

# Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

SPRING 2024 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - [www.cpwunited.com](http://www.cpwunited.com)

## CONSOLIDATIONS LEAD TO JOB LOSS, MAIL DELAYS IMPACTING THOUSANDS OF COMMUNITIES

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy is currently implementing a 10-year “Delivering for America” austerity plan that will slash jobs and shrink processing centers and post offices.

Mail sortation is being consolidated into massive Regional Processing and Distribution Centers (RPDCs) while smaller processing facilities are being converted to Local Processing Centers (LPCs) with their outgoing, local mail being trucked to the RPDC for sortation, sometimes hundreds of miles away.

“The consolidations will also create excess space in the LPCs that will then often be used to house a Sorting and Delivery Center, (S&DC) which relocates letter carriers away from local post offices,” says Steve Hutkins, a retired NYU English professor who founded and operates the advocacy group and website Save the Post Office. “The carriers will need to drive 10 or 20 miles to their routes, which will increase costs and pollution. And the excess space at the post office, where the carriers used to work, will lead to post office closures and relocations of retail services to smaller spaces.”

Over half the nation’s post offices (in rural areas more than 50 miles from a processing plant and less than 30,000 population) will lose their evening mail collections.

All this “modernization” will further delay local mail delivery from two to three or four days. The American public already suffered a doubling of local delivery times (from one to two days) back in 2012, during another round of “consolidations” (mail processing plant reductions and closures).

As Hutkins says “thousands of postal jobs will be eliminated, and tens of thousands of employees will be faced with relocating to a new job, possibly a couple of hundred miles away, or ending their careers at the Postal Service...”

In the meantime, postal rates go up, volume goes down, jobs are eliminated, service deteriorates.”

## PROTESTS SURGE AGAINST MAIL PROCESSING CONSOLIDATIONS

Dozens of cities, where local Processing and Distribution Centers (P&DCs) are being downsized to become Local Processing Centers (LPCs), losing their outgoing local mail to RPDCs, sometimes over two hundred miles away, have mounted protests, including rallies and picket lines, town halls, press conferences and packing USPS-sponsored public hearings. A list of upcoming hearings can be found on the American Postal Workers Union website.

Union leaders and elected officials (both Democrats and Republicans) call out USPS hypocrisy and secrecy.

After the first several public hearings last year (mandated whenever major postal changes are proposed), local leaders began to catch on that the USPS was just going through the motions, scheduling hearings in the middle of the work day in obscure locations, that they were not considering local residents’ concerns about job loss, service degradation and mail delay, the impact on the local economy, or even answering questions.

USPS spokespersons assert there will be “no lay-off of career employees” and no “change in service”. The “no lay-off” language masks the reality that scores of non-career employees (up to twenty-five percent of the local workforce) will lose work and that many career employees will be “excessed” to different jobs or different crafts within a fifty or hundred mile radius, or transferred hundreds of miles away to follow their work.



Feb. 6, 2024—USPS-sponsored public hearing on consolidation of local mail processing from Milan to Des Moines IA (175 miles)

Here are a few examples, just in the month of February, 2024, of local resistance (APWU=American Postal Workers Union, NALC=National Association of Letter Carriers, PMG=Postmaster General) – [articles can be googled by name of city and “postal”]

**Bangor & Hampden ME** – postal workers plan to picket in five communities prior to hearing; Senator objects to changes

**Buffalo NY** – Common Council & Congress persons object. Local APWU & NALC host info picket ahead of public hearing, which is postponed

**Casper, WY** – Senators and Representatives protest to PMG re: loss of processing plants in whole state

**Champaign IL** – rank-and-file postal picket and fifty persons show up for hearing

**Charleston WV** – Senators express concerns about jobs loss. Local APWU hosts info picket and over 200 show up for public meeting.

**Chevenne WY** – Mail handlers local union takes over public hearing to shoot down USPS hypocrisy

**Columbia MO** – petition started by local APWU <https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-delay-of-your-mail-nationwide>

**Corpus Christy TX** – Local NALC & APWU host info picket and protest; City Council pushes back

**Grand Junction CO** – Local APWU holds protest rally prior to public hearing, disrupts hearing itself, calling out USPS “lies”!

**Gulfport MS** – local APWU objects to consolidation

**Houston TX** – Several Congress persons dispute mail delays due to consolidation

**Kingsford MI** – Senator objects to time, place of hearing and questions consolidation

**Knoxville TN** – local union leaders criticize moving mail processing

**Lehigh Valley PA** – State union president calls out bad postal move

**Manchester NH** – postal workers protest and Congressional press conference

**Medford OR** – postal workers rally, packed hearing, attempt by Oregon representatives at Congressional legislation to return delivery standards, study of impact on service by Institute for Policy Studies

**Mid-Hudson NY** – Ten protest rallies are planned at “spoke” offices impacted by S&DC

**Milan IL** – postal workers and customers pack hearing, wave signs

**Missoula MT** – consolidation on hold after protests, Senators object

**North Platte, NE** – Congress person writes to PMG

**Peoria IL** – Congress persons and postal worker leaders call foul at public hearing

**Portland OR** – City Council passes resolution calling for public hearing on S&DC consolidations

**Reno NV** – community packs public hearing

**Richmond VA** – USPS refuses to attend local townhall called by US Congress persons and state attorney general

**Rochester NY** – Local NALC expresses concern about delays

**Wenatchee WA** – State APWU president sounding alarm in local towns impacted by changes. Local auditors express concern about mail ballots.

**White River Junction VT** – Senator questions USPS assurances

**Yakima WA** – Congress persons and local elections official express concern



*Debby Szeredy, Executive VP of the American Postal Workers Union, at USPS HQ on February 8, 2024*

## 'WE WON'T BE SILENCED!' PROTESTERS DECRY DEJOY AT USPS MEETING

**Defenders of the U.S. Postal Service are warning about an austerity plan by the Trump-appointed postmaster general that "will slash jobs and shrink processing centers and post offices."**

*(Common Dreams, Jessica Corbett, Feb 08, 2024)*

"As the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors on Thursday held a meeting in Washington, D.C., frustrated USPS workers, customers, and union officials rallied outside to protest a new limit on public comment and the agency's austerity plan.

While the quarterly meetings have previously included an hour of in-person and virtual public testimony, the USPS board has shifted to only taking comments once annually, a move that outraged critics of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy—a GOP donor appointed under former President Donald Trump—and his 10-year "Delivering for America" plan..."

## LABOR NOTES 2024 CONFERENCE

**Fri-Sun, April 19-21, Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Chicago**

• **Join thousands of union members, officers, and labor activists** who are on the front lines in our workplaces and our communities, organizing new workers and agitating together. Meet troublemakers from across the country and around the world.

• **More than 200 meetings and workshops** include creative organizing tactics, beating apathy, running for local union office, winning contract campaigns, bargaining over technology, assertive grievance handling, and reviving the strike.

• **Organize with others in your union, industry, or campaign.** Face-to-face meetings to share tactics and swap notes are the heart of the Labor Notes Conference. Join an existing industry, union, or caucus meeting—or contact us to set one up. **Communities and Postal Workers United will host a couple meet-ups.**

Register: <https://labornotes.org/2024>

## POSTAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

**Thurs. May 9, 1pm ET, USPS HQ in DC**

**Rally outside at 11am**

**Raise Wages, End High Turnover, Restore Service !**

**Save Local Post Offices ! Stop Mail Carrier Displacement!**

**KEEP UP ON THE LATEST FIGHTBACK!**

**[cpwunited.com](http://cpwunited.com) [agralliance.org](http://agralliance.org)  
[apwu.org](http://apwu.org) [nalc.org](http://nalc.org) [npmhu.org](http://npmhu.org) [nrca.org](http://nrca.org)  
[savethepostoffice.com](http://savethepostoffice.com) [bit.ly/SaveOurPostalService](http://bit.ly/SaveOurPostalService)**

## SMALL RURAL TOWNS WILL GET THEIR MAIL DELAYED

*(This email (excerpted) was sent to members of the Rural Organizing Project (Oregon) on February 20, 2024)*

"Post offices are a vital part of vibrant rural communities. Unfortunately, a big change is coming to 180 Oregon rural post offices and the USPS doesn't plan to tell anyone about it. Like we did a decade ago, rural Oregon can have a big impact on post office policy if we make our voices heard! Read the details of the service cuts below and call your congresspeople to tell them what you think of this new plan.

Delays in the mail can have a big impact on everyday Oregonians, especially for rural folks living far from pharmacies, courthouses, or other crucial services. A delay in service of even one day could mean your vote not getting counted, essential medications arriving after you have already run out, late fees on utility bills, or mail-order chicks showing up harmed or worse.

Post offices farthest away from Portland, Eugene, and Medford processing plants (over 50 miles) and with a population of less than 6,000 will only get one mail truck per day in the morning.

Currently, two trucks come per day, one to deliver the town's mail in the morning and one in the evening, typically after 5 pm, to pick up outgoing mail. This has meant that if you get your outgoing mail to the post office before 5 pm it would go out with the evening truck. With this change though, called "Local Transportation Optimization", any mail dropped off at the local post office after the morning truck, whether by a resident or by a mail carrier, will sit overnight until the next day. **In other words, small rural towns will get their mail delayed a day.**

This change is happening nationally and as early as this month it will hit some Oregon towns while the rest will feel the impact in the next couple of months.

Many of these post offices have faced the threat of closure or service cuts before. From 2011 to 2013, the US Postal Service (USPS) proposed closing thousands of post offices across the country. Dozens of rural communities took action and succeeded in keeping their post offices open!

When we take action we can win! So give your US senators a call, write to your US representatives, and let them know how you feel. Here are a few suggested talking points. But most importantly, make your message personal!

Potential points to include:

- Our community is primarily elderly with an incredible reliance on receiving their prescriptions by mail. Many do not drive. Delaying the mail would be detrimental to their health.
- Some of the community doesn't have access to internet service. We rely on the mail to communicate, to order and receive goods, and to pay our bills.
- Some of our community is living under the poverty line. Driving to the nearest post office isn't feasible, but with this new policy, our mail will be delayed a whole day, when mail time has already been significantly slowed down by consolidation and processing plant closures.
- Many businesses in our town rely on the post office to mail out packages. Many folks own a small business and need a reliable and prompt way to send packages and mail
- Farmers rely on the post office for mail-order chicks and other essential supplies. Delays will impact the ability of both the chicks and the farmers to survive.

In conclusion, please pressure the USPS to stop implementing the Local Transportation Optimization Plan and prioritize equitable service to all communities."