

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

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

WE WON !

STAPLES DEAL COLLAPSES THE BOYCOTT IS OVER!

A three-year battle against the outsourcing of living wage, union postal jobs to the low wage, non-union Staples, Inc. ended January 5th, when USPS management informed the American Postal Workers Union that the “Approved Shipper” program in Staples Office Supply stores will be shut down by the end of February, 2017. The union-initiated boycott of Staples is over.

“I never doubted that if we stayed the course, stuck together and kept the activist pressure on, we would win this fight,” said APWU President Mark Dimondstein. The hard-fought battle has engaged thousands of union activists and allies since Staples opened “pilot” postal counters inside 82 stores in California, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania in early 2014. A newly-elected leadership team, under Dimondstein’s direction, took a bottom up, direct action approach to the fight, paying postal workers on “union time” to organize community pickets, petitioning and leafleting at the “pilot” stores. In many cities, volunteers kept the campaign alive.

Postal retirees, activists from the three other postal unions, and solidarity from the entire labor movement kept the heat on for three years. The boycott received a huge boost from the two teachers unions, the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, whose members stopped buying school supplies at this largest of the national office supply chain stores. Over 100,000 postcards were delivered to Staples’ CEO. Local coalitions, such as Communities and Postal Workers United and Community-Labor United for Postal Jobs and Services, staged disruptive store “invasions.” Occupy activists in Berkeley, California camped out for weeks in front of a local Staples. Members of the Staples board of directors were confronted at their places of work.

The national APWU used several legal maneuvers to keep Staples from expanding the program, as they had vowed to do, to all 1,500 of their stores. An Unfair Labor Practice complaint was sustained by the National Labor Relations Board, charging the USPS with failure to bargain over the contracting-out of union jobs. Secret USPS documents came to light, revealing their intent to reduce hours, shut down union-staffed postal facilities and shift the entire USPS retail operation into the private sector. The APWU also intervened in the attempt by Staples to merge with Office Depot and successfully convinced the Federal Trade Commission to nix the deal, forcing Staples to pay a \$250 million penalty. Staples stocks plummeted and dozens of stores closed. The APWU also convinced the USPS Inspector General to prove that Staples was costing the USPS in revenue, trashing the USPS brand and reducing security of the mail.

As the largest unionized employer in the nation, with a 21% Black and 40% female workforce, the postal service is known for providing stable union jobs, a good salary and benefits, a hiring preference for veterans, and strong protections against discrimination. With over 500,000 workers, 200,000 vehicles, 35,000 post offices and an almost \$70 billion annual revenue stream, the USPS is a big target for the neoliberal, union-busting, privatization agenda.

The Staples campaign victory is an important high point in the struggle to save and improve the public postal service. Worker-community confidence and combativeness has been boosted and will be sorely needed in confronting the “public-private partnership” agenda of Trump and the Republican controlled Congress.



*Picket of Portland, Oregon Staples by Washington APWU and allies
(4/7/16)*

ALL OUT FOR MASSIVE LABOR-COMMUNITY PROTESTS – INAUGURATION WEEKEND JAN. 20-22

**Call to Action – Let’s build a nationwide United Front
against Trump** by *Communities and Postal Workers United & Community-Labor United for Postal Jobs and Services*

The election of Donald Trump is dangerous for all working people, including and especially immigrants, people of color, women, LGBTQ people and the disabled. Postal workers and customers can expect stepped-up assaults on our public postal service.

A president Trump, coupled with Republican control of the House and Senate, raises the very real possibility of his appointment of a reactionary Postal Board of Governors seeking to further dismantle and privatize the USPS; an employer-friendly National Labor Relations Board which could reverse the gains of past years; a conservative Supreme Court hostile to public sector unions; and an anti-union, anti-worker Department of Labor. National “Right-to-Work” legislation, which would be a major blow to the labor movement, is a top priority of the new administration. This would hurt the growing national movement for \$15 and a union.

A Trump presidency threatens the deportation of millions of undocumented workers; the exclusion, surveillance, profiling and incarceration of our Muslim sisters and brothers; major restrictions on women’s reproductive rights; the return of anti-LGBTQ laws; and increased harassment, brutalizing, and incarceration of Black and Brown people by local police departments. It threatens to support environmentally dangerous projects like the Dakota pipeline, and repression of the Indigenous Nations who are fighting it.

Tax cuts for the rich and even more funds to the military (making another war more likely) will be used to justify austerity, with deep cuts to Medicaid, Social Security, food stamps, education, housing and other programs that working people need to survive. The Trump victory has emboldened racist, sexist, homophobic and xenophobic predators who are intimidating and assaulting our most vulnerable residents.

Spontaneous “Not My President” demonstrations have erupted across the country immediately following the Trump election. Many student, labor, community and women’s groups are planning for massive protests on the weekend of Trump’s Inauguration, January 20-22, in Washington, D.C. and other cities.

To save our public postal service and living-wage, union postal jobs, we will need to help build a national United Front of all those threatened by the Trump presidency, in the spirit of An Injury to One is an Injury to All.

We will need to mobilize our networks, in collaboration with other labor, school, faith, community and women’s groups, to encourage and participate in organizing large and small actions leading up to and including Inauguration Weekend, as part of a nationwide united movement against Trump and all he represents.

TUCSON ORGANIZES TO SAVE MAIL PLANT

(Below are excerpts from an article in the Tucson News Now, Oct. 27th, 2016. Thanks to years of community organizing -- led by the local American Postal Workers Union -- Tucson-area elected officials [local, state and national] as well as senior, veterans and business groups are educated and active in the fight to save postal service)

"The effort to try save the main post office on Cherrybell Strave-nue in Tucson has brought a North Carolina congressman to the Old Pueblo.

Mark Meadows is the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Government Operations that oversees the U.S. Postal Service.

From our ballots to our utility bills, when we mail anything it is trucked to Phoenix for processing, then trucked back to Tucson.

That's been happening since the Postal Service consolidated out-going mail processing in Phoenix in February of 2013. Before then, outgoing mail was processed at the Cherrybell station.

Meadows came to Tucson for a tour of Cherrybell and a roundta-ble discussion about saving the main post office and bringing back outgoing mail processing.

He came at the invitation of Arizona Republican Congresswoman Martha McSally. Arizona Democratic Congressman Raul Grijalva was part of the discussion as well.

Meadows also heard from business leaders, seniors, a veteran and other individuals.

"It will have an impact. Any time that you get people--whether they be Republicans, Democrats or unaffiliated Independents coming together with one common cause, that's a critical component," said Meadows of the roundtable's possible impact...

"... what's important to us is to have our businesses have fast and efficient access to mail," Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild told Meadows.

Governor Doug Ducey's representative at the discussion, Juan Ciscomani, was concerned about business growth in Tucson and southern Arizona as well.

"As any company would, as they look at their expansion, they look at everything from education to cost of living, everything. And this center is one of the things, if it closes, would not send the right message in terms of attracting larger companies," Ciscomani said.

WE STOPPED THE TPP !

12/19/2016 (APWU Web News) – The 114th U.S. Congressional session is over and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is officially dead. This victory comes despite it being a signature effort of the White House and Republican-controlled Congress, supported by busi-ness lobbyists and the Chamber of Commerce.

"The TPP was killed because workers stood up and fought back," said President Mark Dimondstein. "It was very impressive that every labor union came together to fight this rotten trade deal designed to benefit the multinational corporations and big banks at the expense of workers everywhere."

The "free trade" agreement was with 12 countries along the Pa-cific Rim, including Canada, Japan and Vietnam, and was intended to reduce restrictions on trade. The deal was aimed at helping multina-tional corporations outsource even more jobs to low-wage countries. It would have accelerated the global 'race to the bottom' in wages and benefits for working people.

Specifically for APWU members, the TPP would have opened the doors for the U.S. Postal Service to be permanently outsourced and privatized. If passed, it would have eliminated postal jobs and lowered wages.

There were several articles in the deal that targeted postal services. They were included at the request of the USPS's private competitors, including UPS and FedEx. One specifically "direct[ed] targets on how postal systems are permitted to operate." Another provision was in-cluded "to address the unique challenges private suppliers face[d] when competing with national postal entities in express delivery."...

Rally and Speakout

Stop The Workplace Bullying And Union Busting Return NALC 214 Chief Steward Angela To The Job And Other Suspended Postal Union Workers

The US post office management is in a rampage against the workers and the unions. They have been engaged in massive workplace bul-lying and intimidation to the point that postal workers are even afraid to take lunch breaks on their own time because of the harassment and speed-ups. This is not new in San Francisco and there have al-ready been cases of "going postal" by management terrorizing and harassing postal workers.

Part of the aim of the postal bosses is to target the union shop stewards. They are being fired and framed up by management including chief steward Angela



November 16, 2016
(Wednesday)
4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
At: SF US Federal Building
90 - 7th St./Mission St.
San Francisco

million fake accounts in order to rip off the depositors. Over 5300 workers were fired and many were fired for refusing to engage in ille-gal activity. Some of these OSHA complaints went to OSHA worker Darrell Whitman, and Whitman was prevented from doing an in-vestigation by his managers. Some

(Leaflet above by NALC Branch 214)

In November of last year, San Francisco letter carrier and chief steward, Angela Bibb Merritt, was issued an emergency sus-pension and notice of removal. Her union, the National Associa-tion of Letter Carriers, Branch 214, knew that Angela had been vigorously representing her union members and defending those experiencing workplace bullying. The NALC did more than file a grievance. It did more than file an Unfair Labor Practice com-plaint for retaliation against a union representative for performing her contractual duties. The union "went public" and organized a picket at the SF Federal Building, and brought the "Return An-gela" campaign to the SF Labor Council. They encouraged postal customers to call the postmaster and demand that postal managers stop bullying workers and reinstate Bibb-Merritt.

The union went further. They argued that not only did work-place bullying endanger the health and safety and impact the families of postal workers but that it was part of a pattern of speed-up, intimidation and union-busting. Union-busting so as to weaken worker resistance to the dismantling and privatization of the USPS. They commended shop stewards' determined resis-tance to management abuses and pointed to other cases of retalia-tion.

Branch 214 tied Angela's removal to the wider problem of management targeting whistleblowers, like SF-based Occupational Safety and Health Administration employee (and union shop stew-ard) Darrell Whitman who was terminated after fighting work-place bullying at his agency. The union even brought the issue of SF-based Wells Fargo employees being bullied and fired for resist-ing fraudulent banking practices.

The NALC Branch 214 is calling on Senators Feinstein and Boxer and Representative Pelosi intervene in all these cases and to initiate Congressional and Senate hearings on the epidemic of workplace bullying against workers in the Post Office and other public agencies, as well as at private sector work sites.

ASK YOUR REPRESENTATIVE:

**Co-sponsor H.Res. 28, which supports
retaining door delivery for businesses
and residents.**

KEEP UP ON THE LATEST FIGHTBACK!

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