

# Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

February, 2013 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - [www.cpwunited.com](http://www.cpwunited.com)

## Fight for Six-Day Delivery! DUMP DONAHOE!

On February 6<sup>th</sup> Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe announced he would end Saturday mail delivery and collections in early August, except for parcels. Communities and Postal Workers United joins a chorus of critics in denouncing Donahoe's unnecessary, unfair and unwise move to cut a day of mail delivery. "This misguided and counterproductive decision is in keeping with the Postmaster General's slash-and-shrink approach to dealing with the Postal Service's financial challenges," said National Association of Letter Carriers president Fred Rolando. The NALC has called for national day of action on March 24<sup>th</sup> and announced a possible mass rally at L'Enfant Plaza (USPS headquarters in Washington DC) if the PMG continues on this lawless path. \* (see below right)

As many in Congress, the postal unions, and the public have complained, the move to five day (and possibly four or three day mail delivery) illegally usurps Congressional authority which has mandated 6-day delivery every year since 1983. The \$2 billion projected savings (closer to \$1 billion according to the Postal Regulatory Commission) does not account for revenue lost as big mailers leave the system or for overtime incurred on heavier Mondays. Nor does the projected savings come close to making up the \$5.5 billion per year lost to pre-funding retiree



## Resist Privatization of Postal Trucking! PREPARE FOR WAR!

On or about March 4th, an arbitrator is expected to rule on the grievance of the American Postal Workers Union, challenging the outsourcing of postal trucking in California, impacting over 1,000 jobs. Truckers on the east coast are also threatened and awaiting the decision. Nationwide, 6,900 postal trucking jobs hang in the balance.

The CPWU calls on postal workers and community supporters to FIGHT this attack on postal jobs and service by any means necessary – street actions, occupations, whatever you are able to muster! For the latest news, call Kevin Cole in LA, 714-396-1073 or Tom Dodge in Baltimore, 410-857-9405.

## —National Day of Action — Save America's Postal Service "Catch the Spirit of 1970!" Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013

(anniversary of the Great Postal Strike)

**Fight Closures! Fight Cuts!  
Fight Delay of Mail!**

Repeal the Pre-Fund Mandate! Refund the Pension Surplus!

\*\*\* **Organize an action in your city!** \*\*\*

Congress, the President and the Postmaster General must be shown the massive support of the American people for their constitutionally mandated postal service.

Sponsor: Communities & Postal Workers United

\*\*\* **Look for an action in your city!** \*\*\*

St. Patrick's day parades in Chicago, San Francisco, Madison and Tucson will have Save the Post Office contingents. Videos about the GREAT POSTAL STRIKE of 1970 will be shown in Portland, Anaheim, the Bronx, and San Francisco. Look for marches and rallies in Seattle, Olympia, Portland, San Francisco, LA, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and New York.

Go to [www.cpwunited.com/local-coalitions](http://www.cpwunited.com/local-coalitions) for contact information or call Jamie Partridge, west coast organizer, 503-752-5112

health benefits 75 years in advance, a Congressional mandate imposed in 2006. This mandate, draining the postal treasury and creating a phony financial crisis, allows Donahoe to claim insolvency and the need for slashing services.

To cut back on Saturday labor costs, the USPS will undoubtedly use the cheaper, new City Carrier Assistants, (many of them former Transitional Employees who took a 25% wage cut in the newly arbitrated union contract). The CCAs, however, will be delivering on unfamiliar routes, misdelivering and returning many parcels. Those customers most hurt by this new  
(over)

\*Communities and Postal Workers United supports the NALC March 24th day of action to Save Six-Day Delivery and encourages our contacts to mobilize with NALC members, other postal unions, and community for events in your area (the NALC will designate locations for each local action). We encourage our supporters to bring the larger message of Save America's Postal Service -- No Closures, No Cuts, No Delay of the Mail! and Stop Privatization and Union Busting! Repeal the Pre-Fund and Refund the Pension Surplus -- to these March 24 actions.

For those CPWU affiliates and contacts who have planned actions for the CPWU national day of action, March 17th, the anniversary of the Great Postal Strike, we encourage you to follow through -- catch the spirit of 1970! Both days of action can complement each other.

## Get involved!

Find the local CPWU coalition in your area -  
[www.cpwunited.com/local-coalitions](http://www.cpwunited.com/local-coalitions)  
How to fight a closure or organize a rally,  
[www.cpwunited.com/how-to-fight](http://www.cpwunited.com/how-to-fight)  
Contact us: [cpwunited1@gmail.com](mailto:cpwunited1@gmail.com)  
Join us on facebook @ [Postal Workers United](#)

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Saturday arrangement will be the most vulnerable populations -- the disabled veteran who depends on timely delivery of prescription drugs, the farmer who depends on delivery of perishable products, the elderly who depend on news from family, the homeowner who depends on timely delivery of a mortgage payment, the consumer who depends on delivery of a credit card payment, the small business that depends on timely delivery of supplies, product and advertising, the medical facility that depends on lab samples through the mail, the community newspaper that depends on timely delivery of the news.

Instead of fighting to preserve the service, instead of using his bully pulpit to mobilize postal workers and the public to demand that Congress fix postal finances, the Postmaster General is promoting the myth that American's support 5-day mail delivery. As critics have pointed out, the USPS survey uses set-up information and leading questions to panic the survey taker into thinking that eliminating Saturday delivery is necessary to save the postal service. The PMG has got to go!

Check out [www.savethepostoffice.com/survey-on-ending-saturday-delivery](http://www.savethepostoffice.com/survey-on-ending-saturday-delivery) to take a survey with truthful set-up information.

***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.***

## COMBAT PLANT CLOSURES!

Since July 1, the Postmaster General has closed 48 plants (10% of the total) and he announced plans to close another 99 (20% more) by June, with a total of 229 (50% of the total) by 2014. Eliminating over 100,000 jobs, he is forcing clerks, maintenance, and mailhandlers into the letter carrier craft, early retirement or to follow the mail processing to cities sometimes over a hundred 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](http://www.cpwunited.com/how-to-fight). The website contains strategies used by successful campaigns against local "consolidations", "reductions" and "discontinuance."

**The post office isn't broke — it's being robbed.  
Sign the CREDO ACTION petition online —**

[http://www.credoaction.com/campaign/usps\\_sat\\_delivery/](http://www.credoaction.com/campaign/usps_sat_delivery/)

"Repeal the pre-funding mandate of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, implement common sense postal service reforms, and stop undermining the USPS with needless and unfair legislation."



### ***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](http://www.apwu.org)

## THE BATTLE FOR POST OFFICES FACING CLOSURE

The USPS POSTplan targets 13,000 mostly rural post offices for massive cuts to service hours (25% - 75%) or closure. The Rural Organizing Project in Oregon has produced an excellent toolkit for organizing to save rural post offices – [www.rop.org/organizing-to-save-rural-post-offices/](http://www.rop.org/organizing-to-save-rural-post-offices/)

Many historic urban post offices are facing sale and closure. "The giant real estate company CBRE advises the USPS on what post offices to sell and then profits as the listing agent.

UC regent Richard Blum is the chairman of CBRE. Blum is married to California Senator Dianne Feinstein. The USPS proposes to sell Berkeley's beautiful 1914 Main Post Office. It has two priceless New Deal art works. Our grandparents paid for this building and countless others in the country that are on the USPS hit list." (from Save the People's Post Office flyer – *contact Dave Welsh 510-847-8657 to get involved in the SF area fightback*)

The postal service has reviewed over 4,000 facilities for potential sale, and it has identified over 600 buildings "earmarked for disposal." Many of these will undoubtedly be historic properties. The postal service has sold at least a dozen historic post offices over the past year, and there are dozens more for sale or under review. The New Deal era Bronx General Post Office recently was put up for sale. Its murals are classic collections of work scenes based on Walt Whitman's "I Hear America Singing".

*(contact John Dennie 732-447-4582 to get involved in the NYC area fightback)*

**MAIL BEING DELAYED? TELL US ABOUT IT** 48 mail processing facilities were "consolidated" this summer. We're seeking documentation from postal workers and the public about delay of the mail. Contact us, [cpwunited1@gmail.com](mailto:cpwunited1@gmail.com)