

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

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

National Mobilization Guide Against Plant Consolidations and Post Office Closures: AN ORGANIZER'S TOOLKIT

(*excerpts – the ninety-two page document can be downloaded from apwu.org/issues/fighting consolidation*)

“...The underlying key to success in fighting back is building strong worker/community coalitions to defend what the postal public deserves. This extensive toolkit is a valuable resource aimed at helping you build the coalitions that we need to fight to save the Postal Service by keeping processing plants and post offices open and located in the communities they serve.” (Mark Dimondstein, President American Postal Workers Union, pg.3)

...“To win the battle we need you to become activists and to get our community and our sisters and brothers from other unions to stand with us...” (Debby Szeredy, Executive Vice President, APWU, pg. 4)

WE'VE STOPPED THEM BEFORE...

“Between October 19, 2005 and January 6, 2006, the Postal Service notified the APWU that it would conduct Area Mail Processing (AMP) feasibility studies at approximately 50 facilities. The subsequent opposition from APWU locals and affected communities played an important role in derailing many consolidation proposals. In 2006 and 2007, thirty-seven consolidation initiatives were terminated, placed on hold, or reversed.” (pg. 5)

SUGGESTED ACTIONS THAT VARIOUS LOCALS HAVE TAKEN

- Public Meeting as per PO-408
- Make a video of the public meeting
- Town Hall meeting called by the Union
- Send letter of opposition to stakeholders
- Collect letters from everyone prior to the AMP meeting and present them,
- Have employee tell their story (personal)
- Cite revenue loss to community
- Compile delayed mail evidence
- Cost analysis to consolidate mail & advertise
- Report delayed mail to PRC
- Make constant contact with Congress
- Get politicians to send letters/resolutions to
- PMG requesting the AMP be stopped
- Get politicians to request face-to-face meeting with PMG
- Request AFL-CIO to send out flyers, & info on web
- Get city council resolutions passed
- Meet with your Chamber of Commerce
- Hold a luncheon for dignitaries, members,
- prospective coalition members & educate
- Create a message in a picture or cartoon
- Get on Radio, Newspaper & TV Talk Shows



July 26, with “Ben Franklin” on Postal Heritage Day in Portland, Oregon (photo: Mike Gutwig, NW Labor Press)

Don't Buy Staples! BRIEFS

- The National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers have endorsed the boycott.
- Shortly after the NEA & AFT, the country's main teachers' unions, joined the boycott, the US Postal Service and Staples announced that they had scrapped their “Retail Partner Expansion” in favor of an “Approved Shipper” contract. “It’s a ruse,” said APWU President Mark Dimondstein. A USPS spokesperson confirmed the APWU’s assertion, telling the *Boston Globe*, “We look forward to continuing the partnership, whether it’s called Retail Partner Expansion or Approved Shipper.” “Staples and the USPS have made it clear: They intend to continue to privatize postal retail operations, replace living-wage Postal Service jobs with low-wage Staples jobs, and compromise the safety and security of the mail.” the union president said. “If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it’s a duck,” he added. “This duck may have a few less feathers, but it’s still a duck. This attempt at trickery shows that the ‘Don’t Buy Staples’ movement is having an effect. We intend to keep up the pressure until Staples gets out of the mail business,”
- The APWU is passing out flyers and using the internet to reach teachers and parents with the message “Don’t Buy School Supplies at Staples.” Thirty percent of Staples revenues come from school supplies.
- Occupy San Francisco/ First They Came for the Homeless has camped for more than two months in front of a Berkeley Staples mini-post office, turning away many customers and spreading word of the boycott. Their supporters include the Berkeley Post Office Defenders.
- Regular and daily protests are being organized against Staples postal counters in San Francisco, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, and Western Massachusetts, the main “pilot” sites. SF has staged over 200 actions, Atlanta over 100.
- For more information, go to StopStaples.com

Get involved!

Find the local CPWU coalition in your area -

www.cpwunited.com/local-coalitions

Contact us: cpwunited1@gmail.com

- Reach out to retirement communities
- Use T-Shirts, Caps, & Banners to send the message
- Phone banks to multiple lists
- Press releases, TV coverage, radio ads
- Mailings to members, retirees, auxiliary
- Leafletting & street speaking (continued on back)

- Information tables at supermarkets
- Every Door Direct flyer to reach box holders
- One-on-one conversations with everyone
- Petition on street and at gatherings
- Phone zap decision makers
- Press Conferences
- Rallies, Vigils, Flash Mobs, Marches, Blockades, Sit ins
- Civil Disobedience with dignitaries
- Provide carpools, vans, buses and pick up spots to get people to activities (pgs. 9 – 10)

Tell Congress: Co-sponsor HR 711, which supports retaining door delivery for businesses and residents, and HR 30 to ensure 6-day delivery. Co-sponsor S316 (Sanders) and HR 630 (DeFazio) – the Postal Service Protection Act.

JOIN FORCES WITH YOUR NATURAL ALLIES

Natural allies include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Retirees • City Council • Auxiliaries
- Officials • Other Postal Unions • Candidates
- Community Activists • Customers • Courts
- Official Commissions • Other Organizations • Citizens
- Community Organizations • Key Stakeholders • Congress
- Family and Friends

(See Appendix C for a list of Sister Unions, Other Unions, Community Organizations) (pg. 17)

ORGANIZING AND RECRUITING FOR THE COALITION

“Local organizers always face the need to work continuously to expand the circle of people involved in coalitions. Recruiting should be an ongoing process to be done with every contact that you make. When recruiting, always appeal to a person’s self-interest. This is very different from telling them why it is in your self-interest for them to help you. Learn about what people care about and build relationships through conversations in which they talk about their concerns.

“Explain clearly what the coalition is trying to accomplish. Establish their willingness to join our efforts. Ask how they believe that they can assist and in what capacity. Make any suggestions in response to their suggestions. Provide them with assignments, target list of groups, or other pressure points. Give them a time frame to take the action that they can undertake on behalf of the cause and coordinate it with others. Always ask coalition members if they know anyone else who would like to be involved in the fight. If they refer you to someone, at least get their phone number and contact them.” (pg. 34)

POSTAL UNIONS HOLD JOINT WEBINAR ON PLANT CONSOLIDATIONS (excerpt from news article, apwu.org)

“The four postal unions held a joint webinar on Aug. 28 for union members at the 82 sites where plants are scheduled for consolidation or closure beginning in January 2015. The occasion marked the first time the four unions have engaged in joint training at the national level. Participants included each of the unions’ local president and/or the local person responsible for organizing the fight-back, regional coordinators, as well as presidents of the state organizations where consolidations are scheduled.



Postal Defenders, Community Labor United for Postal Jobs and Services, NAN Youth Move and many members of the Central Harlem Community march with NY Metro Area APWU to save College Station Post Office

“...All of the postal unions realize that if management implements the consolidations, the effect will be devastating for all of us. We are committed to work together to stop the consolidations, as well as to stop attacks on six-day delivery and door delivery, and to fight privatization of postal services.

“... the Postal Service is relying on studies that were performed several years ago to support their case for consolidation,” said Debby Szeredy, APWU Executive VP. “A lot has changed since the studies were done, so we are going to **demand new studies.** In addition, public meetings were held years ago, when the plant closures were first proposed,” she added. “We are **demanding new public meetings.** If management refuses to conduct meetings for the residents of the affected communities, we will **organize Town Hall meetings ourselves.**”

SENATORS DEMAND PLANT CLOSURE MORATORIUM

Fifty-one Senators (over half the Senate!) signed onto a “Dear Colleague” letter, calling for a one-year moratorium on plant “consolidations” (closures) and July 1, 2012 delivery standards. The August 14th letter, addressed to the Appropriations Committee and the subcommittee on postal finances, said Congress should block a proposal by Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe to close as many as 82 mail processing plants; slow mail service, and eliminate up to 15,000 jobs. The letter urged leaders of the key committees to include a one-year ban on the cuts as part of must-pass legislation to keep the government running into the new fiscal year that begins October 1.

CALL YOUR HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE TODAY!

A companion “Dear Colleague” letter is circulating in the House of Representatives, calling for a one-year moratorium on plant closures. Ask your Congress person to sign on! Go to <http://capwiz.com/apwu/home/> or call the Congressional switchboard # 202-225-3121 and they can connect you to your congressman/woman's office based on your zip code.



Keep up on the latest fightback!

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www.savethepostoffice.com

www.apwu.org

www.nalc.org

www.npmhu.org

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