

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

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APWU & MAIL HANDLERS TO FIGHT JOB & SERVICE CUTS

(excerpted from APWU Web News Articles)

Throughout the country, the Postal Service has launched an all-out assault on our jobs and is blatantly violating the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) in their staffing of post offices. The USPS is reducing service to the community and disrupting the lives of postal workers by reducing duty assignments (reversions and abolishments) and issuing excessing notices potentially affecting hundreds of post offices and thousands of employees. [Career conversions of Postal Support Employees (PSEs), Mail Handler Assistants (MHAs) and City Carrier Assistants (CCAs) will all be delayed]

On June 21, the American Postal Workers Union and National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) sent a joint letter to Postmaster General Megan Brennan chastising her administration's "wholesale and massive job cuts." APWU President Mark Dimondstein and NPMHU President Paul Hogrogian explained, "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."

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.

"Without change, these management actions essentially throw any good faith efforts 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 your agreements with, and commitments to, our members."

APWU is Fighting Back

The APWU has been implementing a plan to fight back that includes meetings with management at every level, informational pickets to inform the community, and utilization of the grievance procedure.

Locals are already getting into the fight in the streets. The Baltimore Francis 'Stu' Filbey Area Local held an informational picket at the Main Post Office in Baltimore on June 10 that was attended by postal workers and community members. Other Locals are also preparing for similar actions. Locals wishing to conduct informational pickets should contact the Clerk Craft Division to receive assistance.

A Call to Action

As postal workers we must fight together against the Postal Service's ongoing willingness to blatantly violate the contractual agreements they made with us. It is important that postal workers attend their local union meetings where we can learn from each other and work on strategies to slow or stop management's plans to reduce service to the community and disrupt the workforce. If we come together in an organized manner, we can win a better Postal Service and a better workplace.

ASK YOUR REPRESENTATIVE:

Co-sponsor H.Res. 28, which supports retaining door delivery for businesses and residents, and H.Res. 31, which supports restoring service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012



Baltimore rally against job and service cuts (6/10/17 photo APWU)

KEEP UP ON THE LATEST FIGHTBACK!

CPWUNITED.COM

SAVETHEPOSTOFFICE.COM

AGRANDALLIANCE.ORG

2ICPW.COM

APWU.ORG

NALC.ORG

NPMHU.ORG

NRLCA.ORG

For More Information

If you would like to receive information directly from the APWU by text or email, please sign-up at <http://www.apwu.org/stay-connected>. Check back on apwu.org for more details about this ongoing fight.

UTAH LETTER CARRIERS WIN EXPANDED POSTAL SERVICES

(from NALC News)

On March 21, Utah Governor Gary Herbert (R) signed into law S.B. 65, a postal facilities and government services bill that authorizes state agencies to provide select services through rural post offices.

As a result, post offices in Utah will soon be able 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.

POSTAL WORKERS PROTEST MANAGEMENT ABUSE

(excerpted from APWU Web News Article)

Members of the Barre Local [VT] were joined by their APWU brothers and sisters from across New England - including National President Mark Dimondstein and Northeast Regional Coordinator John H. Dirzius - for an informational picket outside the South Main Street post office on Friday, April 28.

Vermont State Labor Council, AFL-CIO President Jill Charboneau joined the picket with other Vermont State Labor Council leaders. Local representatives of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) as well as members of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE), the Vermont Workers Center, the surrounding faith communities also participated.

The group of about 100 workers protested working conditions at the post office. According to Dirzius, the post office has had problems for nearly two years, including grievances that get settled but are never implemented, as well as significant service issues. Since retail windows are not staffed properly, customers wait in lines that go out the door. On top of that, managers criticize window clerks in front of customers.

“Management in this office is guilty of refusing to bargain in good faith, targeting local union officers for enforcing the contract, retaliating against employees injured on the job, embarrassing employees in front of customers and unprofessional behavior,” Dirzius said.

Workers at the post office brought up the issues with management at both the district and regional levels, to no avail. So, they decided to make the matter public.

RETAIL OUT-SOURCING MORATORIUM TO EXPIRE

(excerpted from May-June, 2017 American Postal Worker)

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) “Re: Retail” imposes a one-year moratorium on any new contracts under the Approved Shipper Program, Contract Postal Units (CPUs) and Village Post Offices (VPOs). In addition, “For a twelve month period of time commencing on the effective date of the 2015 National Agreement, the parties will enter into discussions over the ‘future of retail’ in the Postal Service.” Absent any extensions, the moratorium and discussions are scheduled to end approximately July 8, 2017.

The biggest takeaway in the last year of gathering data is we can confirm that the vast majority of these private companies are close to real post offices. In total, 83 percent of all Approved Shippers, 71 percent of all CPUs and 74 percent of all VPOs are within three miles of a post office. The percentage of private postal retail outlets that are located close to a post office confirms union members’ experience that the Postal Service is encouraging the replacement of work performed by postal workers in post offices to private companies.

As the “smoking gun” documents in the Staples fight showed, although the Postal Service claimed they wanted to expand access for customers, some top officials in the USPS simply wanted to shift work and jobs from the Postal Service to private companies.

‘Approved Shippers’ Dissing the USPS

One of the many downsides to private companies performing postal work is the inherent tendency for the private companies to put their interests over that of the Postal Service and the American public. Approved Shippers like Office Depot, UPS, PostNet, Staples (before they were defeated), etc., in addition to selling USPS products and services, sell competitor services. For example, UPS stores sell UPS products, Office Depot sells FedEx products, and Post-Net sells UPS, FedEx and DHL products.

Each of these companies makes a greater profit selling UPS, FedEx and DHL products than they do USPS products. Consequently, our testing of the Approved Shippers showed their employees promoting their profitable products over that of the USPS. Moreover, in pushing the competitor products, the store employees often dissed the Postal Service.



Postal workers and community allies protest in Barre, Vermont
(4/28/17 APWU photo)

Revitalizing Post Offices

As part of our discussions with the USPS, we challenged the Postal Service to stop encouraging customers to go to private companies where service will be reduced, costs for the customer may be higher and the company may bad-mouth the Postal Service. We asked the USPS to increase access to customers through expanding post offices’ hours, locations and staffing.

If the USPS truly wants to provide access to postal services at later hours, why not have post offices stay open later and open on weekends as they did in the past? Post offices should be open after hours for working-class people who work long hours around the clock.

Once the moratorium ends, we will be at a crossroads. If the Postal Service decides to continue to erode service at the post office and encourage people to go to private companies, then we have to be ready to duplicate the successful Staples strategy of boycotts and pickets. Members should research the private postal retail companies in their area. As in the Staples fight, it is a fight for good service and good jobs for our communities.

HOMEOWNERS FIGHT CLUSTERBOXES

(excerpted from Channel 6 South Florida, 5/11/17)

It’s something many South Florida residents living in single-family homes take for granted – the convenience of having mail delivered to their homes. But more than a dozen homeowners in Miami-Dade County contacted NBC 6 Responds, after moving into their newly constructed homes and learning they won’t be receiving curbside mail delivery from USPS.

Arana moved into his new home in unincorporated Miami-Dade County in April 2016. He said the developer told him to install a mailbox, request a change of address and wait for the mail to arrive. “We did that and nothing happened,” he said. No mail for Arana or any of the other six owners of the single-family homes that are part of the same development.

USPS has said they believe cluster mailboxes – instead of individual curbside mailboxes – are the most efficient delivery option. The postal service told us – in both cases – they’ve decided these homes will receive “centralized delivery”, citing a 2012 postal bulletin which gives the postal service “autonomy in determining the modes of delivery when adding new deliveries.” That same bulletin still requires meetings with “builders and developers early in the process to ensure the best choices are made.”

But the developers of the homes in question told NBC 6 they didn’t know about the policy and postal service’s decision on the mode of delivery until months after the homes had been built and sold.

The developer said he has built other single-family homes in the area after 2012 and has never had this issue come up, even though he didn’t do anything differently. “For mail delivery, we’ve never had to do anything,” Martinez said.

The town of Cutler Bay told us they had never seen this policy enforced until now and they’re concerned about how it will impact the community. “Our preference will always be, when it comes to single-family homes, ... to have individual mailboxes,” said Rafael Casals, Cutler Bay town manager. “We want to preserve that neighborhood feel.”