

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

SUMMER 2021 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com

KEEP 'EM OPEN!

Eighteen (18) mail processing plants are slated for “consolidation” (closure) by this November, according to USPS’ “Delivering for America”, the Ten-Year Plan of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and Postal Board of Governors Chair Ron Bloom. Jobs will be lost. Mail will be delayed. Are any of these plants near you? Can you join the fight to keep ‘em open?



San Francisco APWU protests impending closure of SF Airport International Service Center Post Office (June 28, 2021)

Bend, OR; Cape Girardeau, MO; Erie, PA; Gainesville, FL; Grand Island, NE; Grenada, MS; Hattiesburg, MS; Huntsville, AL; Mid-Hudson, NY; Minot, ND; Norfolk, NE; North Bay, CA; Paducah, KY; Pocatello, ID; Rock Springs, WY; Redmond WA East DDC; Southern CT, CT; Wausau, WI.

These 18 plants are part of the 82 which were slated for “consolidation” in 2015, as part of a second round of consolidations which saw 141 plant closures in 2012-13 and another 30 closed in April of 2015. That first round saw the loss of tens of thousands of postal jobs and the loss of in-town, over-night first class mail delivery. And despite its stated purpose – to save money – the massive consolidations of nearly half the nation’s processing plants caused the postal service to lose money. In fiscal 2015, USPS spent \$130 million on increased transportation costs as a result of the closures the agency did make. It reported a net savings in labor and parts of \$64 million -- meaning the Postal Service actually lost \$66 million that year due to the consolidation plan.

HOW DID WE “KEEP ‘EM OPEN”?

The battle to save the 82 targeted plants took many forms in the years 2013-2016. After the April, 2015 closures, the USPS called a “moratorium” on plant closures. The “moratorium” was imposed after a series of actions which shook the resolve of postal management.

On May 14th, 2015, a national day of action called by the postal unions to stop the delay of mail and keep plants open included activities in over fifty cities. At the urging of postal unions, retiree associations, rural organizations, and small business interests, the entire Oregon congressional delegation demanded a face-to-face meeting with

upper USPS administrators about mail plant closures and mail delay. That meeting took place on May 13th in Washington, DC. May 15th saw a march and rally of hundreds of postal supporters at Oregon’s Eugene/Springfield plant. On May 22nd, the USPS backed off its scheduled closures.

The previous, 2014 moratorium on consolidations was also imposed after a series of national actions and local rallies, marches, occupations and sit-ins. Direct pressure on postal management has been necessary to stall their “shrink to survive” strategy.

In the summer of 2016, the American Postal Workers Union won another “moratorium” as part of their arbitrated collective bargaining agreement, following a heated contract campaign. The postal service has not tried to revisit their plant consolidation scheme for five years. Until now.

SAVE THE PLANTS! JOIN THE FIGHT!

Currently a battle is being waged at the Postal Regulatory Commission, the advisory body which is evaluating the USPS proposed delivery standard changes. These changes would expand delivery times from current one-two day arrival to two-three day arrival and from three day to five day arrival. Close to forty percent of the nation’s mail would be slowed and residents and businesses on the coasts and in the south would be most impacted. A compelling argument being made at the PRC is that coastal and southern patrons are being discriminated against with the new standards.

Another argument, submitted by 21 attorneys general (from states, counties and cities), is that the new delivery standards would impact vote-by-mail and endanger American’s right-to-vote. The AGs have threatened lawsuits if the new standards are implemented. In 2020, multiple lawsuits forced Postmaster General DeJoy to back off changes which were slowing mail leading up to the November election.

The previous battles against plant closures involved postal worker mobilizations on the workroom floor and in the community. They involved retirees and postal customers, such as small business, senior, veteran, unions and rural communities. They involved elected officials and government bodies, from the local to the national levels. They took the form of press conferences, letters to the editor, mailings to customers, resolutions, townhalls, rallies, marches, lawsuits and sit-ins. (see Arizona example on the next page). These are the type of actions we need today. Start reaching out, form a local committee to save your plant.

KEEP UP ON THE LATEST FIGHTBACK!
cpwunited.com agralliance.org
apwu.org nalc.org npmhu.org nrlca.org
bit.ly/SaveOurPostalService

Check out the APWU toolbox...
<https://www.apwu.org/fighting-consolidation>

National Presidents' Conference

NPC

American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

POSTAL WORKERS' PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE CALLS FOR DEJOY REMOVAL

June 14, 2021

To whom it may concern,

The National Presidents' Conference (NPC) is made up of American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO (APWU) Local and State Presidents throughout the Country

Our Conference recently convened, and on Saturday June 5th, 2021, after lengthy discussions, a motion was made by 480-481 (Michigan) Area Local President Roscoe Woods that stated:

For abdication of his oath of office, for pressing forward an agenda and 10 year business plan that will further degrade and delay service and in time destroy the U.S. Postal Service as we know it, the June 2021 APWU National President Conference go on record calling for the immediate removal of PMG DeJoy.

If passed this motion will be reduced to writing and sent to:

President Joseph Biden
USPS Board of Governors Chair, Ronald A Bloom
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, Senator Gary Peters
The Subcommittee on Government Operations Chair, Gerry Connolly

The motion was properly seconded and passed with no dissent. The 138 APWU Local Presidents and appointed delegates assembled at the June 2021 National Presidents Conference in Colorado Springs Colorado hereby submit our request for the immediate removal of USPS Postmaster General Louis DeJoy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles A Pugar, NPC Chair
1414 Brighton Road Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

TO DITCH DEJOY, BIDEN MUST REPLACE RON BLOOM

(excerpt from "Revolving Door Project" by Vishal Shankar, June 16, '21
<https://therevolvingdoorproject.org/to-ditch-dejoy-biden-must-replace-ron-bloom/>)

"Why does a Postmaster General who doesn't even know the price of a postage stamp still have his job?"

This question continues to frustrate members of Congress, watchdog groups, and countless everyday Americans despite its relatively simple answer: the Postal Board of Governors. Over the last year, the board's Republican members (many of whom have close political and business ties with Trump and the Republican Party) have held a majority and protected Postmaster General Louis DeJoy from any attempts to fire him. But with the Senate confirmation of Biden's three nominees to the board last month, DeJoy's GOP allies no longer hold a majority on the board.

So why do experts still believe that DeJoy won't be losing his job anytime soon?

The answer, frustratingly, is the same: the Postal Board of Governors. Despite Democrats gaining a nominal majority on the board in May, the board's two Trump-era Democratic appointees have continued to side with Republicans on everything from DeJoy's 10-year "reform" plan for the agency to the question of whether he should remain in office. The more vocal of these two DeJoy-supporting Democrats, Ron Bloom, is an asset management executive who was elected Chairman of the Postal Board this past February. Currently serving a holdover term on the board, Bloom has praised DeJoy as "the proper man for the job" as recently as April and boasted that his fingerprints are "all over" DeJoy's widely-panned 10-year plan. With Bloom's continued presence on the board, DeJoy will likely be able to follow through on his threat that Democrats should "get used to [him]" as the Postmaster General.

Fortunately, Biden is not without options when it comes to saving the Postal Service from Trump's lackeys. He can and must begin by replacing Ron Bloom...

Arizona: customer survey used to push back on plant consolidation

The 2015 fight to save the Tucson P&DC/Cherrybell mail processing plant provides lessons for postal defenders everywhere. The results of a customer survey were presented by the Arizona Congressional Delegation to the Postmaster General. Shortly after release of the survey results, the USPS announced that consolidation plans would be delayed until 2016 (the plant is still open).

At the initiative of the local APWU president, Connie Sadler-Nelson, the City of Tucson sent a survey to residential and business customers, asking about the impact of the partial consolidation of mail processing on their mail delivery. The Mayor, City Council and local business and community organizations promoted the campaign and received more than 1,700 replies.

The vast majority of respondents — 84% of individuals, 86% of businesses — reported a noticeable delay in their mail delivery since the beginning of 2015. Themes that emerged from the survey responses included:

- **Threats to Public Health:** many seniors and other vulnerable populations have to wait additional days for timely medicines,
- **Failing our Veterans:** many are experiencing delays in VA benefits and medications,
- **Negatively Impacting Local Businesses:** delays in receipts and payments have prevented small businesses from meeting their payrolls or forced them to use more costly delivery services to conduct transactions,
- **Creating Financial Instability for Non-Profits:** direct mail fundraising is harmed by delays in receipts,
- **Major Personal Disruptions:** many residents complained of mail delays beyond five days for the transmission of personal correspondence. The impact results in substantial personal disruptions ranging from late tax payments, bills, school transcripts and personal holiday cards. The extra time has affected all correspondence in the community.