

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

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

TELL THE USPS INSPECTOR GENERAL AND THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION TO STEP IN TO ALLOW PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON LOUIS DEJOY'S "DRAMATIC CHANGES" NOW!

During his keynote address at the 2023 National Postal Forum, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy bragged about his effort to implement "dramatic changes" and increase the pace of his already devastating 10-year privatization plan.

While DeJoy is keeping most of the specific details a secret, we do know a little about his proposed "dramatic changes". He's already announced the consolidation of hundreds of postal processing centers across the country, which makes the facilities involved in the Sorting & Delivery Center consolidation significantly more vulnerable to a future shut down.

That's not speculation either. The consolidation plan already includes the elimination of 200 "small and wasteful" annexes and "costs cutting" across the USPS delivery network responsible for reaching 165 million households six days a week.

These cuts across the USPS delivery network could have especially devastating consequences for remote areas, rural, and Indigenous communities who rely on USPS to receive medications, social security checks and vote-by-mail.

These communities won't be served by for-profit delivery services either. Because private companies like FedEx and UPS don't find remote and rural areas to be profitable enough. In fact, they often rely on USPS for "last-mile-delivery" rather than deliver to remote areas themselves. USPS is required to deliver to all of us, because it's not about turning a profit, it's about serving people.

That's just what we know already. DeJoy wants to keep the details hidden and the public out of the review process until it's too late to stop him and the USPS is irrevocably damaged. DeJoy seems to think he can act alone, and when questioned by House Oversight Committee member, Rep. Summer Lee about why he's not being transparent, he says postal regulators are overstepping.

We will not back down from this fight. As long as Louis DeJoy is Postmaster and his 10-year stealth privatization plan is continuing to be implemented without time for the communities and postal workers who are affected to evaluate and provide public input, we'll use every tool, agency, and resource we have to fight back and stop him. Join us by adding your name now.

SIGN and SHARE —

<https://tinyurl.com/TelloIG>



Postal Board of Governors Meeting

Tues. August 8, 4pm ET, USPS HQ in DC
Raise Wages, End High Turnover, Restore Service!
Save Local 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



Communities and Postal Workers United, with APWU local 128, rally May 9

POSTAL UNIONS TO BIDEN: STOP STALLING AND FILL POSTAL BOARD VACANCIES

by Mallory Gruben, *NW Labor Press*

Almost 60 union supporters gathered outside the East Portland Post Office May 9 for a rally to preserve and protect the U.S. Postal Service. The event coincided with national protests in Washington D.C. outside of the USPS Board of Governors quarterly meeting.

Local postal workers and community members have repeatedly rallied to protest Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's 10-year "Delivering for America" plan. DeJoy is slowing mail, raising prices, cutting and closing postal facilities, and paving the way for privatization of the U.S. Postal Service, said Daniel Cortez, Oregon legislative and political director for American Postal Workers Union. Postal unions want DeJoy ousted from the USPS's top leadership role. The May 9 rally added a new call to action: President Joe Biden must stop stalling and nominate new members of the USPS board.

The board consists of up to nine president-appointed governors who serve seven-year terms. Those governors manage USPS operations much like a corporation's board of directors. They control the budget, set policies, and select a postmaster general, who serves at the pleasure of the governors for an indefinite term.

The current board includes governors sympathetic to DeJoy. It is not likely to remove him unless leadership changes. Biden had the chance to nominate replacements for two governors whose terms ended in December. He failed to do that, so the board's makeup is the same, with those governors serving in a "holdover year."

Cortez and other local union members stood with Save the Post Office, a coalition of more than 300 advocacy groups, to recommend retired Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence for one of the holdover spots. She's a former postal worker of more than 30 years and long-time defender of the public postal system.

For about an hour, attendees at the Portland rally flanked the road, waving signs with messages like "Save our postal service," "Good jobs, not cuts," and "DeJoy must go." Several drivers honked in support as they passed by and some postal customers paused outside the post office to listen to speeches before going in to pick up or drop off mail. Almost a dozen leaders of unions representing postal workers, nurses, educators, laborers, and teamsters spoke at the rally, including AFL-CIO President Graham Trainor and Northwest Oregon Labor Council Executive Secretary Treasurer Laurie Wimmer.

KEEP UP ON THE LATEST FIGHTBACK!
cpwunited.com agrandalliance.org
apwu.org nalc.org npmhu.org nrlca.org

POSTAL WORKERS, SUPPORTERS RALLY IN SEATTLE AMID CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

May 29, 2023 by *Claire Withycombe*, *Seattle Times* staff reporter

U.S. Postal Service workers and supporters rallied at Westlake Park in downtown Seattle on Monday to show solidarity as the national letter carriers' union negotiates a new contract for the workers who deliver the mail.

Workers in the Seattle area have faced long hours due to required overtime, and are urging an end to non-career track positions, which come with lower pay and fewer benefits than career-track positions, said Kevin Gottlieb, president of Branch 79 of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Staffing shortages have hit the Postal Service hard, both nationally and in the Seattle area, resulting in delayed deliveries and frustrated residents. Union representatives have said the service is caught in a vicious cycle: Without enough staff, those who remain are forced to work long hours to deliver the rest of the mail. The grueling overtime then drives more carriers, who make \$19 to \$23 to start, to leave.

At Monday's event, which drew dozens of people into the Memorial Day sunshine, letter carriers gave speeches, as did representatives of other local unions. Supporters carried blue and red signs with slogans including "Fair Contract Now" and "End Mandatory Overtime Now."

In a speech, Debbie Dixon, regional administrative assistant for the National Association of Letter Carriers Region Two, described high turnover rates. An April report from the USPS inspector general's office found that its annual turnover rate for non-career track positions increased from 38.5% to 58.9% between fiscal years 2019 and 2022.

"It's atrocious," Dixon said, echoing a member of the crowd. "Why is it? It's management." In the six states she works in, she has seen workers working 90 to 100 hours a week, she said.

She said management need to be trained on the union's contract.

"The United States Postal Service must hold those in management personally and professionally accountable for their violations of our contract," Dixon said. "Ignorance of our contractual rights cannot be acceptable."

In some cases, when the union files complaints about contract violations, the postal service is simply paying to settle the grievances, union representatives have previously told *The Seattle Times*.

Gottlieb said workers want the Postal Service to fully staff every office and do a better job holding on to employees.

Gottlieb, on leave from his route in Federal Way to serve as president, has been a letter carrier for 35 years.

"We want them to, of course, hire, but we also want them to retain the employees they get," Gottlieb said. "That's one of the biggest problems, is they fail in retaining the employees they do hire."

It's not clear how long it could take to negotiate a new contract, Gottlieb said. The previous contract was set to expire May 20, but will remain in force until a new agreement takes effect. Negotiations began in February.

Garrett Scott started working for the Postal Service in 2004, seeking job security and to get involved in union activism. He had to take a test at a bingo hall to get accepted.

"And I waited a year and a half until they called me," Scott said, "That's how desirable working for the post office was back then. And things have really taken a dramatic downturn."

C Moline, a letter carrier and steward at University Station who started working for the Postal Service in 2020, at one point was working 60 or more hours a week, which took a toll on her mental health.

She is now on a medical restriction but still faces required overtime, working up to 11 hours a day, five days a week.

"I'm glad we're fighting together, because the terrible working conditions in the Postal Service are not a fight we can win alone," Moline told the crowd Monday.



NALC Branch 82, Portland, Oregon

SOLIDARITY WITH STRIKE-READY UPS TEAMSTERS

Over 340,000 Teamsters at UPS are gearing up to fight for better pay and treatment on the job when their contract expires on August 1, 2023. If the company doesn't respond to their demands, they are preparing to take part in the largest single-employer strike in American history, impacting 6% of the economy.

The Postal Reorganization Act (Title 39, US Code 101) mandates that "As an employer, the Postal Service shall achieve and maintain compensation for its officers and employees comparable to the rates and types of compensation paid in the private sector of the economy of the United States."

The wages, benefits and working conditions of UPS warehouse and delivery workers set a standard in the warehouse and delivery industry.

The demands of UPS Teamsters – to abolish their two-tier workforce, mandatory overtime and excess surveillance – are demands of postal workers as well, and what they win will positively influence what postal workers can win.

Protest Rural Carriers' Unfair Pay Cuts !

<https://tinyurl.com/RURALpay>



Investigate New Rural Carrier Postal Pay System!

We call upon the Postal Board of Governors and Congress to immediately begin oversight and investigation of RRECS, the U.S. Postal Service's newly implemented Rural Route Evaluation Compensation System.

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 cpwunited1@gmail.com

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



**Creating a National NALC
Rank-and-File Network
Register for next meeting
Sun. Aug 13, 10am PT, 1pm ET
<https://tinyurl.com/NationalRnF>**

