

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

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

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.

CPWU grew out of a series of nationwide conference calls in the Spring of 2012, among postal workers from three unions – the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) – and other allies in the labor movement. Pulled together by Labor Notes, a national magazine and organizing center, the conference calls focused on the urgency of defending the postal service against closures to mail processing plants and post offices.

Some of us had unsuccessfully fought the closure of the Federick, Maryland plant and watched with horror as first class mail sat in trailers for ten days. Others had organized 500 people to show up for a closure hearing in White River Junction, Vermont and cheered as the plant was taken off the closure list. We had organized a thousand-person Save the Postal Service march through downtown Portland, Oregon. Some had helped occupy a threatened post office in Harlem, NYC. We wanted to combine our efforts.

We applauded the national day of action organized by our unions on September 27th, 2011. We knew it was time to call a national action, again. So we did - on Tax Day, April 17th, with the theme “No Taxes Needed to Save America’s Postal Service”. We had organized about a dozen cities for action by the time the national APWU and the NPMHU got on board. In early May we met to formally found CPWU at the Labor Notes conference in Chicago.



By late June we had organized a DC Hunger Strike to Save the Postal Service – ten of us, letter carriers, clerks, truck drivers, maintenance, mail handlers, seniors, vets, Occupy activists, rank-and-file & officers – walked the halls of Congress. We demanded that Congress stop starving the postal service, repeal the pre-funding mandate & refund the pension surplus and protested at postal headquarters demanding that the Postmaster General stop the cuts and closures. Generating major media coverage, our hunger strike had an impact on Congress and the USPS but more importantly it put the CPWU before the public and brought a new layer of activists into our midst.

Since the hunger strike we have been active at three national union conventions - NALC, NPMHU, and APWU – hosting well attended meetings about building local labor/community coalitions and pushing through resolutions to encourage such local formations. NALC and APWU also passed resolutions calling for a National March and Rally to Save the Postal Service.

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

Join us on facebook @ [Postal Workers United](https://www.facebook.com/PostalWorkersUnited)

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Passed by the NALC National Convention in July, 2012

Call for a large national rally and march of postal workers and their allies

Whereas: The postal unions and the public Post Office remain under severe bipartisan attack ...Only a strong movement from below can stop these attacks; and

Whereas: The union-led rallies in so many of the 435 Congressional districts on September 27 were an excellent first step in our fight-back campaign. They gave a taste of the potential power the postal unions will have – when they unify, organize and fight...when they decide to mobilize their entire membership, and all community organizations, churches and unions; therefore, be it

Resolved: That the NALC and all postal unions, when appropriate, mount a giant campaign to defend our members and the Postal Service, committing national and local union resources – in particular to organize a large national rally and march of postal workers and our allies in Washington, D.C. or other location to be determined by the national President – to counter the lies of the Wall Street and corporate privatizers and demand:

No reduction in postal service – keep 6-day delivery!

No Post Office closings! Most shutdowns are in poor and rural communities, where service is needed most.

No layoffs! Save our jobs and services that the people need! Whole communities will suffer, when formerly well-paid unionized workers can no longer afford their mortgages.

Congress must pass HR 1351 to stop bleeding the Postal Service and let it function normally! No interference in our union contracts!

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Passed by the APWU National Convention in August 2012

Rally in Washington DC

.....therefore be it

Resolved, that the American Postal Workers Union go on record endorsing the call for a massive rally of postal workers and our allies in Washington, DC to Save America's Postal Service.

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Passed by the NALC National Convention in July, 2012

Build a powerful nationwide movement to save the people's Post Office

....therefore be it

Resolved, that the National Association of Letter Carriers, working together with the other postal unions, encourage the formation, in cities and towns throughout the country, of Community/Labor Coalitions to Save Postal Jobs and Services — to build a powerful nationwide movement to defeat privatization, maintain living-wage jobs, expand postal services, and save the Post Office as a public entity operating in the public interest.

PORTLAND – On Sunday, January 8th, 2012, the streets of downtown Portland were filled with the chants of a thousand postal workers, their families, and allies from Jobs with Justice, the Occupy movement, and the Rural Organizing Project. After more than a year of sustained activity – a Workers Rights Board hearing, outreach to over 70 neighborhood, senior, business, and union groups, a City Council resolution, regular rallies at post offices, picket signs on bridges, posters in businesses and yard signs – Portland has built a public postal awareness.

SAN FRANCISCO – During the DC Hunger Strike, the newly organized Community/Labor Coalition to Save the People's Post Office staged an "Occupy the Post Office" action involving 200 protesters entering the threatened-with-closure Civic Center post office, delivering speeches, songs and chants for a half hour. SF's coalition involves NALC & APWU activists, SF Labor Council, Union of the Unemployed, Occupy SF Action Council, the Green Party, the Living Wage Coalition, Church Women United, Gray Panthers and the Senior Action Network. has since organized against the sale of the Berkeley Post Office, generating a City Council resolution and support from historic preservation organizations. SF is also pushing for national resistance to the current mass sell-off of post offices.

BALTIMORE – When the Frederick, Maryland mail processing plant was closed in November 2011, local APWU activists documented first class mail sitting in trailers for over ten days at the overburdened receiving plant in Baltimore. They went to the media and to the local Occupy movement to generate pressure to re-open the Frederick plant. The local coalition held several rallies and town meetings. They circulated "WANTED" posters charging the Postmaster General with unlawful delay and obstruction of the mail and called for his arrest.

NEW YORK – Operation Zip Code was launched this spring to save dozens of post offices scheduled for closure in NY City. Community-Labor United to Save Postal Jobs and Services charged the postal service with racism, as most of the offices affected were in low-income, minority neighborhoods. Partnering with Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network, Youth Move, CLUSPJS rallied and occupied a Harlem post office. Emphasizing the anti-privatization theme, CLUSPJS staged a rally at the main post office on May Day, in coordination with Occupy Wall Street and 99 actions across the city.

Keep Up on the Latest Fightback!

www.cpwunited.com

www.savethepostoffice.com

www.apwu.org

www.nalc.org

www.npmhu.org

www.nrlca.org