

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

July-August, 2014 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com

Postmaster General Declares War on Service APWU to Launch Vigorous Campaign Against Plant Closures, Consolidations

(excerpts from APWU Web News Article #127-14)

June 30, 2014 - The APWU today denounced plans by the Postal Service to resume the closure and consolidation of up to 82 mail processing plants beginning in January 2015.

"This is a direct assault on service to the people of the country, on postal workers and on the Postal Service's own network," said union President Mark Dimondstein. The closure of the plants will require the USPS to degrade service standards and delay mail.

"We need a Postmaster General who will champion the Postal Service. Instead, PMG Donahoe is on a rampage to destroy it," he said...

Muster a Fight-Back

The APWU president vowed to work with other postal unions and the public "to muster a fight-back similar to our campaign to *Stop Staples* and the recent campaign to protect six-day mail delivery." The House Appropriations Committee voted on June 25 to reinstate a provision requiring six-day mail delivery in a funding bill...

The 82 facilities were among 242 sites targeted for closure in September 2011 and February 2012, and most of them went through partial consolidation in 2012 and 2013.

"These plants are suffering from last year's hit," said Executive Vice President Debby Szeredy. "Now the delays in mail delivery will become even longer, damaging service to individuals, small businesses, and mailers.

"Package deliveries, bills and bill payments, election materials, absentee ballots, wedding invitations and letters to family and friends will be adversely affected by this move," she said.

Service standards were reduced July 1, 2012, and approximately 140 plants were consolidated in 2012 and 2013. In January 2014, the USPS posted a notice in the *Federal Register* notifying the public that it was postponing plans to further reduce service standards. Plants consolidations were also placed on hold.



June 20, inside a Staples Store in Portland, Oregon (photo: Bette Lee)

Don't Buy Staples! BRIEFS

- Occupy San Francisco/ First They Came for the Homeless camped for nine days in front of an SF Staples mini-post office, then for weeks in front of a Berkeley Staples store, turning away many customers and spreading word of the boycott. Their supporters included the Berkeley Post Office Defenders.
- Baltimore activists staged a protest outside a Staples store where they cut up and burned Staples Rewards cards
- San Francisco's Pride Parade had a Stop Staples contingent, decked out in rainbow colors, chanting "The US Mail is not for Sale"
- A couple dozen Portland protesters entered a Staples store to deliver a petition with 500 signatures to the person in charge.
- Regular and daily protests are being organized against Staples postal counters in San Francisco, Atlanta, and Pittsburgh, the main "pilot" sites.
- The national AFL-CIO and SEIU have endorsed the boycott.

Ignoring the Possibilities

The Postal Service claims the plant closures will generate \$750 million in annual savings. "Yet he is ignoring a report by the USPS Office of Inspector General that says the Postal Service could generate \$9 billion by offering basic financial services without any cuts to traditional postal service," Szeredy said.

"The Postmaster General also neglects to mention that the USPS earned a profit from operations in fiscal year 2013 and in the first two quarters of 2014," she added.

Donahoe claims that there have been steep declines in first-class mail, Szeredy pointed out, "yet he fails to tell the public that the USPS has already given away 60 percent of first-class mail processing to Pitney Bowes and other pre-mail sort houses."

"The APWU headquarters will release a major battle plan to stop the consolidations and the attack on service because the future of the USPS depends on it," the union vice president said.

"We will make this fight a nationwide campaign and ask all Americans to stand up and fight back."

"Get ready for the crusade. We cannot sit back and let the PMG destroy our Postal Service," she said.

Mtg: Fighting Plant Closures/Consolidations

Thursday, July 24th, 8:30-9:30 am, APWU Convention

Get involved!

Find the local CPWU coalition in your area -

www.cpwunited.com/local-coalitions

How to fight a closure or organize a rally,

www.cpwunited.com/how-to-fight

www.apwu.org/news/deptdiv-news-article/consolidation-fighting-back

Contact us: cpwunited1@gmail.com

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Communities and Postal Workers United is a national, grassroots network of local coalitions and activists committed to direct action to save the U.S. Postal Service from service cuts, plant and office closures, union-busting, and privatization. We fight to preserve living wage jobs, expanded postal services, and save the postal service as a public entity operating in the best interest of the public. We call on communities, small businesses, and postal workers across the nation to join together now to save America's postal service.



Tell Congress: Continue door-to-door and six-day mail delivery. Oppose cuts, closures, and attacks on workers rights. Repeal the pre-fund mandate. Refund the pension surplus. Oppose HR 2748 (Issa). Co-sponsor S316 (Sanders) and HR 630 (DeFazio) – the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013.

Resolution: Build a Coalition and Campaign Against Privatization

(for APWU & NALC national conventions)

Whereas, since the time that President Reagan began the attacks on government services, they have faced numerous attempts at privatization, and

Whereas, privatization turns public services over to the control of for-profit entities, which drain taxpayer dollars and reduce the quality of services, in the interest of private profits, and

Whereas, privatization reduces the transparency and accountability of the services in question, and reduces the degree of democratic control that citizens have over them, and

Whereas privatization is frequently inefficient, usually more expensive, and often conducive to corruption, and

Whereas, schools and teachers unions across the country are facing the threat of privatization of education through charter schools, which are no more effective at education, but which increase inequities, weaken teachers' unions, and reduce community control, and

Whereas, privatized prisons are a highly profitable business, but create inhumane and unsafe conditions for prisoners and employees alike, and

Whereas, the U.S. Postal Service has become more brazen in its efforts to privatize postal work, notably its attempt to set up Staples postal units and to outsource Motor Vehicle Service work, and

Whereas, the attacks on government services in the media have prejudiced a large body of public opinion, therefore be it

Resolved, that (NALC/APWU) shall work together with other unions that represent government-employed workers to fight privatization in specific cases, and further be it

Resolved, that (NALC/APWU) shall work in concert with unions and other allies to develop a broad-based educational campaign on the evils of privatization, and the value of preserving effective, transparent and responsive public services with public accountability and oversight.

Letter Carriers Foil Stealth Attempt to Ditch Door to Door Delivery

(excerpted from Labor Notes article by Jamie Partridge)

...Oregon's Letter Carriers union (NALC) is encouraging its local branches to inform business and residential customers about the dangers of ditching door delivery.

One example was Royal Villa, a 55-and-over retirement community with about 250 door-to-door deliveries. "Postal management solicited the property managing firm and offered to install cluster boxes free of charge and maintain them at no cost," said NALC Branch 82 President Jim Falvey.

A local mail carrier found out through a manager's slip of the tongue and alerted the union president. Falvey was incensed that residents of Royal Villa, many of whom are elderly or frail, would be forced to walk some distance in the wind, rain, snow, and ice to retrieve their mail. Of course, he was also angered that letter carrier work would be reduced and jobs eliminated.

Postal managers do not have to ask or even inform residents that such a "conversion" is going to occur, if they get the cooperation of the manager or owner of the property.

Falvey contacted Royal Villa's property manager and convinced her to refuse the Postal Service's offer...

Both locally and nationally, the union is mobilizing to fight cluster box conversions. Fortunately, postal regulations require that property owners, "owners' associations," or "managers" approve the conversion in writing. Unfortunately, the Postal Service can insist that any new housing, where delivery has not been established, can be forced to receive its mail at a cluster box.

Already, two-thirds of deliveries are either to cluster boxes or to curbside single boxes. One-third are still at-the-door—and if those all went to cluster boxes, it would eliminate 80,000 mail carrier jobs.

Celebrate Postal Heritage Day! July 26th

The Birthday of the US Post Office
(1775)

Find out about activities in your area
www.postalheritageday.com

Keep up on the latest fightback!

www.cpwunited.com

www.savethepostoffice.com

www.apwu.org

www.nalc.org

www.npmhu.org

www.nrlca.org

Visit the CPWU table at the NALC convention, July 21 –25 in Philadelphia. Also look for our **Forum on Fighting Privatization**, Wed. July 23, after the convention session.

