 2022.) All time between the effective date of the COLA and the raises will be calculated in a retroactive payment. (Definite date to be determined)

The “effective” dates and “scheduled implementation” dates for all the different pay changes (based on job status—i.e., PSE, PTF, Full Time career—as well as Maintenance Grade and Step changes)—are outlined in this letter from APWU and can also be found on the APWU website. The \$1310 Cost of Living was effective for all career employees February 26, 2022 (PP 07/22). The scheduled implementation date

is PP 13/22 (starts June 4 and paid June 24, 2022).

There will be retroactive payments for the months between the effective date and the actual implementation. As soon as APWU is notified when the retro pay will come, we will be informed. ☰

[For detailed changes in pay information from the new contract, see online March 17, 2022 APWU article]

Raffle winners: It pays to be Union!

It is a privilege for members in a democratic trade union to play a role in ratifying the current contract. This National Agreement will control our wages, hours, and working conditions until September 20, 2024, so it is important to have a voice in passing it. It also shows management that we care about our contract and support our APWU negotiators.

In order to encourage people to mail in their ballots, the NY Metro Area Postal Union Executive Board offered a raffle: three envelopes would be drawn at random by AAA independent ballot agency.

Those three voters would win \$500 each—just because they mailed in their ballots!

The winners of the “Get out the Vote!” raffle were announced in March. Two were from DVD—Tour 3 Mail Processing Clerk Vinita Shah Somaya, and Tour 2 Clerk Tina

McKnight. One was from Morgan Station—PSE Most Khan, on Tour 2 Automation. Congratulations to the winners and to their shop stewards, who encouraged members to vote!

DVD Union Director Howie Satterfield presented the \$500 check for voting on contract ratification to Clerk Vinita Shah Somaya. Howie said, “I thanked her for being a Union Member and for participating

in the ratification process. She stated she was so happy that she won the prize simply by mailing in her ballot!”

Howie told Vinita to encourage her co-workers to be Proud Active Union Members like her and show that it PAYS TO BE UNION!

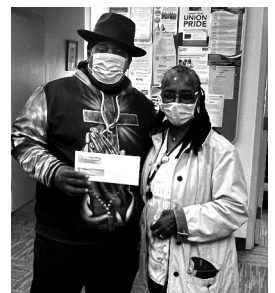
Congratulations to the winners and to the shop stewards who encouraged members to vote! ☰



DVD Clerk Vinita Shah Somaya gets the check from NY Metro DVD Director Howie Satterfield



Morgan PSE Most Khan with co-workers, NY Metro Morgan Dir. Jackie Owens and Executive VP Joe Martir



DVD Clerk Tina McKnight receives the check from NY Metro President Jonathan Smith

Historic union win at Amazon

“If we can unionize Amazon..., then workers anywhere can unionize their workplaces.” – ALU Bulletin #16

By Flo Summergrad

The *Workers United Will Never be Defeated!* is a chant that is starting to have meaning for workers who are organizing against companies that had long prided themselves on an anti-union culture.

On April 1, 2022, workers at a Staten Island Amazon warehouse made labor history when they voted Union – Yes! in an infamously anti-union company. At a plant with a workforce of 8,000, the independent ALU (Amazon Labor Union) became the “David” against the “Goliath,” Amazon, the second largest private employer in the U.S.

Two years ago, Christian Smalls was fired for protesting lack of COVID safety protocols at a Staten Island Amazon warehouse. Instead of hearing the workers’ concerns during the pandemic, Amazon followed a classic anti-union strategy. They cut off the leader to intimidate the workforce and make the problem go away.

Their tactic backfired. The fact that the company was foolish enough to dismiss a terrific worker for standing up for safety got people to see the need for a union. The organizing drive was helped by the Labor Board settlement with Amazon last December. So many Unfair Labor Practice charges were pending against the company that Amazon was forced into signing an agreement that allowed workers to organize on the property or in the buildings as long as they were off the clock. Present and past Staten Island Amazon workers were ready and willing to use the tools that the



settlement with the NLRB had provided. They understood that their freedom to speak to co-workers about unionizing was a product of labor struggles in other facilities.

Grassroots activity countered the anti-union propaganda that bombarded workers in compulsory “captive audience” meetings. ALU organizers spoke up and crushed the arguments of highly paid professional union-busters.

From petitions at the bus stop to food and talk in the cafeteria and break rooms, the word got spread. People rejected the company’s catered “snacks;” they bonded over food from different cultures and united around the campaign for a union. This was truly bottom up organizing. Everyone who wanted to could be involved!

But being independent organizers did not mean that there was no plan. The core activists studied and applied the lessons of history. They read articles to find examples of militant struggles and how unions organized. They used the 1936 pamphlet, “Organizing Methods in the Steel Industry,” written by William Z. Foster, a successful labor organizer and communist; they studied what methods independent unions used to win support.

This led to finding leaders on every shift. People trust co-workers who listen and converse with them. These worker-to-worker relationships inspired courage to show solidarity with a union lanyard, a shirt, and finally, by voting YES!

Language and community also played a role. An African immigrant teacher who came to Amazon when schools closed during COVID turned out the vote from Caribbean and African workers. Social media, like WhatsApp groups kept people informed and engaged as the campaign grew. Regular ALU Bulletins kept discussion alive and built confidence for the YES! vote.

Our NY Metro local and the national APWU salute this historic union victory, The ALU has established what APWU President Mark Dimondstein calls “the first union beachhead in the battle for workers’ rights against a massive, anti-union company and their greedy billionaire executives.” The day after the win, the ALU immediately set up a bargaining committee and demanded that contract negotiations be opened. They know that Amazon will try to stop the workers’ momentum and crush the new union.

The billionaires have the bucks. But, organized, the people who do the work can have power. Unionization scares even the biggest corporations. That’s why Amazon, Walmart, Starbucks, and other giants are willing to invest millions to stop unions. ☑

“The Workers United Will Never be Defeated!”

CBA Craft Highlights

During March and April, 2022, webinars and Zoom conferences in each craft gave us a sense of what our negotiators accomplished in the 2021-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement and what we can do with it. For those who missed the Zoom presentations and Q&A, this will be gone into in detail at the Craft Division Conferences (August 13-24, 2022) at the National Convention. Highlights for each craft are available on the internet.

Here are just a few:

CLERK Craft

- No more long waits for window bids. Training must start within 10

days after posting.

- PTFs and PSEs will get their unearned AL advanced at the start of the leave year – 40 hours.

- PSEs in Level 21 or higher offices who reach 24 months of relative standing will be converted to full-time flexible status in accordance with Article 37.4. (This does not stop conversions through the MOU before the 24 months.)

MAINTENANCE Craft

- Many “legacy” jobs will be consolidated and upgraded. Employees traveling to NCED (training) will now receive full per diem for the length of the stay.

- No new custodial packages will

change from TL-3 to TL-5. They will remain as TL-3.

- All crafts can take the test for maintenance jobs and request placement on the register if qualified.

MOTOR VEHICLE Craft

- HCR limitation on Subcontracting MOU remains in full force and effect

- PTFs identified for conversion to Full Time Regular will be converted in 28 days. No more delays.

- National Committee established to address training initiative and opportunities.

These agreements are designed to protect our jobs in each craft! ☑

New fighters on board! Stewards certified March 18, 2022

While many unions complain they can't recruit shop stewards, NY Metro Area Postal Union just graduated another class of new fighters. These six workers stepped up to represent the postal workers in their plants and stations. They are from all our crafts – three are Clerks; two are Motor Vehicle; and one is Maintenance. The new stewards were certified on March 28, 2022, and returned to their stations ready to hit the ground running. ☑



STANDING: Pablo Perez—Clerk—NJINDC; Matt McDonough—Maintenance—DVD; Christopher Donoghue—MVS—NJINDC; Robert Spathis—Manhattan VMF—MVS **SEATED:** Alicia Smith—Clerk—Rockefeller Center and Bryant Stations; Crystal Rodriguez—Clerk—Ft. George and Washington Bridge Stations

POSTAL PRIDE

Deeper down the rabbit hole with DeJoy

Postal workers take pride in providing a crucial public service. From Day One we learn that the cardinal sin is delaying the mail. Whether we are accepting parcels from customers at the window, sorting them in a plant, transporting them in a truck, or bringing them to the doorstep, we work to get the mail moved.

Starting May 1, 2022, USPS service standards (the expectation of when a mailed item will be delivered) were changed to further delay the mail. PMG DeJoy brags: “64% of first class mail – including both letters and packages – will be unaffected by its new service standard changes.” What about the other 36%?

“Through the looking glass” is a phrase based on the Alice in Wonderland novels. Alice steps through a mirror into a weird world where logic no longer applies. Reading Postmaster General DeJoy’s latest change in service standards is like going through the looking glass and down the rabbit hole into unreality.

The Postal Rate Commission (PRC) faults the Postal Service for not conducting a detailed analysis of how the service standards would impact customers, like those who rely on first class mail for their prescriptions. The USPS says, “Modifying these service standards will allow for additional transport time for long-distance package deliveries and increased network efficiencies.” Longer time, more efficient? Absurd.

Since air transport is out, clearly the customers at greater distance from the mailer will take longer. The people furthest from suppliers are those most dependent on the mail so delays can only get worse.

This is DeJoy’s business model vs. the mission of service to the American people. Where is our Postal Pride? ☹️

Postal News Briefs

WHITE HOUSE BUDGET SUPPORTS USPS ELECTION MAIL

The Biden administration has included \$5 billion in its 2023 budget request to support the Postal Service handling election mail for the next decade. This would make mail-in ballots postage free and fund an expansion of USPS delivery capacity in underserved areas. This would increase the affordability and reliability of election-related mail service through 2032. The White House proposal credits the USPS with its work in supporting “secure, free, and fair elections.”



NALC PROVIDES COVID-19 GUIDE FOR CARRIERS

The Letter Carriers union has compiled CDC recommendations and Postal Service policies to help carriers navigate the COVID pandemic in order to keep safe as they work. “NALC strives to keep letter carriers informed and as safe as possible.” The Guide is available online and contains information useful for all postal workers. It is designed based on current conditions and will be updated online as necessary



APWU PROVIDES “RETAIL RIGHTS AND WRONGS” FOR RETAIL CLERKS

President Dimondstein and the APWU Clerk Division Director, Lamont Brooks, with Assistant Directors Lynn Pallas-Barber and Sam Lisenbe, have released a Bulletin to guide clerks who work the window/retail operations. The Bulletin addresses problems they may encounter – everything from dealing with postal inspectors, robberies, audits and counts, and retail equipment failures, to postal uniforms. It includes cautions about not taking shortcuts. Most important, it outlines your rights to security, adequate training, and grieving Letters of Demand.



DENVER AREA POSTAL WORKERS PROTEST DeJOY

Postal workers from various post offices in the Denver metro area protested during PMG DeJoy’s visit March 16th. This followed a CBS 4 investigation that exposed employee allegations of mistreatment and mismanagement in area post offices. Denver workers of all crafts protested DeJoy’s ten-year plan, saying it slows delivery times and cuts post offices to save costs. A USPS spokesman spoke highly of the “efforts of postal employees,” but said DeJoy’s schedule was too busy to check out Denver post offices or listen to the workers. ☹️



CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 18

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Via Zoom

Wednesday, June 15

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Via Zoom

As per the NY Metro Area Postal Union Constitution, there are NO General Membership Meetings during July and August. ENJOY your summer!

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 on February 1, 2022	\$ 1,290,317.96
Total Revenue February 2022	\$ 179,461.92
Operating Expenses February 2022	\$ 184,780.24
Total Net Income February 2022	\$ (5,318.32)
Ending Balance February 28, 2022	\$ 1,284,999.64

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. meetings will resume at 5:30 pm via ZOOM. Next meetings: May 25, 2022, at 5:30 pm; June 22, 2022 at 5:30 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 May 6, 2022

NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. sisters give the gift of warmth

This winter, NY Metro Director of Organization and P.O.W.E.R. Coordinator, Diane Erlanger, mounted a successful drive to provide socks and gloves to women, men, and children in need. Postal workers donated boxes of warm and colorful socks and gloves

Diane said, "This is something we do every year, but it's especially important now. The current financial situation and inflation make it very difficult for people in need to have the basic

necessities to keep warm this winter. This is especially critical for those who are homeless."



The socks and gloves were distributed at sites where they would be available to those in need. In


Manhattan, they were given to the Holy Apostles Church on 9th Avenue and 28th Street. The sisters from Church Street Station gave them to Project Hospitality and Mount Sinai United Christian Church (Health & Welfare Ministry) in Staten Island. In New Jersey, the socks and gloves went to the Giving Back Sundays organization in Bayonne, NJ.



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

Periodicals class
POSTAGE PAID
at New York, NY

Amazon Labor Union Rally April 24, 2022

Union leaders and elected officials including Senator Bernie Sanders and Congressmember Alexandria Ocasio Cortez joined with Amazon workers to celebrate the first Amazon warehouse union and to launch the campaign for a second Staten Island warehouse vote for union representation. 



APWU President Mark Dimondstein on podium addressing the crowd with ALU President Christian Smalls



APWU leaders L to R: National Business Agent Liz Swigert; Flushing Local Pres. Lillian Pascal; Queens Area Pres. Ron Suslak; APWU Pres. Mark Dimondstein; NYMAPU Pres. Jonathan Smith; NYMAPU Industrial Relations Dir. Edward Dalton.

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