

# Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

WINTER 2022 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - [www.cpwunited.com](http://www.cpwunited.com)

## WORKERS TO POSTAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS: DUMP DEJOY

by Joseph Piette (January 18, 2022, *Workers World*)

The Postal Board of Governors gathered in Washington, D.C., Jan. 12, in a hastily called meeting to announce the election of their new chairperson, Roman Martinez IV. Also gathered there, but outside the United States Postal Service Headquarters on L'Enfant Plaza, were postal workers, "protect the vote" activists and Ben Franklin himself, representing millions of postal customers and workers who want the BOG to fire Postmaster Louis DeJoy.

Debby Szeredy, national Executive Vice-President of the American Postal Workers Union, explained to the crowd she was there to oppose the "surprise meeting" convened to choose a Trump-appointed BOG member as chairperson. She pointed out it was taking place before President Joe Biden's two new appointees, former head of the General Services Administration Dan Tangherlini and Derek Kan, former deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, were approved by the Senate. (Video of the rally: [youtu.be/mXf8s4n4N7g](https://youtu.be/mXf8s4n4N7g))

By law, DeJoy can only be removed by majority vote of the Board of Governors, most of whom were appointed by the Trump Administration. President Biden replaced two BOG members in 2021.

Even though Biden's two additional Governors (one Democrat and one Republican) will not change the balance on the nine-member board, the current board members took no chances and placed their pro-DeJoy member in a leadership position for the next year without their vote.

Retired New York City postal worker Dennis O'Neil, who chaired the rally, said in the USPS "leadership has been catastrophic during the pandemic." Nevertheless, DeJoy, appointed by Trump in May 2020, has been able to withstand heavy criticism for his mishandling of the mail delivery crisis during the pandemic in 2020. Since then, O'Neil said DeJoy has made things even worse with "step one of his 10-year plan — changing the delivery standards."



"Ben Franklin," played by Barry Stevens, calls on the Board of Governors to remove Postmaster DeJoy at a rally outside their Jan. 12 meeting in Washington, D.C.

O'Neil said, "When they brag about their leadership and their on-time deliveries, which is a lie, we need to hold them accountable."

Postal executives claim DeJoy's 10-year plan is already improving performance, that more mail is being "delivered on time against the USPS service standard." But those statements are misleading. DeJoy's current up-to-five-day delivery standards, instituted last Oct. 1, are slower when compared to last year's three-day delivery standard. In effect, O'Neil said, "they've lowered the goal posts." In 1989, 56% of first-class mail was delivered overnight, 85% within two days. After DeJoy's recent changes, only 7% of letters are delivered overnight, 28% within two days. As Amazon, UPS and other delivery

services decreased delivery times through high tech and building more local distribution centers, the leadership of the Postal Service computerized mail processing; but by simultaneously closing down processing plants through consolidation, they've slowed down actual delivery times. ([tinyurl.com/2s48554y](https://tinyurl.com/2s48554y))

Ben Franklin was appointed Postmaster General in 1775. If the Postal Service is to continue delivering mail in the 21st century, it will require many more postal workers joining the fight to keep it. Together with postal service supporters, we can put a halt to privatization and keep the USPS a public service instead of a profit-making corporation that will just make the billionaire class richer.

### CRASH THE POSTAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING !

(IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL)

**TUES. FEB. 8, 8:30AM (EST)**

In-person (show up one hour early to get through security)

475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington DC

Sign-up to testify (3 minutes during public comment at end of the meeting) whether in-person or virtual.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BOG-02-08-2022>.

If you plan on coming in person, let's coordinate our efforts ...

Email [cpwunited1@gmail.com](mailto:cpwunited1@gmail.com)

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# LETTER CARRIERS RESIST AFTER-DARK DELIVERY

In our last newsletter we ran an article about Chicago letter carriers refusing to deliver in the dark. Here is an excerpt from another Labor Notes (October 27, 2021) article...

“...It’s not just Chicago. “There’s more hours than anyone wants, and more days,” said Dave Staiger, a rural carrier in Kalamazoo. “For example, I’m on day eight in a row of at least 11 right now, including Saturdays and Sundays.

“Really Amazon has been dictating the pace. Sundays they call ‘Amazon Sundays’—when we go in, that’s all we’re delivering.”

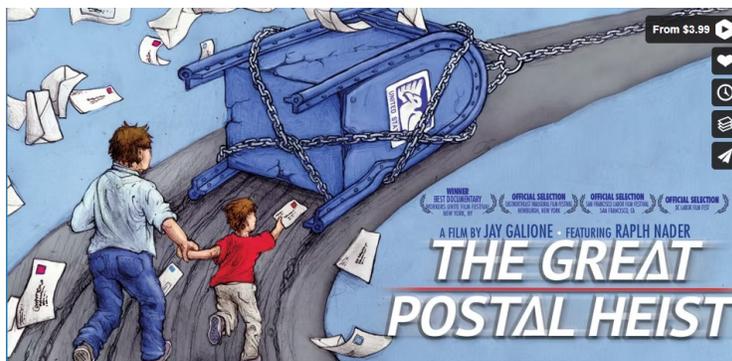
Rural delivery, done from a vehicle, poses its own hazards in the dark. A postal truck pulled over at a roadside mailbox may be struck by a car; a customer who isn’t expecting you in the driveway may mistake you for a prowler. And then there’s the danger of driving fatigued.

On a few occasions, Staiger and his co-workers have pushed back against the long hours with collective action. Once everyone individually filled out the form to register a safety hazard. Recently, buoyed by an agreement between the Rural Carriers and management that delivery after 8 p.m. should be avoided, four out of five carriers declined to take a last round of packages out at that hour. “And we didn’t face any discipline,” Staiger said. “The postmaster did ask to see the statement from the union, and pointed out it doesn’t say ‘never,’ it just says ‘try to avoid.’”

In Seattle, NALC Branch 79 Sergeant-at-Arms Virgilio Goze said the contractual hours limits for city carriers—12 hours a day if you’re on the overtime list, and 60 hours a week—are routinely violated, and grieved by the union. In his post office alone, the penalty paychecks total thousands of dollars every week. “But it’s not much of a deterrent,” he said. Management treats it as “just the cost of doing business.”

There’s even less protection for the bottom tier, City Carrier Assistants (each of the four postal unions has a similar category), who can be made to work seven days a week. “They treat them like dirt,” Goze said. “It’s a Catch-22. We want to hire, but those people we do hire get worked to the ground, and they quit.”

As a shop steward, Goze feels he’s running out of options. Through group action and grievances, he and his co-workers have established protection from discipline when they individually refuse to work past 12 hours due to pain and exhaustion. But the post office is so short-staffed that exercising this right means the mail will sit undelivered overnight. Like many postal workers, Goze takes pride in getting the mail out. “Some of us barely see our families, but we have to provide a service to the American people,” he said...



Check out this excellent new documentary — <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/thegreatpostalheist>

## A NEW TYPE OF POST OFFICE BECOMES A COMMUNITY HUB IN RURAL AREAS

(Canada Post Magazine, November 2, 2021)

Rural, northern and Indigenous communities in Canada are often under-served when it comes to financial and community services. Access to services may require a lengthy drive and sometimes online access isn’t a reliable way to get the things members of the community need. Our newest post office concept brings new services to help fill potential gaps in these communities.

Canada Post is piloting a new post office in High Prairie, Alberta that will showcase and test some new features. Customers will be able to do much more than pick up their mail and packages. They’ll have access to new money services, business supplies, electric vehicle (EV) charging, a community directory and 24-hour secure drop off and pick up of packages.

What to expect in our new High Prairie post office

- \* Money services
- \* ATM – coming soon
- \* Canada Post “MyMoney” Loan
- \* Money transfers
- \* Staples business supplies
- \* Electric vehicle (EV) charging
- \* Access to local business and community information
- \* 24/7 secure access to package drop off, postal and parcel boxes

(this pilot post office is thanks to years of agitation and organizing by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and community allies)

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### STICKERS —



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Seattle APWU Executive Board sporting “Dump DeJoy and His Ten-Year Plan” (front); “Preserve and Protect Our Public Postal Service” (back) t-shirts. Order (minimum 24, specify size) from Sawicki & Sons, (313)962-2725 (photo by Cristina David)