

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

Fall 2017 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com

NO MORE MOON-LIT DELIVERY ! PHOENIX LETTER CARRIERS PROTEST

Hundreds turned out November 12th to support their NALC brothers and sisters, including American Postal Workers Union members and Mayor Greg Stanton. Jeff Clark, president of Arizona State Association of Letter Carriers called the demonstration for earlier start times for carriers and better customer service. Local news reported that mail delivery was happening at seven, eight, and nine o'clock in the evening. "Are we really going to put the letter carriers safety at risk?" asked the mayor. "Are we really going to put the quality of service at risk?"



Phoenix rally against dark delivery & late start times (November 12, 2017)

DANVILLE CARRIERS REFUSE DARK DELIVERY AND POSTAL MANAGERS DEFEND THEIR ACTION:

(excerpt from Commercial News)

Not in gloom of night - Post office struggles to get mail delivered

BY JENNIFER BAILEY jbailey@dancomnews.com
Nov 22, 2017

DANVILLE – It's very busy this time of year for the U.S. Postal Service.

The amount of mail that has to be delivered doesn't slow down when daylight savings time comes and mail builds up to be delivered after federal holidays.

As a result, some Danville customers don't get mail delivered some days.

One of the most recent days, the Monday following Veterans Day, saw Danville mail carriers stop their routes due to darkness and not deliver mail to all customers.

A Danville Post Office supervisor said part of the city didn't receive mail because it became a safety hazard for mail carriers. With increased mail this time of year with the holidays and a federal holiday, it was double the mail and too much to deliver, the supervisor said.

According to a statement from Mike Cooke, strategic communications with the USPS in St. Louis, Mo., "the post office establishes delivery routes based on the number of deliveries and the average number of mail pieces a route receives, creating an eight-hour day. Because the

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Postal Service is closed on holidays, that often creates a larger and sometimes double workload for letter carriers to deliver the following delivery day."

Veterans Day was one of those occasions and Thanksgiving this week will be another.

"Because of daylight savings time, it begins getting darker much earlier which gives our carriers less time to safely deliver in the daylight. Employee's safety is utmost. We do our best to deliver every piece of mail every day, but if a carrier feels their safety is at stake while making a delivery we trust their judgement on making that delivery that day," Cooke said in an emailed statement.

He said some Danville carriers were out delivering mail past 8 p.m. on Nov. 13. Some newer carriers unfamiliar with the neighborhoods in which they were delivering were not comfortable delivering house to house in the dark and returned to the station. Deliveries missed were delivered the next day.

Cooke said they apologize for any inconvenience this causes customers...

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

DES MOINES AREA LOCAL AND BMC PROTEST FOR A VIABLE POSTAL SERVICE!

APWU WEB NEWS ARTICLE #: 112-2017

On Nov. 8, APWU Des Moines Area Local and the Des Moines BMC Local (Iowa) held an informational picket in front of the downtown processing and distribution center to send a resounding message to postal management: *Postal Workers Want First-Class Service for the People!*

The protest was in response to postal management eliminating 36 positions at the main Des Moines post office – with plans to cut another 34 positions. This is a cut to about 20 percent of the staff.

As they slash full-time career positions, management also recently announced they would be hiring seasonal temporary jobs to help alleviate the holiday rush – temporary positions with fewer benefits, no health coverage and much lower wages.

“Nationwide, postal management is cutting jobs and realigning the workforce, which is causing disruptions to workers’ lives and postal operations,” said Des Moines Area Local President Mike Bates. “Our message was very clear. We want to provide first-class service 24/7, 365 days a year. “We want to educate the public that it’s the peoples’ post office and it operates on ZERO tax payer dollars,” he continued. “Give service back to the people!”

The protesters included members from the National Association of Letter Carriers and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union as well as activists from the Teamsters, Communication Workers of America, the Iowa Federation of Labor and Citizens for Community Improvement. Iowa State Representative Bruce Hunter and Iowa Secretary of State candidate Jim Mowrer also joined the protest.

This demonstration was another in a string of postal worker protests this year. Workers and communities are tired of understaffing, service cuts, long lines and late-night deliveries.

Labor Notes Conference April 6—8, Chicago

Thousands of union members, officers, and labor activists from across the US and around the world attend more than 100 meetings and workshops to discuss creative organizing strategies, winning contract campaigns, organizing new workers, and many practical skills—like developing leaders and using social media.

Labor Notes helped establish Communities and Postal Workers United in 2012. They’ve organized a postal workers’ meet-up at the conference every two years, including Canadian and European postal activists, to compare notes and launch joint campaigns.



Des Moines Area American Postal Workers Union local protests job and service cuts (November 8, 2017)

A GRAND ALLIANCE

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX: BARGAINING FOR THE COMMON GOOD

(excerpted from the Sept-Oct 2017 issue of the American Postal Worker magazine)

All over the country, public sector unions and their community allies are beginning to think outside the box when it comes to collective bargaining. The new strategy, called Bargaining for the Common Good, seeks to forge coalitions that can use the leverage of collective bargaining to benefit the broader community. Furthermore, community involvement puts more pressure on the employer to act on the shared demands.

For example, when the impact of the 2008 financial collapse resulted in a smaller tax base, the city of Los Angeles went into austerity mode, slashing spending on government services by 19 percent. In response to the cuts in service, SEIU Local 721 and AFSCME District Council 36 initiated a broad coalition of community and faith-based organizations called the Fix L.A. Coalition.

“The city has all but stopped repairing sidewalks, clearing alleys, and installing speed bumps,” the coalition reported. By “following the money,” they revealed that in 2013 alone, the city spent \$290 million on Wall Street financial fees in contrast to \$163 million maintaining city streets. The Fix L.A. Coalition demanded that the city negotiate better deals with Wall Street and use the savings to restore city services.

By using the bargaining process to shed light on city finances and standing together with a set of joint demands, the union and their allies successfully bargained for gains in wages and benefits, the creation of 5,000 new jobs and restoration of the city’s budget for street services.

Bargaining for the Common Good represents a realignment of “community and labor organizations...” according to Professor Joseph A. McCartin (Georgetown University). “Unions [are not] merely enlisting community groups to support their contract campaigns; instead unions and their allies built a common agenda from the ground up.”

...“Our union brought many elements of Bargaining for the Common Good to our 2015 contract fight, including the interests and influence of the more than 75 national organizations of A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service,” said [APWU] President Dimondstein. “We will continue to fight to protect the public Postal Service and to expand services that the public wants and so richly deserves.”