

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

Summer 2018 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES FRONTAL ATTACK ON POSTAL SERVICE

Within months after establishing a “taskforce” to study the postal service, the White House issued a wide-ranging proposal to “reform and reorganize” the federal government. Within the June 21st proposal—“Delivering Government Solutions in the 21st Century” - was a signal to the “taskforce” that the USPS should be privatized, with a reduced obligation to provide universal service. Among the recommendations were fewer days of delivery, elimination of door and curbside delivery, sale and closure of post offices and processing plants, plus reduction in labor costs. “A privatized Postal Service would have a substantially lower cost structure... The private operation would be incentivized to innovate and improve services to Americans in every community,” says the White House proposal.

Postmaster General Megan Brennan’s response was surprisingly non-committal. “Ultimately, it will be for Congress to decide whether the best path to financial sustainability is to preserve the Postal Service status as a government institution focused on our mission of public service, while giving us more authority to meet our responsibilities, or whether a profit-maximizing corporate model is preferable,” Brennan said.

The four postal unions immediately denounced the administration’s proposal. Mark Dimondstein, president of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) declared “Privatizing the Postal Service is not in the public interest and would be nothing more than a raid by corporate pirates on a national treasure. “

“The inevitable result of such privatization would be to destroy universal postal services for every American,” argued Paul Hogrogrian, president of the National Postal Mailhandlers Union (NPMHU).

President Fred Rolando of the National Association of Letter Carriers affirmed that “...NALC will work tirelessly with other stakeholders and Congress to oppose this faulty privatization plan every step of the way ...”

Art Sackler, who heads the Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service, a group of large-scale mailers such as Amazon, eBay and the Parcel Shippers Association, said “...privatization is not the answer.” He added that rural communities would be particularly harmed: “No private company is going to want to undertake the level of commitment financially and other ways to really service those areas in the way the Postal Service serves them now as a vital link to the rest of the country.”

According to *GovernmentExecutive.com*, “Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have spoken to the importance of preserving a federal mailing system to ensure delivery to all Americans, even to areas that the private sector has decided is not profitable to service. Members of Congress representing rural areas have particularly pushed not just the preservation of the Postal Service but an expansion of its offerings.

Lawmakers have not shown an appetite for reducing postal ser-



CINCINNATI (wcpc.com)-- “Postal workers picketed outside of the Dalton Avenue post office Monday [June 25th] to protest job cutbacks the day before the national postal workers union starts contract negotiations in Washington. Members of American Postal Workers Union Local 164 said about 50 clerk jobs within the Interstate 275 loop haven’t been filled since 2015. They said that’s leading to longer waits in post offices. Mike Smith, the Local 164 president, said the personnel shortages are hitting low-income and rural areas especially hard. “It’s a death cycle,” he said. “When you’re in the service business and you cut service, you’re apt to get less business and then you’ll want to cut it again...””

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“This outrageous White House plan should be a wake-up call to every postal worker.... The threats of postal privatization, the threats to decent union jobs, the threats to good services, are real. [We] stand with the people of the country and our many allies in the ongoing fight to ensure a vibrant public Postal Service for generations to come. More information and calls for action will be forthcoming.”

(Pres. Mark Dimondstein, APWU)

vices, let alone privatizing the agency, intervening on a bipartisan basis in recent efforts by the agency to reduce the number of post offices, cut the number of delivery days and consolidate processing plants.

Seen in the context of a flurry of anti-worker executive orders, legislation and Supreme Court decisions – including moves to privatize the Veterans Administration Healthcare and public schools, the anti-union *Janus vs AFSCME* and prohibitions against class action lawsuits – some local postal unions are joining with other public-sector workers and the public to unite the fight for public services.

In Portland, Oregon, the APWU and Communities and Postal Workers United, along with the Jobs with Justice chapter are organizing a “Rally for Public Services” on Postal Heritage Day (July 26). The theme is “Stop Cuts, Closures and Privatization; Defend the Postal Service, Schools, and Hospitals from Trump’s Attacks.”

ASK YOUR REPRESENTATIVE:

Support Postal Reform Act of 2018, HR 6076, ONLY if it removes the section phasing out door delivery and allows exemptions to Medicare integration

APWU OPENS BARGAINING WITH DEMAND TO END 3-TIERS

(excerpted from WEB NEWS ARTICLE #64-2018)

06/30/2018 - The American Postal Workers Union began negotiations for a new union contract with the U.S. Postal Service with an opening session on June 26th. In a display of postal union unity, NALC Executive Vice-President Brian Renfroe and NPMHU president Paul Hogrogian sat shoulder to shoulder with the APWU leadership. A host of notable labor and community allies, including AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and NAACP national leader Hilary Shelton, were present in support, underscoring the national importance of this round of bargaining. The APWU delegation of 80 national officers, the Rank and File Bargaining Committee, friends and supporters and local representatives marched to the meeting room chanting "Fired Up and Ready to Go!" while in a national day of APWU solidarity and unity thousands of members wore their stickers: "Fighting Today for a Better Tomorrow."...

APWU President and lead negotiator Mark Dimondstein presented the union's opening remarks pointing out that "Since the advent of true collective bargaining gained as a result of the postal strike of 1970 - postal workers' lives are vastly improved. And representatives of our union sit across the bargaining table from management as equals - not because we have important titles, but because we have a union sustained and supported by our members."

With the recent White House proposal to privatize the Postal Service, Dimondstein didn't mince words. "As we enter these negotiations, powerful forces on Wall Street and the likes of UPS continue to push for the breaking up of the postal service and selling pieces off to the highest bidders," he said, adding that "management should not be afraid of bold and creative thinking and approach these negotiations as an opportunity to discuss various ways to protect and expand the public postal service."

Dimondstein discussed the union's general goals for bargaining: fair compensation, safe workplaces free of harassment, job security and opportunity to enjoy secure and dignified retirements...

"Key to the success of the postal service, past, present and future, has been the workers - from those who sell postage and accept packages, to those who sort medicine and catalogues, to those who transport the mail and repair the vehicles, to those who maintain the equipment and facilities, to those who deliver the mail. These negotiations are an opportunity for management to honor and reward this commitment and hard work."...

Both AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka and NAACP leader Hilary Shelton made brief comments as part of the opening ceremony, underscoring the fact that the APWU is not alone in this battle. Shelton underscored that the largest civil rights organization in the country and a proud participant in "A Grand Alliance to Save Our Postal Service" stands solidly with the workers in their quest for workplace justice. Trumka promised that the APWU would have the full support of the 13 million members of the AFL-CIO.



(A Grand Alliance to Save the Public Postal Service)

COALITION BUILDING TO SAVE THE POSTAL SERVICE

(excerpted from apwu.org/resource-types/apwu-pamphlets-publications)

Short-term — Starting the Process

- Decide what kind of coalition you want to build to bring in the most activists
- Research if a coalition is already organized that you can become a part of instead of re-inventing the wheel. Find the movers and the shakers.
- Create a timeline for urgent drives
- Convene a meeting, attend a meeting
- Utilize multiple kinds of sub-committee meetings, assign different tasks, working on multiple levels, and working with other leaders.
- Train activists
- Hold regular scheduled meetings
- Assign tasks
- Create a phone tree to legislature and congressional members
- Create a coalition members phone tree, letter-writing campaign
- Mobilization & motivation committee goals
- Media committee
- Research committee, Ordinance drafting, legislative committee

“Our members want an end to the divisive unfair three-tier wage and benefit structure. We want an end to the situation where new hires do not, or barely make, a living wage, and where full-time career work has been undermined.”

(Pres. Dimondstein)

Long-term—Create a Vision for Community

- Build a permanent labor- religious-community coalition for better services to the community, and better workers rights
- Produce a large list of endorsing organizations within the communities you decide to reach out to. Keep updating the list.
- Each member at every event and meeting should bring three to five new people
- Create a fund-raising campaign
- Mentor young and bring seasoned people into the coalition
- When bringing in other organizations, you need to intersect their interests with the coalition's interests
- Send members to each others organizations and events to show support and find that common thread
- Start a team mentoring program to get more union involvement from your own members.
- Utilize the AFL-CIO, and reach out to the Central Labor Councils they may have programs and usually know about people that can help you organize or join an existing coalition

Coalition Activities

- Mass petitions, Declarations from groups, Leafleting, Phone zapping, Legislative visits,
- Group lobbying, Flash Mobs, Sit-ins, Town Hall meetings, Press conferences, Political mailings,
- Door knocking, Phone banking, Picketing, Rallies, Vigils, Street Speaking, Marches, Parades,
- Economic Boycotts, Hunger Strike, Mock funerals, Teach-ins, Radio, Newspaper,
- TV talk shows, TV News, Cable TV Shows, Social Media,
- Community picnics, Social Events, Letter writing campaigns,
- Letters to the Editor, Billboard Advertising, Posters, Art Work, Visits to Community Sites, Visits to Capitol,
- Targeting Officials, Performances, Skits, Chamber of Commerce Meetings, Council Meetings