

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

October, 2012 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com

As of July 1st, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe has closed 48 mail processing plants, 10% of plants nationwide, eliminating 13,000 jobs. He plans (POSTplan) to close a total of 50% - 229 plants, by 2014. Another wave of 90 closures is scheduled for February 2013.

Postal trucking and associated jobs are next on the chopping block, beginning in California with over a thousand jobs scheduled for privatization November 17th (see article below)

14,000 mostly rural post offices are scheduled for massive cuts to service hours (25%—75%) or closure. USPS customer surveys and community meetings are being scheduled, beginning in October. The Rural Organizing Project in Oregon has produced an excellent toolkit for organizing to save rural post offices — <http://www.rop.org/organizing-to-save-rural-post-offices/>

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

Contact us: cpwunited1@gmail.com

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FIGHTING PRIVATIZATION – Postal Truckers in California

In June 2012, the US Postal Service sent the American Postal Workers Union notice of intent to subcontract Pacific Area (California) Postal Vehicle Service, citing equipment “availability” issues. This, despite the fact that their own documents show the equipment is in compliance until 2014. The Postal Service knew about the California Air Resources emission standards, and their requirement to comply, for over four years, but failed to do so.

In attempts to save PVS, the APWU offered to pay the cost of retrofitting the 400 vehicles involved with particulate matter (PM) filters as required by the CARB law, at a cost of about \$12,000 per vehicle. USPS declined the offer and intends to excess a limited number of the approximately 840 impacted employees into vacant letter carrier assignments. The remainder would be detailed to other assignments and locations as private contractors do their work.

Without Postal Vehicle Service in California, the USPS is cutting out the meat and getting to the bone. For one thing, management is restricted from placing PVS preference eligible veterans into lower level assignments. Further, PVS employees had background checks, swore to protect the sanctity of the mail and have keys and security codes to post offices. Contractors, non-



postal workers, will not have this security clearance or access. Management has already opened career clerk positions for express mail transport, once entrusted to PVS.

Anaheim Communities and Postal Workers United coordinated a series of actions in response to the excessing letters received by California PVS. A rally against privatization and union busting was held on September 19th at the Anaheim Processing & Distribution Facility. Over thirty PVS drivers from the APWU Greater LA Local alone made the hour long trip to stand up and fight for their jobs. A similar rally was held September 21st at the Santa Ana P&DC. State wide demonstrations to save PVS were held on Columbus Day, October 8th. Over a hundred protesters attended the Los Angeles rally. CPWU in Baltimore and other cities will hold solidarity protests on October 28th.

An October 31st, noon rally will be held in front of the Vista, California office of the Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Rep. Darrell Issa, sponsor HR 2309. This bill, which is likely to come before the lame-duck House, would force USPS to make \$3 billion worth of cuts in post offices and mail processing facilities within two years. Secondly it would prohibit postal unions and management from negotiating restrictions in layoffs. Finally it would empower a board to reject negotiated labor contracts if they were deemed too costly.

APWU Western Region Coordinator Omar Gonzalez, Motor Vehicle Service (MVS) National Business Agent Javier Pineres and California State President Mike Evans held MVS seminars throughout the state. *For more information, contact Kevin Cole (LA area) 714-396-1073.*

Keep Up on the Latest Fightback!

www.cpwunited.com

www.savethepostoffice.com

www.apwu.org

www.nalc.org

www.npmhu.org

www.nrlca.org

SF post offices spared the axe

After a year-long mass protest campaign, San Francisco Postmaster Raj Sanghera announced in September that Bayview, Visitacion Valley and Civic Center post offices had been taken OFF the closure list. McLaren station on busy San Bruno Avenue was also spared.

This is a victory for the postal workers and community members from all over the country, who have been working hard to resist the planned destruction and privatization of the public Post Office.

It's especially a victory for the communities that organized to pack the public hearings in 2011 to protest the closing of Bayview, Visitacion Valley and Civic Center. They gave the USPS managers an earful.

Then on June 27, 2012, the Save the People's Post Office coalition organized a rally at the Federal Building, a march of 200 people through the oppressed Tenderloin district, and an occupation and people's speak-out inside the Civic Center Post Office, where many homeless and low-income people go to pick up their mail.

The Bayview, Visitacion Valley and McLaren stations are all in working class neighborhoods in the southeastern part of San Francisco and home to many African American, Asian, Latino and white families who depend on their neighborhood post office. Victory celebrations are being planned.

The Citizens Committee to Save the Berkeley (CA) Main Post Office has enlisted the entire City Council and thousands of residents to Stop the Sale. This is part of a growing campaign to stop the sale of over 70 historic post offices in collusion with the privatizing real estate mega-firm of CB Richard Ellis (CBRE). Headed by financier Richard Blum (husband of California US Senator Dianne Feinstein), CBRE has the exclusive contract to sell these properties, in deals worth billions. Many of these post offices are architectural treasures that also house priceless New Deal-era murals and sculptures honoring working people. These are public treasures paid for by the taxes of our parents and grandparents and now being sold off for private profit as if they were shopping malls. These post offices are fixtures of downtown areas, convenient, and centers of civic life.

Our movement is having an effect. But we must be vigilant: The big push to implement the Donahoe slash-and-burn program will come after the election and in 2013. This movement needs to grow, and grow fast to stop the juggernaut. It's up to us to mobilize our members and communities to push the privatizers back on their heels. – Dave Welsh, San Francisco, CA

Call for a March on Washington to SAVE AMERICA'S POSTAL SERVICE!

To: the national leadership of all postal unions and associations, all labor unions and other workers' organizations, senior, veteran, rural, low-income, communities of color, faith, Occupy, student, small business, and any organization willing to mobilize to save the postal service.

We, the undersigned, urge you to join together, set a date (such as March 17th, the anniversary of the Great Postal Strike of 1970) and organize a 2013 March and Rally in Washington DC to Save America's Postal Service. The 2012 Conventions of the National Association of Letter Carriers and the American Postal Workers Union both called for such a national rally of postal workers and their allies.

Congress, the President and the Postmaster General must be shown the massive support of the American people for their constitutionally mandated postal service. We urge you to raise these demands --

No Closures! No Service Cuts! No Delay of Mail!

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

Communities and Postal Workers United

(to sign on to this letter, please send your name, organization, and title to cpwunited1@gmail.com)

Bird-dogging Candidates

It's election season! What if the incumbent or the sure-winner is not yet on-board with positive postal legislation (or not a sure no vote on bad legislation)? Bird-dog 'em! It's fun, effective and empowering – especially to new activists.

The idea is to show up at as many campaign stops as possible with at least 3 – 5 people. Contact the candidate's campaign office or the local party to find out the format – do you need a ticket, will there be questions? Arrive early to role play your questions & to get in the front. Also station people along the route where the candidate will be coming in. Wear candidate buttons and appear enthusiastic about the candidate.

As soon as your target arrives, smile, grab their hand, walk with them and start talking. The candidate is used to shaking hands and will usually not pull away. In 20 seconds tell them you are so glad they want to help save the postal service and you just want to make sure they know to vote no on HR 2309, a bill which would send the postal service into a death spiral with massive, unnecessary cuts & closures. You can do the same thing after the candidate has spoken to the crowd — move quickly to the receiving line or the exit path. Ask for a photo with the candidate which will give you more time to talk.

When the candidate is speaking (hopefully you and your comrades are in the front row, center), make eye contact, clap often, laugh loudly at their jokes, smile a lot, and raise your hand fast (as soon as they are finishing their speech), raise it high and wave. They will call on you. In 20 seconds or less, ask a yes or no question – not “what will you do to help save the postal service?” Reference something they said and be personal and passionate. Sometimes it's helpful to talk about their opponent (what they've said).

A second person should be waving their hand. The second person should reference the first person. It's especially good if you make like you were going to ask about something else but are interested in hearing if she will vote no on the awful HR 2309, which eliminates 6-day delivery, etc. Or ask if she will co-sponsor HR 3591, which fixes the postal finances without a dime of taxpayer money. A yes or no question.

When the candidate has left, approach the media, the reporters, the people with notepads and audio and video devices. Continue the charade of being a supporter (or undecided) and express your disappointment (or pleasure) at the candidates answer and how it affects you (as a postal worker, retiree, postal customer, etc.).

You often have more access to a Congress person during election season than otherwise. Multiple friendly hits on a candidate can get them to move. Confrontational hits can also be effective, especially in getting media attention, with unmovable politicians (eg. Darrel Issa) -- unfurling banners, shouting down the politician, “mic checks” (tag teaming the interruption of a politician, as each shouter gets escorted out).

Have fun, send us your photos and don't forget to put it on youtube.

- Jamie Partridge, Portland, Oregon

Communities and Postal Workers United is a national, grass-roots 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.