



The

Union Mail

Vol. 60 No. 5 | July/August 2017

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.

When postal management declares war, what do we do? We fight back!



Moe Biller leads the Great Postal Strike of 1970: the strike that threatened to bring the nation to a standstill.

see articles pp. 2, 3, 5, 6

We accept Postal Management's Declaration of War



Jonathan Smith

The Postal Service has declared war on its work force. Not just APWU because all crafts are affected.

Now they have decided that just reverting vacant jobs is not enough.

They are now abolishing jobs that have people in them. They are claiming that this is due to a drop in mail volume. But in our contract, staffing isn't pegged to mail volume. It's pegged to all available work hours. So while management is claiming a drop in volume, they are continuing to hire PSEs.

They are trying to create total chaos in the workplace. 60% of our workers could retire, so the idea is to push the people at top step into retirement—not through a “buy-out” but through aggravation and frustration.

In my opinion, this is part of a plan. David Williams in Postal HQs put together this plan to keep from having to convert PSEs by any means necessary. Once there are residual vacancies (jobs that have been posted that no one bids on), the job goes out to e-reassign for transfers. For every e-reassign, depending on the size of the installation, 3 PSEs must be converted to fill the remaining residuals. By reverting all potential residual vacancies, there are no spots.

But this process also contains a caveat. IF there are unassigned regulars, they must be placed in the residuals first. Abolishing jobs actual-

ly shrinks the staffing complement. This will create a large pool of unassigned (“unencumbered”) employees. Then, when management loses the many grievances on wrongly reverted jobs, they intend to fill those vacancies with the unassigned clerks, rather than converting PSEs.

Abolishing jobs is no longer just under our Clerk Craft Article, Article 37. By reducing the complement in the section, the contract language is in Article 12. Seniority prevails. There has to be in-section bidding.

But I don't want you to be short-sighted. The big plan goes way beyond what is happening in our individual workplaces. In our Local alone, there have already been over 600 changes in clerk duty assignments. Think of this spread all over the country. These actions will create a dangerous situation in postal service that will be distorted to the American people and to the politicians.

Postal management is well aware that the APWU at the national level will not agree to eliminate the no lay off clause in our contract. But they can break our contract through a Congressional order. Trump won't think twice about doing this. Right now our strength is that Congress will feel heat from its constituents if they are seen as disrupting postal service. But think if the USPS can point to thousands – maybe 20,000 –workers with no job assignment. Without the facts behind the scenes, this can be a convincing argument first to eliminate the no lay-off clause and second, to privatize the Postal Service.

What can we do to fight back?

We would not have won the campaign against the Staples contract through grievances alone. We had to take it to the streets. Our members, particularly our retirees, were out there every day talking to the public and making the facts known.

This fight is the same. Getting upset is not going to resolve this. HQs has declared war and we have to fight. We can't just grieve this away. We can't just pray it away. Our members have to be involved – have to take it to the streets.

I have this to say: Mr. David Williams, you will not win! You have declared war. We are accepting your challenge. We are not going to go away. We will use every rally to tell the American public that management is taking away their postal service. ☒

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The struggle continues...

By Tiffany Foster, Executive Vice-President



Tiffany Foster

The struggle continues... is a famous saying from the former Great NY Metro/APWU President Moe Biller. That saying is still true today. As things change, things remain the same.

It appears times are regressing back to 1970 when the postal employee had to fight for respect, the right to work in a safe environment and most importantly job security. It is 2017 and the fight is still the same, but the difference is are you willing to do what they did in 1970

The USPS has drawn a line in the sand and declared war on clerk jobs throughout the country. They have no regard or concern for the service that will be further degraded by this action and the stress on the work force.

Management is reverting and abolishing clerk craft duty assignments at an alarming rate. First, they said, the stations were over their earned complement and that the sections in the plants were staffed sufficiently for the workload. Then they changed their story to now say that the decline in mail volume and revenue is the reason for reverting and abolishing duty assignments. How could that be when the PSEs (in NY) are each working 40 to 70 hours a week and the full-time regulars are working penalty overtime and people are being mandated to stay? Where did the work go? I'll tell you—nowhere.

Is it a calculated move to make

the public even more discouraged and angry and not want to use the post office anymore? To steer away from business? Is it a premeditated attempt to prepare for contract negotiations? Is it a deliberate undertaking to not convert any more PSEs to career? Is it a deliberate act to destroy the Postal Service so that privatization is the only option? What is it? Probably a combination of all these things.

Postal Handbook, EL-312 sec 211.3 says when a vacancy is anticipated, the installation head must determine if a continuing need exists for the position.

Morgan Plant Manager Steve Wojtaszek told his management team that there was a meeting with the union and the union agreed to the abolishments in Morgan. Lies! The language above says it is the installation head who makes the determination, not the union.

When management tells these lies, tell them to prove it. Ask the Bronx Postmaster, Lilliam Rodriguez, Manhattan Postmaster Kevin Crocilla, and Morgan Plant Manager Steve Wojtaszek, why are they making the determination to revert and abolish duty assignments saying the jobs are not needed which will further degrade the service to the public. Let's see if they will tell you the truth because they have yet to tell it to the union. My question is, will you buy the story they sell you?

What can you do to help fight in this? You can always be on the correct operation. Management should not be moving your badges. How do you make certain that they are

moving you to the correct operation? You can give a written statement to your steward or the union office when other crafts and management perform our work. You can make certain to tell the customers to fill out the surveys on their receipts if they have complaints about the long lines.

Most importantly you can support your union and get involved. You can no longer look the other way. This affects us all—even the ones about to retire.

Don't help management falsify the Uptime in the distribution and PO Box areas. These falsifications are deceptive and give an untrue impression that the work can get done with the skeleton staff that management deliberately created.

Don't help management take away the job security and benefits the union has fought so hard to make certain you continue to have. Don't help management take away your future. Don't drink the Kool Aid. Don't believe the lies management tells you about your union. Unity and solidarity is what's needed now just as it was in 1970. Are you ready for the fight? Your union is and has been, but we need you to fight with us. This struggle can only be won with your involvement. Management is betting that you won't fight back. Will they be right? You must send a message that you will not stand by and do nothing. You must send a message that you are prepared to fight and protect your job and provide good service to the public by any means necessary.

This is war. Where are my soldiers at? ☒

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

The GOP is preparing a feast for the 1%, and you're on the menu

By Nora Taggart, Legislative and Political Director

"So many of our leaders have forgotten that it's their duty to protect the jobs, wages and well-being of American workers before any other consideration... I'm running to be President of the United States—and as your President, I will fight for every last American job."—**Donald Trump** (during his campaign.)

Except for the jobs, wages and well-being of the five million federal and postal employees and retirees across the country.

As we mentioned in the May/June 2017 issue of *The Union Mail*, Trump's 2018 budget targets all postal and federal workers, active and retired by:

- Increasing employee contributions by 1% each year for the next six years, the equivalent of an immediate and permanent 6% pay cut.
- Eliminating the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for current and future Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) participants.
- Reducing the COLA by 0.5 percent for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) participants.
- Basing future retirement benefits on the average of an employee's highest five years of salary instead of the "high three" formula.
- Eliminating supplemental payments to employees who retire before age 62.

Combined, the proposals would cost postal and federal workers and their families more than \$149 billion over 10 years, and much more thereafter, as the losses would com-

pound over time.

Republicans give America's most vulnerable the middle finger

Many economists say Trump's budget contains the most aggressive, Robin-Hood-in-Reverse, budget and tax policies that any modern President has ever proposed. Trump wants to cut hundreds of billions of dollars in public services for millions of Americans—from education and job training to services for the elderly—including assistance through such programs as food stamps, Medicaid, and Supplemental Security Income for poor individuals with disabilities.

While making the rich richer

According to the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities, a non-partisan research and policy institute founded in 1981 to analyze federal budget priorities, the House-passed bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would lavish tax cuts on the wealthy and pay for them by cutting provisions that help millions of people afford health coverage and care. Households with incomes above \$1 million would receive tax cuts averaging more than \$50,000 apiece. The 400 highest-income households would receive total tax cuts worth roughly \$33 billion over ten years. **With a combined worth of \$2.34 trillion, these 400 households already own more wealth than the bottom 61 percent of the country combined, a staggering 194**

million people!

The bill would effectively end the ACA's Medicaid expansion for low-income adults; cap and cut federal Medicaid funding for seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children; and slash subsidies that help moderate-income people afford individual market insurance coverage.

The Senate Republican proposal would cut \$772 billion from Medicaid over the next decade and result in 22 million fewer Americans with insurance compared with current law.

What next?

As *The Union Mail* goes to print, the Senate Republicans still lacked votes to get the bill passed. Meanwhile, the House Budget Committee marked up the fiscal 2018 budget resolution. Every single one of the 22 Republican members

Contact your lawmakers and tell them to reject this budget!

Call both their DC Office at **1-844-813-4060** and their District Office at **1-844-402-1001**.

After you dial in, you will hear a short message and be asked to enter your ZIP Code.

It will state your Congressional representative's name and automatically connect you to their office.

in the House Budget Committee voted 'AYE' to cut postal and federal workers' (active and retired) pay and benefits. The 14 Democrats on the committee voted 'NAY'. The \$1.1 trillion nonbinding budget plan

continued on page 8

TWIN DANGERS TO THE PEOPLE'S POST OFFICE:

Union busting and privatization

By Flo Summergrad

The Postal Service has declared war on the workers. They are doing everything in their power to destroy the public's post office—for the personal greed of a few who want to change the universal service to a mechanism for profit-privatization. Slashing postal staffing means that the work can't get done. This hurts mail service and angers customers.

The directives are coming from the top—from postal HQs. Station and plant supervisors and managers realize they can't follow these directives and still get the mail out. They are actually stopping our officers to say, "This is crazy." Workers are being sent home with mail left to sit. Postage due mail is sitting for weeks.

The blame is being put on the union! This is plain and simple an attempt to union bust, to turn the members against the leadership.

Stop and think. It is the union that has been fighting to convert as many PSEs as possible to career status. It is the union that refused to accept a contract that would have made a new lower tier of PSEs. It is the union that presented testimony and evidence to Arbitrator Goldberg that convinced him to convert all Maintenance and Motor Vehicle PSEs to career and codify in the contract the MOU to continue the conversion process in the Clerk craft. It is the union that has been enforcing the language to bring PSEs into the regular work force.

As career employees, workers are entitled to benefits that help them and their families survive. They get guaranteed hours and full rights as union members. Top management's



Great Postal Strike of 1970

dream is to keep postal workers as PSEs forever. Career clerks are being used as pawns in management's game to keep PSEs from career opportunities.

The result of job cuts is what's called "an excessing event." In other words, the extra clerks would be excessed into another craft or to another facility – as far as 50 miles away. But since the arbitrary reversions and abolishments are not grounded in reality, projected excessing is based on a false narrative. Since the job cuts are everywhere, there is no place to excess to.

In the meantime, the squeezing out of needed duty assignments is going to create a giant pool of unassigned ("unencumbered") regulars. Wholesale reversions are de facto taking away the fulltime career employee's ability to choose a bid; instead, an unassigned clerk can be put wherever at management's whim. In many locations, PSEs are suffering from short hours while the mail just sits.

The result is chaos, fear, and

delay, delay, delay of mail.

Management will try to use fear to turn workers against each other and against the union leadership. They will try to use mail delay to turn postal customers against postal workers.

DANGER ahead! union-busting and privatization!

Workers' frustration and fear can be manipulated to turn people against the union. While our Local officers and stewards are tied up filing literally hundreds of grievances to save jobs, a union-buster is whining in your ear, "Where are they? Why aren't they here talking to us?"

Don't fall for it. Watch and circulate the videos; read the union magazines and Newsflashes; go to NYMetro and APWU websites; like us on Facebook.

Tell that union-buster to wake up and join the fight. Union is ALL of us together. Do your part. Let your family, friends, neighbors know what's really going on. Speak up at church outings, PTA meetings, and block parties. Let everybody know that we postal workers want good service for all; the U.S. Mail system is being sabotaged to disguise the interests of a greedy few who want to turn America's public postal service into a private cash cow.

Get involved in fighting for your job now or you won't have a job to fight for. Be ready to rally, march, make phone calls, sign petitions, make statements. Every co-worker, every postal customer is our ally in the fight for the public post office guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Whose post office? The PEOPLE'S POST OFFICE! ☒

JOINT LETTER TO MEGAN BRENNAN, PMG/CEO

The postal unions have drawn a line in the sand and are standing united against Postmaster Brennan's continuous "cost-saving" shortcuts—shortcuts that have greatly affected not only the bargaining-unit workforce but also mail processing, mail delivery, customer service and the reputation of the United States Postal Service.



June 21, 2017

Dear Postmaster General Brennan:

As presidents of our respective unions representing over 250,000 hard-working postal employees, we are deeply disturbed by the wholesale and massive job cuts underway by your administration. The cutting of an already skeletal workforce will not only cause massive disruption to the workforce but will cause further degradation of postal services for the American people throughout the country.

We also note that your public commitment to abide by the respective Collective Bargaining Agreements as you address workforce complements is being violated because the ongoing job reversions and job abolishments are contrary to contractual obligations. The excessing impact statements—currently amounting to over 1,500 events affecting over 15,000 employees and counting – are blatant violations of our CBAs in relation to advance notice, mandated information to the unions, meeting requirements, move dates, and residual vacancies.

Using the information that the Postal Service has provided to the unions, there also is no way to determine if the required Article 12 provisions involving part-time flexible hours or PSE and MHA/Casual employment were considered or if the staffing is based upon all available work hours.

Our contracts further require that at the Area/Regional meeting a list of residual vacancies be provided to the union for each excessing event. At the current time, there are insufficient residual vacancies to accommodate the impact of thousands of bargaining unit employees. In fact, it would take a significant amount of time to gather that number of residual vacancies.

Without the residual vacancies, there is no excessing. That begs the question of why there is a demand to excess thousands of employees if there are no "landing spots" for the excessed employees to be placed into.

Based upon all of the above factors and concerns expressed above, the NPMHU and the APWU request that management consider and explore all other alternative options prior to the massive excessing plan currently proposed.

Without change, these management actions essentially throw any good faith effort and constructive relationships to the wind. At a time when the parties have been working together to craft, promote, and pass constructive postal reform legislation, we wonder why the Postal Service would choose to declare war on its unions and its employees. Rest assured that, absent correction, the APWU and the NPMHU will together resist these misguided actions and violations of our agreements with, and commitments to, our members.

We await your response.

Mark Dimondstein
President, American Postal Workers Union

Paul V. Hogrogian, National President
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

The Postal Service and fake news

By Chuck Zlatkin, Director of Communications

A lie told once remains a lie but told a thousand times the truth.

—JOSEPH GOEBBELS, head of the Nazi Reich Ministry of Enlightenment and Propaganda, 1939

Fake news is relatively new, but the Postal Service is no stranger to this phenomenon. For years, the USPS has been the victim of an elaborate fake news scheme designed to turn public opinion against it. For most of that time, postal officials have remained silent in the face of these unwarranted attacks. Most of the defense of the Postal Service has come from the postal unions and organizations like A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service and Campaign for America's Future. They showed the public the distortion of facts and outright conflict of interests of those peddling fake news about the Postal Service.

The fake news campaign evolved initially around the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, first to get it passed, and second to use the Act's restrictions on the USPS to throw it into a financial crisis. That crisis gave postal management the impetus to reduce hours of service and with it, personnel. The final part of the fake news campaign was to convince the public that privatization of the Postal Service was the reasonable solution.

To support the scheme, corporations donated vast sums of money to so-called "think tanks," and then asked those very same organizations to produce "independent" studies on the ineffectiveness of the Postal Service and how private corporations would do a better job.

A perfect example of how this elaborate scheme works is the study: "The Basis and Extent of the Monopoly Rights and Subsidies Claimed by the United States Postal Service" by Robert J. Shapiro for SONECON, published in March of 2015. Shapiro, who has impressive credentials as former Treasury Undersecretary and Chairman of the economic consultancy, SONECON, published a paper that claimed the Postal Service receives \$18 billion a year in legal monopoly rights and subsidies—a baseless theory as fact. It is fake news at its worst, claiming a vast worth for the monopoly that the Postal Service has on mail boxes, while not acknowledging the cost of the universal service the USPS is mandated to provide. (The Postal Service is required to deliver mail to anyone regardless of where they are located, while private firms like FEDEX and UPS can pick and choose where they do business. The kicker is that the study was paid for by UPS. The author even thanks them in a footnote.)

Another study, produced by Elaine Kamarck, came from the Brookings Institution. Titled, "Delaying the Inevitable: Political Stalemate and the U.S. Postal Service," it called for the partial privatization of the Postal Service. In his commentary, "Brookings paper on the Postal Service gets the facts wrong," Darryl J. Anderson for the Economic Policy Institute commented that Kamarck relied heavily for "documentation" on the Shapiro-UPS study without ever mentioning the fact that Shapiro's study was paid for by UPS. Anderson stated that

Kamarck also misstated the facts about the cause of the Postal Service's financial crisis, omitted important information from OIG reports and made claims about drops in first class mail without any evidence. It sounds as if Kamarck was manufacturing her own fake news about the Postal Service.

Next, the Cato Institute published an article, "Privatizing the U.S. Postal Service," which cited both the Shapiro and Kamarck studies. The article was written by Chris Edwards, best known for his book, "Downsizing the Federal Government" – a work that received lavish praise from James C. Mitchell, the former Chair of the Postal Board of Governors and leading advocate for postal privatization. There is very little that can be called objective in this Cato article. Cato in fact receives contributions from FEDEX and also donates to the Brookings Institution.

Virtually, all the mainstream media picked up the Shapiro and Kamarck fake news without question. These media outlets reported the fake news assertions that the Postal Service is getting "billions of dollars annually in subsidies," and that the key to stopping this is privatization. The echo chamber effect works. Repeat a lie often enough and it becomes truth.

In the face of all this, a key question needs to be answered: Why has Postal management stayed so quiet? ☹️

[In the next issue of *The Union Mail* – *The Postal Service and fake news Part 2: How the Postal Service, victimized by fake news, creates its own.*]

NYS Educational Conference: A great experience

The New York State Convention this year was an educational conference.

In addition to our Local officers Tiffany Foster, Kevin Walsh, Jackie Owens, and Glenn Weekes, a number of NYMAPU stewards attended. These included Deborah Bethea (Clerk, Church Street), Tyrone Blount (Clerk, Morgan), April Branch (Clerk, DVD), Daisy DeGout (Clerk, Bronx), Shawntai Downs (Clerk, DVD), Zakee Hameed (Maintenance, NDC), Jerry Lynch (Clerk, Manhattanville/Morningside), Rosa Ragin (MV, Manhattan VMF); Jennifer St. Vil (Clerk, NDC), Howard Thompson (MV, DVD), and Alison Ward (Clerk, Morgan). For many it was a first conference. They enjoyed meeting and working with one another and got a lot of information to bring back to the field.

By April Branch, Shop Steward, DVD

We had a great time at the conference. It was very informative. These educational conferences are designed to give us a plethora of usable content on various subjects.

The most informative class that we sat in on was the MDAT class. MDAT is a program designed by APWU Assistant Clerk Craft Director Lamont Brooks that can

calculate all available work hours. It helps us win grievances because we use management's own data to prove our case. This is very important now with clerk jobs being

reverted and abolished.

This conference offered us the opportunity to be introduced to APWU National officers with their knowledgeable expertise. We learned we are truly part of a large and powerful organization.

A lot of us from NY Metro who attended are young stewards. It's new to us! We are vibrant and ready to fight. ☑

Photos by Shawntai Downs



DVD stewards Shawntai Downs and April Branch



The GOP is preparing a feast for the 1%, and you're on the menu

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is now reported to the House where there is a good chance it will advance because the House is populated with conservatives demanding cuts to entitlement programs. And because, in large part, it is an exaggerated version of the budget plans that the very conservative House

Republican majority has advanced every year since 2011. None of those budgets made their way into law because Barack Obama was president. But now, the White House, House, and Senate are controlled by the same party, and they all have the same general idea about

budget cuts and tax cuts.

Trump's agenda, if passed by Congress, assures nightmarish conditions for tens of millions of Americans, while giving massive tax cuts to the super rich, benefiting Wall Street, corporations and war-profiteers. ☑

Privatization would end equal pay for postal women

By Flo Summergrad

Even factoring in differences in education, jobs, and maternity time, U.S. women in general earn 20% less than U.S. men. This fact is so inescapable that for the last 20 years, an “Equal Pay Day” protest is held across the country on a Tuesday in April. April symbolizes how far into each year women must work to make what men earned in the previous year; Tuesday symbolizes how far into the week women must work to make what men earned in the previous week. Although women are the sole or co-breadwinner in half of American families with children, the gender gap in pay dooms them to struggle at or below the poverty line. No matter what the occupation, on the average, women earn considerably less than men. This pay inequity has negative consequences for the economy as a whole—not just for the individual family.

Paying female workers the same as their male counterparts is not only fair; it also makes economic sense. “According to a recent regression analysis done by the IWPR, equal pay would cut poverty among working women and their families by more than half and add \$513 billion to the national economy.” (The IWPR is the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, producing authoritative reports since 1987.)

Comparing across racial and ethnic lines, in 2015, only Asian-American women earned more than 80% of what white men earned annually – 84.5% White women just topped 75% of white men’s earning;

black women earned just 63.3% of white men’s annual earnings; Hispanic/Latina women earned 54.5%. Within the same racial/ethnic group, women of the same racial/ethnic group still earn significantly less than men.

Postal women get equal pay for equal work

Looking at these facts in relation to the economic position of women in the US Postal Service, the rationale of the privatizers becomes glaringly clear. In all postal jobs, men and women with the same job title and level receive the same pay. While there is still gender disparity in the percentage of females in traditionally male jobs (Tractor Trailer Operators; Maintenance Mechanics, Electronic Technicians), these higher paid jobs are increasingly open to women workers.

The USPS employs more than 288,000 women, or about 45 % of its workforce. This is more than a quarter of a million women, all over the United States, who are receiving equal pay for equal work. Many of them are covered by union contracts, and all are protected under federal law, often far better than the labor laws of the state where they work.

And they are working in areas where they serve as a living example of what equal pay and unionization can provide

for working women and their families. Can we have any doubt that the cherished goal of the 1% is to crush and eliminate that example?

Postal privatization is not about saving public money. Postal workers are not paid out of tax dollars. They pay taxes and spend money in the communities where they live, a boost to the local economy. Corporate greed seeks to impoverish those communities and the postal families and push USPS women workers into the inequity that most working women experience. Postal women have a tremendous stake in fighting privatization.

Unionized postal workers of both genders must take up the fight. A recent IWPR report on the economic status of black women in particular, notes that “union membership could increase black women’s earnings by more than 30% a week.” If a union contract can so significantly improve the pay of its members, busting an existing union will have the reverse effect. ☐



POSTAL PRIDE

Thank you, Mike Lawrence!

At 87-years-young, Mike Lawrence finally decided to retire from his job as a Labor Custodian. On June 29th, NJI&NDC co-workers from every craft, tour, color, and gender, showed their appreciation by holding a surprise retirement party for Mike at the job. This enormous outpouring of love was because he “does for everybody” and is “a class act.”

Ask most people to get involved and they give an excuse. But not Mike Lawrence! Mike has been the center of involvement – the “go-to person.” Whether the task was soliciting donors for the CFC or supporting NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. sisters in fundraising, he got it done. And Mike always made sure we remembered our co-workers in time of grief or need.

We’ll miss Mike Lawrence’s sharp jokes and generosity. We’ll miss how he put his heart and soul into the daily fight against injustice. Mike was always proud to be union, proud to be a worker, proud to be black, proud to be a vet, proud to be gay. Openly calling himself “Michelle,” he forced people to respect him as who he is, just as he respects others.

Mike Lawrence exemplifies what Union is about. We wish him many years to enjoy his retirement! ☐



Postal News Briefs

UNIONS PREVAIL IN NATIONAL LEVEL DECISION ON VOTING RIGHTS

In a decision issued on June 21, 2017, Arbitrator Shyam Das concluded that postal employees are entitled to administrative leave (voting) under ELM 519.32 when they participate in presidential caucuses. The case was initially filed by the NALC but they were soon joined by the NPMHU and the APWU. “This Postal Alliance victory demonstrates that when we come together to protect and enforce the rights of our bargaining-unit workers, we can be more successful,” said President Dimondstein. Notably, fifteen states and several territories held party caucuses rather than primary elections in 2016.



THE USPS MOST DANGEROUS WORKPLACE ACCORDING TO OSHA

In 2015, OSHA began requiring employers to report when workers get “severely injured” to better identify dangerous workplaces and prevent future incidents. From the beginning of 2015 through the end of 2016, the United States Postal Service reported 395 severe injuries, the most of any employer. Behind it was Walmart, with 155 severe injuries and the United Parcel Service with 136. No other employer during that time period had more than 75. The high numbers can be partly explained by the USPS’s gargantuan workforce. After all, the Postal Service is one of America’s largest employers with roughly 640,000 employees. But even after controlling for the number of employees, the USPS still looks bad—especially when compared to similar companies like UPS and FedEx.



UTAH POST OFFICES EXPAND SERVICES

On March 21, Utah Governor Gary Herbert (R) signed into law S.B. 65, a bill that authorizes post offices in Utah to provide state services such as public high speed Wi-Fi access; fishing, hunting, and trapping permits; online access to make appointments or exchange documents with the Department of Workforce Service and the Department of Motor Vehicles; and more.

The bill was a collaborative effort driven by the Utah State Association of Letter Carriers, whose members engaged directly with their partners on the federal, state and local levels to help make this happen, creating a partnership that demonstrated how these services are important to Utahans and by working directly with House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), State Senator Karen Maynes (D), and local unions and interest groups. ☐



CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 20

5:30 pm

General Membership Meeting

Hotel Pennsylvania

401 Seventh Ave (between 32 and 33 Streets)

Paris/Zurich Room, 6th Floor

(check calendar in lobby for room change)

Retirement and Federal Benefits Seminar

New York Metro Office

350 W. 31 Street, 3rd Floor

New York, NY 10001

Tuesday, September 5, 11:00 am

Wednesday, September 6, 1:00 pm

Thursday, September 7, 3:00 pm

To register, see your steward for form

Or call Union Office 212-563-7553

FREE for members and spouses/partners

(\$10 registration free refunded at Seminar)

APWU LOCAL 10 BLDG. CORP

Beginning Balance as of 05/01/2017	\$ 427,853.61
Total REVENUE May 2017	\$ 182,603.46
Total Operating Expenses May 2017	\$ 146,644.93
TOTAL NET INCOME May 2017	\$ 35,958.53
Closing Balance as of 05/31/2017	\$ 463,812.14

NY LABOR DAY PARADE

Join Us! Bring friends & family

Saturday, September 9

46th Street between Fifth and Vanderbilt Aves.

Step-off time is 12:45 pm.

2017 Union Scholarship winners

The 2017 recipients are Joan Harris, wife of Morgan Clerk Calvert L. Harris; Alma Alvarez, daughter of Morgan Clerk Alma Alvarez; Sharod Smalls, son of Fort George Station Clerk Linda Blackett Smalls; and Andrew Smith, son of NJI&NDC Mail Handler Kevin Smith. At the June General Membership meeting, the recipients were presented with a trophy and the scholarship check for \$2,500. Our local is honored to support these hard-working students in their endeavors. This is what we work for—the future of our families! 📄



President Smith with Joan Harris, wife of Clerk Calvert L. Harris



President Smith with Alma, mother of Alma Alvarez



Clerk Linda Blackkert-Smalls, President Smith, and son Sharod Smalls



NDC MH Kevin Smith with son Andrew Smith



New York Metro Area Local, APWU
350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10001
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(Details on Page 11)

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