

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

April, 2013 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com

Call for Bold Actions to Save the Postal Service *

To the national leadership of the National Association of Letter Carriers, American Postal Workers Union, National Rural Letter Carriers Association, and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union:

Whereas: The Postmaster General has launched a massive assault on the postal service – closing and reducing hours in hundreds of mail processing and thousands of retail facilities, attempting to out-source trucking and degrading delivery standards, threatening six-day, curbside and door-to-door delivery; and

Whereas: The Postmaster General might reject congressional mandates to continue six day mail delivery and Congress might not act to effectively prevent and reverse postal closures and cuts; and

Whereas: The national postal unions have declared an all-out fight to stop this dismantling of the USPS; therefore be it

Resolved: That we call on national postal union leaders to continue the struggle by organizing a series of bold actions, in the great tradition of the labor and civil rights movement, to pressure the USPS, Congress & the President to prevent and reverse postal cuts and closures, such as -- a national postal march in Washington DC, a rally at L'Enfant Plaza (USPS headquarters); encouraging regional and local actions, including actions on the work-room floor, cross-country postal “freedom rides” and walks, and civil disobedience, eg. sit-ins or occupations of congressional offices, USPS management offices, and other appropriate targets; and be it further

Resolved: That we call on the national postal unions to build formal alliances with labor and community organizations, locally and nationally, dedicated to preserving the postal service; and be it further

Resolved: That, if the Postmaster General actually eliminates Saturday mail delivery in August, that we



call on national postal union leaders to declare this unilateral action a “lock-out” and to organize highly publicized “work-ins” where postal workers arrive ready to work on Saturday(s); and be it finally

Resolved: That we call on national postal union leaders to organize Saturday “deliver-ins” where off-duty letter carriers, other postal workers and allies distribute agitational flyers to their customers (eg. “I’d rather be delivering your mail”) to enlist them in the movement to save the postal service.

INITIAL ENDORSERS –

Communities and Postal Workers United
Ken Lerch, NALC, Rockville MD
David Yao, APWU, Seattle WA
John Dennie, NPMHU, Staten Island NY
Jamie Partridge, NALC, Portland OR
Kevin Cole, APWU, Anaheim CA
David Welsh, NALC, San Francisco CA
Tom Dodge, APWU, Baltimore MD
Joe Piette, NALC, Philadelphia PA
Steve Valencia, Jobs with Justice, Tucson AZ
Frank Couget, NALC, NYC
Rich Shelley, APWU, Baltimore MD

***JOIN US in endorsing this call!**

Send your name, affiliation (union or organization), city and state to cpwunited1@gmail.com

Ask your local, state, regional or national body to endorse

Postal unions and allies rally in every state

Postal workers across the country rallied Sunday, March 24th, against the Postmaster General (PMG) Patrick Donahoe's decision to end Saturday mail delivery in August. Crowds from fifteen to fifteen hundred protesters turned out in all fifty states. The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) called the national day of action, which saw demonstrations in 112 cities.

While letter carriers were the bulk of the protesters, other postal workers, including clerks, mail handlers, truck drivers, custodians, maintenance and rural letter carriers turned out as well. Elimination of Saturday mail delivery will cost 80,000 jobs.

The protests also attracted participation from postal customers, especially those most affected by the cuts -- small business, elderly, disabled, rural, veteran, low-income and people of color.

In addition to the NALC, the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union sponsored the demonstrations. The national leadership of the American Postal Workers Union (representing clerks, drivers and maintenance) chose not to sponsor; but a conference of local APWU presidents passed a resolution calling for locals to participate.

In many areas, especially the big cities such as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington DC, all the postal unions participated and the message was broadened beyond just saving Saturday delivery to "no closures, no cuts, no delay of the mail." The chant "Donahoe Must Go!" was especially popular. PMG Donahoe has closed and reduced the hours of hundreds of mail processing plants and thousands of post offices, attempted to out-source trucking and custodial jobs, and changed delivery standards causing delay of the mail.

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

Congress has just passed a "continuing resolution" which mandates six-day delivery at the same level of service as in 1983 (a part of the budget resolution passed every year for the past thirty years). Nevertheless, USPS management and Republican congressional leadership claim that the PMG is only "modifying" Saturday delivery not ending it, dropping letters and magazines but continuing to deliver parcels.

The NALC leadership has threatened to call a mass rally at postal headquarters in Washington DC if Donahoe does not back down. Rank and file activists have suggested a "work-in" on the first Saturday they are excluded from mail delivery.

Victory for Postal Truckers

The American Postal Workers Union has won an important arbitration case on subcontracting in the Motor Vehicle Craft.

In the March 4th decision, Arbitrator Steven B. Goldberg ruled: "The Postal Service can no longer justify contracting out work ... if factors other than cost do not rule out keeping work in house, and the cost of keeping work in house would be less than



Postal Workers Have the Right to Speak Out Against Closures

"... As long as postal workers are acting on their own time and are not using postal funds, however, they can speak against and actively oppose facility closures without violating the Anti-Lobbying Act."

www.apwu.org

contracting out, both the text and the bargaining history of the Contracting MOU require that the work be kept in house."

A number of APWU locals have won back truck routes that were out-sourced and are on alert for the USPS next attempt at subcontracting.

COMBAT PLANT CLOSURES!

Over the summer of 2012, the Postmaster General closed 48 plants (10% of the total). In January he announced plans to close another 99 (20% more) by June. Then in March he announced the "consolidation" of 54 more before the end of 2013, with a total of 229 (50% of the total) by early 2014. Eliminating over 100,000 jobs, he is forcing clerks, maintenance, and mail handlers into the letter carrier craft, early retirement or to follow their mail processing work to cities many miles away. First class overnight mail standards are being relaxed to two and three day delivery. Mail will be significantly delayed in some places.

WHAT CAN WE DO? ORGANIZE! PUSH BACK!

Go to www.cpwunited.com/how-to-fight. The website contains strategies used by successful campaigns against local "consolidations", "reductions" and "discontinuance."

Keep Up on the Latest Fightback!

www.cpwunited.com

www.savethepostoffice.com

www.apwu.org

www.nalc.org

www.npmhu.org

www.nrlca.org

MAIL BEING DELAYED? TELL US ABOUT IT Over 100 mail processing facilities were "consolidated" this summer, fall & winter. We're seeking documentation about delay of the mail. Contact us, cpwunited1@gmail.com