

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

SPRING 2023 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com

POSTAL WORKERS PROTEST STAFF SHORTAGES, OVERWORK, MAIL DELAYS LETTER CARRIERS DEMAND A FAIR CONTRACT WITH A RAISE TO ATTRACT & RETAIN

Portland, Oregon —

(KOIN TV, 2/20/23) — Mail carriers and postal workers protested in Portland Monday, saying staffing shortages are hurting the post office's performance...

Workers say they want the post office to be a place where people want to work again. The post office has announced delays for first-class mail, but workers demonstrating Monday say neighborhood delays are the result of overstretched workers.

Representatives for the Portland [National Association of Letter Carriers] say their members have worked 12-hour days, seven days a week because when the postal service began taking packages from Amazon, they agreed to deliver on Sundays. Workers say that the move is hurting recruitment and retention, leading to staffing shortages that are amplifying the postal service's efficiency.

"We lose a lot of people that love the post office and want to work there and they end up going to different jobs because we don't have the wages or the benefits," USPS letter carrier Rogue Robertson.

They take aim at Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's 10-year plan. DeJoy says it's to minimize losses and restructure the post office to be more efficient— last year the post office saved \$500 million in losses.

But all workers say they see are more work, fewer benefits and worse results.

"Under Postmaster General DeJoy, we have seen that (get) worse. We have not only seen the service standards erode, but the attitude toward the mail has changed. It's not uncommon for first class mail, even in Portland, take days to get from one Portland address to another," said Danuel Cortez with the Portland Chapter of the American Postal Workers Union. "We are seeing mandated overtime across the board."

Minneapolis, Minnesota —



(WCCO TV, 4/2/23) We have been reporting on mail delivery problems in some spots in Minnesota for months, but letter carriers are highlighting the poor working conditions they say are behind the problem.

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) picketed outside the post office in downtown Minneapolis Sunday.

The NALC has been in contract negotiations with the United States Postal Service since the end of February, but they want to highlight why the issues they face are also impacting the mail delivery you see at home.

"Letter carriers are working 10, 12, even 14 hours a day, six and even seven days a week in some cases, and it's just not sustainable," said Tyler Vasseur, shop steward for NALC's Branch 9. "It causes people to quit, it makes the staffing crisis worse. And so we're here to rally, and we want to fight for a strong contract that addresses these issues."

The workers are calling for an end to mandatory overtime and better starting contracts to entice new workers.



Postal workers, community and other union allies rally outside the East Portland post office in Portland, Oregon, protesting "Understaffing, Overwork and Delay of Mail", calling for "Raised Wages and Benefits to Attract and Retain Postal Workers" (2/20/23)

**Postal Board of Governors Meeting
Tues. May 9, 4pm ET
Protest Rally 3pm at USPS HQ in DC
Raise Wages, End High Turnover, Restore Service!
Save Neighborhood Post Offices!
Stop Mail Carrier Displacement!**

Join the PBOG meeting for public comment
Sign-up to testify (3 minutes) whether in person or virtual
<https://about.usps.com/who/leadership/board-governors/briefings/>
If you plan on coming in person, let's coordinate our efforts...
email cpwunited1@gmail.com

**Hear Postmaster General Louis DeJoy
National Postal Forum
Wed. May 24 (morning), Charlotte, NC
(show up and show out!)**

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

COLORADO MOUNTAIN TOWNS TO SUE THE POSTAL SERVICE OVER MAIL DELAY, UNDERSTAFFING

(9News, 3/4/23) — For the last few months, several mountain communities in Colorado have reported issues receiving their mail... Crested Butte is taking the lead in considering legal action against the U.S. Postal Service (USPS)...

"We shouldn't have to wait 2 to 6 weeks to get mail. We shouldn't have to wait in line for an hour to receive a parcel. We shouldn't have to pay for postal boxes when there's no home delivery option," says Crested Butte's town manager, Dara MacDonald.

"I think we all agree that for our local employees at our post office who do show up every day and struggle against this overwhelming volume of mail and short staffing, we're very grateful for them," MacDonald said. "And we in the mountain communities understand that housing is a huge challenge and that we have been encouraging the post office to embrace providing housing..."



(4/3/23) *The National Presidents Conference of the American Postal Workers Union staged a "Dump DeJoy" rally outside the national USPS headquarters in Washington, DC.*

Protesters highlighted their opposition to DeJoy's massive consolidation of postal facilities into large Sorting and Delivery Centers, which displace letter carriers from their local post offices, excess clerks and disrupt retail service.

CHICAGO GROUP CREATES SAFE PASSAGE ROUTE FOR CITY POSTAL CARRIERS

(FOX 32 News, 1/26/23) A Chicago group is creating a Safe Passage route for Illinois postal carriers who they say have been victims of violent crimes.

On Thursday, Southside residents and community leaders gathered at 72nd and Calumet to announce the creation of a "Safe Passage, Safe Package" program.

The initiative would be like the Safe Passage program used by Chicago Public Schools. But instead of paid staff, neighbors would look out for postal carriers.

"Not only are we concerned about each other, we also concerned about our package carriers. We want them to know that when they come here, we are watching," said Mrs. Peter, pastor of St. James Community Church and Safe Passage, Safe Package organizer.

**WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR
SENATORS AND CONGRESSPERSON**
<https://tinyurl.com/CombatRobberies>



TAX SEASON IS UPON US. BUT WHO PAYS TAXES? AND HOW ARE THEY SPENT?

by Mark Dimondstein, president, American Postal Workers Union
Working people, including postal workers, routinely pay taxes. We don't have massive write-offs, offshore tax havens, untaxed stock incomes, tax avoidance trust funds, or high-priced lawyers.

But the billionaire U.S. oligarchs and corporate America do – all used to evade paying their fair share of taxes.

According to Americans for Tax Fairness, 26 top billionaires didn't come close to the 20-30 percent tax rates postal workers pay. Between 2013 and 2018, Jeff Bezos (Amazon), Warren Buffett (Berkshire Hathaway), Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook), Michael Bloomberg (Bloomberg LP), Elon Musk (Tesla) paid less than a 2 percent tax rate on their obscene wealth. The people who can afford the most pay the least!

The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy reported that 55 corporations paid no federal taxes on 2020 profits. Many profitable companies actually received federal tax rebates... Outrageous!

Moreover, we often don't pay attention to how our taxes are spent by Congress.

The recently passed bipartisan \$1.65 trillion Omnibus Budget Bill represents annual discretionary government spending. Over half, or \$858 billion, is for "defense" spending: more than the next 11 highest defense spending countries combined. The military budget was an \$80 billion increase from 2022, and \$45 billion more than the Pentagon requested. Over half of the military budget goes to private military contractors, like Lockheed Martin and Boeing. Meanwhile, the Department of Defense estimates that 24 percent of active-duty personnel & families face chronic food insecurity!...

The \$80 billion increase from 2022 alone could pay for the hiring of 873,000 elementary school teachers, 9.5 million

public housing units, or VA healthcare for over five million veterans...

It is in the interests of postal workers and all working people at home and abroad to stop the madness of the bloated military budget and domination by the military-industrial complex. As called for by APWU and AFL-CIO convention resolutions, let's bring the war dollars home, insist that our tax dollars are used to improve our day-to-

day lives and collective societal needs, such as health care, education, public transportation, affordable housing, child-care, food, clean water, addressing the climate crisis, and safe, good paying union jobs, including for veterans. Let tax season remind us that the billionaire class must be forced to pay their share!

**Rural Carriers Protest
Unfair Pay Cuts !
Postal Service—Show Us the Data !
Sun. Apr. 16, Noon**

Meet at Smithsonian Institute, 600 Maryland Ave SW
Washington DC
March to the Capitol
Info: wm9792.wm@gmail.com

PMG Louis DeJoy is rolling out a massive consolidation of postal facilities into large Sorting and Delivery Centers, which will displace letter carriers from their local post offices, excess clerks and disrupt retail service.

Currently none of the national postal unions, not the Postal Regulatory Commission nor any Congressional committees are calling for national hearings on this Sorting & Delivery Center transformation. So, it's up to us to build pressure to slow, pause or stop this bad plan.

Do you live or work in one of the first 200 towns scheduled to be hit by this massive disruption in the next six months?

Find the list here – savethepostoffice.com

Here's a guide to organizing a townhall from APWU

<https://tinyurl.com/PostalTownMeeting>

Let us know what you're doing — email us at cpwunit-ed1@gmail.com

Sign the petition at <https://tinyurl.com/StopSDCs>

