



The

# Union Mail

Vol. 67 No. 8 | November/December 2024

Published by the NY Metro Area Postal Union

*"The Labor Movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress."*— Martin Luther King, Jr.

## The NY Metro Conference Center is Open for Business



**NY Metro Conference Center Offers state-of-the-art technology, flexible spaces, and an array of services. It is more than a place to gather — it is an environment to inspire creativity and productivity.**

**Full Article Within**

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# Elections have consequences.



**Jonathan Smith**

I am preparing for the biggest battle in the history of the Labor movement—Trump is back and his rhetoric and history is not pro-union.

He is on the side of the CEOs of corporations as his record screams.

Here are a few examples of Trump's opinion of unions the last time he was president: Trump made it easier for employers to fire or penalize workers who speak up for better pay and working conditions or exercise the right to strike. Trump promised to veto the PRO ACT and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act, historic legislation that will reverse decades of legislation meant to crush private sector unions and shift power away from CEOs to workers. Trump stacked the National Labor Relations Board with anti-union appointees who side with employers in contract disputes and support companies who delay and stall union elections, misclassify workers to take away their freedom to join a unions, and silence workers. Trump changed the rules about who qualifies for overtime pay, making more than 8 million workers ineligible and costing them over \$1 billion per year in lost wages. Trump reduced the number of OSHA inspectors so that there are now fewer than at any time in history and weakened

penalties for companies that fail to report violations. Trump threatened to veto legislation that would raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Trump broke his campaign promise to take on companies that move good jobs overseas—instead, he gave over \$115 billion in federal contracts to companies that are offshoring jobs.

During a live conversation on X with Elon Musk on August 12, 2024 Donald Trump said striking workers should be fired. Trump traveled to Michigan during his presidential campaign to appear at a non-union company to lie to union workers that he's on their side. While President Biden stood on the picket line with the United Auto Workers

Trump's horrible anti-union record while President got slammed in 2020 by union after union, yet a large portion of union workers continue to support him despite his record on labor issues. The AFL-CIO summarized Trump Labor record in 2020, "Trump has encouraged freeloaders, made it more difficult to enforce collective bargaining agreements, silenced workers and restricted the freedom to join unions"

Trump signed three anti-union executive orders that "eroded long-standing federal worker job security protections, made it easier to fire federal workers, and limited the use of official time for union activities by stewards and officers.

Four years ago, union workers and the working class saw how Trump turned his back on them

when he was in the White House from rolling back safety protections to undermining the ability to unionize to never showing unions support in those four years.

When they show you who they are believe them the first time, Not looking forward to what Trump shows unions and the working class the second time!

We are about to find out that Elections have consequences. 📧



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# Attacks on the Postal Service Continue

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

The right wing continues its attack on a public Postal Service. On November 5, 2024, mainstream journalist and commentator, Peter Roff's "Postal Service keeps losing money while quality of service declines" appeared in the Washington Times detailing all the problems the Postal Service has despite the benefits it received from the passage of the Postal Reform Act of 2022. Roff credits the mailers for doing their part by paying higher postal rates. The main problem in Roff's view is the "inexplicable decision to convert 190,000 part-time, flexible employees to full-time career status while doubling their compensation. Labor costs are already 75% of the total Postal Service burden. This means the Postal Service is fully staffed for its peak holiday season—while we all appreciate—but has excess labor the other 11 months of the year."

The column excoriates the Postal Service for bringing back trucking from the private sector and for implementing DeJoy's Delivering for America plan while almost not mentioning the PMG nor his role in the very plans it is criticizing. It wants the ten-year plan to end.

Commentaries like this must be countered at every turn. We certainly want to fight the negative aspects of DeJoy's reign, but we must also defend the overall concept of a public Postal Service. It is an ongoing struggle.

## Voter Fraud?

You may have never heard of Peter Bernegger and that would not

be a great loss. Peter Bernegger was convicted on fraud charges in 2009 and served prison time. Bernegger filed more than a dozen lawsuits challenging the results of the 2020 election. All his suits were dismissed. He was fined \$2400 by the Wisconsin Elections Commission for filing frivolous complaints.

During the recent elections, Bernegger has accused the Postal Service of hiding evidence of absentee mail-in ballot fraud. He claims that the Postal Service has changed how it processes ballots sent by mail. While Bernegger is correct that the Postal Service has implemented what it refers to as "extraordinary measures designed to accelerate the delivery of ballots mailed close to election day" that these changes are the same ones that has been done in the past. What began on October 21 was the Postal Service said, "return ballots that are destined to a local or nearby election office will bypass the processing operation and will instead be post-marked at the local unit and delivered to the election office."

What Bernegger charges to have happened would require the complicity of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the federal law enforcement arm of the Postal Service in the conspiracy. It is a ridiculous charge. The Inspection Service is charged with ensuring the integrity of all absentee mail-in ballots. All postal inspectors are given "specialized training and equipment" to carry out this task. The Inspection Service "reviews the physical security of

election mail as well as the physical security of processing and delivery locations." They immediately report their findings, "so that corrective action may be taken for any concerns identified."

While there is plenty of room for criticism under DeJoy's reign, the commission of voter fraud doesn't seem to be one of them.

## Many letter carriers not happy with proposed contract

Postal workers in Wilmington, DE are not in love with their new labor agreement between the National Association of Letter Carriers and the U.S. Postal Service. Some of them held a rally in Rodney Square in Wilmington on Veterans Day and are voting "no" on the ratification of the contract. Those organizing the rally said the proposed wage raise and reduction of "office time" and routes hurt the entire workforce. The criticism of the proposed contract seems justified.

## Social Security Fairness Act passes House

The U.S. House passed House Resolution 82, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, on Tuesday, Nov. 12. The bill will now head to the U.S. Senate. HR 82 aims to eliminate two provisions in the United States, including the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The bill, passed the U.S. House of Representatives with a vote of 327-75. 📧



# Donald J. Trump and The Postal Service

In 2020 there was no question about what Donald Trump felt about the public post office, he wanted to do it in by privatizing it. When Trump won his initial presidency, he offered one of his major donors, Louis DeJoy, a position as an ambassador. DeJoy turned Trump down, telling him, “I wanted something I could fix.”

DeJoy was planning to be the host for the Republican Convention in 2020, originally slated for Charlotte, North Carolina. DeJoy was then contacted by recruiters for the USPS as a potential candidate for Postmaster General. DeJoy claimed that his relationship with Trump had nothing to do with his being offered the position. DeJoy also claimed that he didn’t tell Trump of the appointment until after he accepted the position in May of 2020. When he did tell Trump, DeJoy said that he told him to just “go do it.”

Trump had a history of putting down the Postal Service once even calling it a joke! He was an opponent of mail-in voting. In fact, Trump wouldn’t even sign the first COVID-19 relief bill until Congress removed additional funding for the Postal Service from the bill. Trump repeatedly attacks the USPS.

The President appoints members to the nine-member Postal Board of Governors when vacancies arise, no more than five members can be from the same party and must receive Congressional approval. The BOG functions like the board of a private corporation and is responsible for appointments of the Postmaster General and Deputy Postmaster General. The board is designed to be bipartisan by

nature. When Trump came into power, he was given the rare opportunity to fill the Board of Governors with a majority of members that he favored. Obama had nominated seven candidates for the BOG with none of them received a vote in the Senate.

The current members of Postal Board of Governors include: Roman Martinez IV the chair, appointed by President Trump, terms ends 12/8/24; Amber McReynolds, appointed by President Biden, term ends 12/8/26; Robert Duncan, appointed by President Trump, 12/8/25; Anton Hajjar, appointed by President Biden, term ends 12/8/23 in holdover year; Derek Kan, appointed by President Biden, term ends 12/8/28, Ronald Stroman, appointed by President Biden, term ends 12/8/28; Daniel Tangherlini, appointed by President Biden, term ends 12/8/27.

Postmaster Louis DeJoy and Deputy Postmaster Douglas Tulino both sit on the board. DeJoy is a Republican and Tulino is an Independent.

Martinez IV, Duncan and Kan are Republicans, while Hajjar, Stroman, Tangherlini are Democrats. McReynolds is an Independent.

President Biden nominated in March, Martin J. Walsh (Democrat); in August, Val Butler Demings (Democrat) and William Zollars (Republican); in September, Gordon Hartogensis (Republican) to the BOG. There has been no confirmation yet on any of them by the Senate. Reports just in that Walsh has removed himself from consideration.

The question remains how did Louis DeJoy become PMG? If you



President-Elect Donald Trump, 78

recall when he was first nominated there were many questions about DeJoy. The BOG finally achieved a quorum after years, so business could take place. When former Postmaster General Megan Brennan announced her intentions to retire in October of that year, the Board was able to elect her successor. On May 6, 2020, the bipartisan BOG all selected by Trump and confirmed by the Senate announced Louis DeJoy’s appointment as Postmaster General and CEO, despite concerns about conflict of interests. DeJoy was the first person picked for PMG who had not come up through the Postal Service.

DeJoy wasn’t hurt by the donations he and his wife have made to elected officials over the years, and we can see that the decision to choose him was not based solely on his history with the Postal Service. But the question remains, how did the Postal Board of Governors decide that DeJoy was their choice?

What we can be sure of is that the current Postal Board of Governors will soon be influenced even further by President Donald J. Trump as he fills vacancies on the BOG. This cannot be good news for those who feel that maintaining a public Postal Service is essential for the benefit of the people of this country. ☒

# Proud to be Postal!

**PRIDE** is defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary as “reasonable self-esteem” or “confidence and satisfaction in oneself.” For postal workers pride is partially reflected by being paid a fair wage for their work. And when postal workers do not receive an acceptable wage through negotiations, sometimes they end up striking!

Workers at Canada Post went on strike November 15, 2024. It came to this decision after “a year of bargaining with little progress” said the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW). This action will create delays to mail and parcel delivery in advance of the busiest time of the year. Management of Canada Post responded, it’s a “disappointed” with the decision, which will “have a significant and immediate impact on millions of Canadians, small businesses and charities who count on Canada Post during the busy holiday season.”

CUPW represents over 55,000 workers. “Many CUPW members work for Canada Post as letter carriers, rural and suburban mail carriers, postal clerks, mail handlers and dispatchers, technicians,

mechanics and electricians. But CUPW doesn’t just represent postal workers. We also represent cleaners, couriers, drivers, vehicle mechanics, warehouse workers, printers, emergency medical dispatchers and other workers in the private sector. CUPW is a democratic union. Our members elect all representatives, set the priorities for bargaining, and have the final say on contract demands and settlements. We are proud of our history and the achievements of our members.”

Alexandra Bradbury, in the November 14, 2024 issue of Labor Notes, writes in the article, Letter Carriers are Organizing Against an Insulting 1.3 Percent Raise that, “Letter Carriers are Organizing Against an Insulting 1.3 Percent Raise, “A wave of anger is cresting at post offices across the country. Letter carriers are looking at the big raises that other union members have won—38 percent over four years at Boeing, 62 percent in six years at the East Coast ports, \$7.50 in five years at UPS.

They’re comparing those gains to the tentative agreement their president handed them in October: 1.3

percent a year for three years.”

The fundamental difference between the Canadian Postal Workers and Postal Workers in the United States, is that it is legal for the Canadian postal workers to strike. This was the situation in the Great Postal Strike of 1970, American postal workers are breaking the law when they strike.

Postal workers can take pride that in the United States that they are one of the most popular federal agencies, second only to the National Park Service. According to a PEW Poll 72% of the public give the Postal Service a favorable rating. But in 2020, the Postal Service was number 1 with a favorability rating of 91%! Could it be that PMG DeJoy’s Delivering for America plan announced in March of 2021, might be the cause? Closing processing centers and post offices, eliminating pick-ups at stations in the evening, have creating delays in mail deliveries that have not gone unnoticed by postal customers. While PMG DeJoy loves to point fingers at everyone else, his reign may be the reason for such a dramatic drop in satisfaction by the customers he is mandated to serve. ☒

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Join the Union Mail! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



We are seeking talented individuals interested in joining the NY Metro Union Mail team as writers, journalists, editors and/or photographers.



Contact Chuck Zlatkin at [chuck.zlatkin@nymetro.org](mailto:chuck.zlatkin@nymetro.org) or (917) 693-9427 if interested.



# Consolidation Threatens to Rip 'Service' Out of Postal Service

October 30, 2024 / Alexandra Bradbury

Below are major excerpts from the article. To read the entire article please go to <https://www.labornotes.org/2024/10/consolidation-threatens-rip-service-out-postal-service>

Workers are battling an overhaul of the U.S. Postal Service that would cost thousands of jobs and slow the mail for half the country.

In the name of efficiency, a letter mailed within Cheyenne, Wyoming, would travel to Denver and back. And if you miss a package, your local post office would no longer have it. It might be 45 minutes away.

In March, Buffalo became the first place to fend off the closure of its mail processing plant, in a team effort by Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 3 and Postal Workers (APWU) Local 374.

The unions turned out 300 people to picket in front of the plant, and 700 to pack a public hearing, said Branch 3 President David Grosskopf. They deluged USPS with feedback in its online survey.

They lined up the support of their state reps and city council; they got neighboring town councils to pass resolutions too. They even got their senator to call the Postmaster General personally—and it didn't hurt that their senator was Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. Within a few weeks, the plant consolidation was canceled.

## ROBOTIC MEGA-PLANTS

Postal workers are the nation's biggest union workforce—585,000 strong, split across four unions. They're half women, 30 percent Black, and 16 percent veterans.

Thousands of their jobs are at stake under Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's 10-year "Delivering for America"

modernization plan, which would close 200 mail processing plants and funnel all mail to 60 mega-plants called Regional Processing and Distribution Centers (RPDCs), each with a football-field-sized parcel sorting machine—a series of conveyor belts, scanners, and chutes that can sort 5,000 packages an hour.

USPS is chasing its competitors Amazon, UPS, and FedEx, which already have bigger and more automated facilities like the UPS Worldport hub in Louisville, Kentucky, the size of 90 football fields, where a package touches human hands only twice—on its way in, and on its way out—traversing 13 minutes of conveyor belts in between.

The Buffalo mail plant would have been downgraded to a Local Processing Center, handling only incoming letters and flat mail. APWU and Mail Handlers (NPMHU) members no longer needed in the pared-down plant wouldn't technically be laid off, but "excessed": Of course there's still a job for you, 75 miles away at the new mega-plant in Rochester! That's how USPS gets around contractual anti-layoff protections, knowing many workers won't uproot their lives.



A map from USPS shows the small areas where the mail will supposedly get faster, around the new mega-plants, and the vast areas where it will get slower.

Wyoming has only two mail plants, and both are slated to be downgraded, so

all the mail (and many of the jobs) will travel out of state to the nearest RPDC. It used to be that local mail could get there overnight, said mail handler Ricci Roberts, president of the Cheyenne branch of NPMHU Local 321.

Now it will take at least two days, but more likely three or four, she says, as letters travel to Denver and back. There will be no way to separate local mail, because her plant will lose its AFCS machine—the one that sorts raw letters, cancels the stamp, and adds the barcode, all at a speed of 36,000 items an hour. They'll keep their DBCS machine, which sorts incoming mail (at a similar clip) to get it ready for carriers to deliver.

The machines for sorting flats, such as magazines, are also being removed from plants around the country—so don't be surprised if your copy of Labor Notes arrives later than ever.

## DISASTROUS CHANGES

The first RPDCs have already opened, with disastrous results. Machines malfunctioned; the plants were seriously understaffed; the schedule was chaos; managers had no idea what they were doing. Mail piled up, and on-time delivery rates plummeted.

Local news outlets and Congress members sounded the alarm on mail delays. In Richmond, Virginia, colon cancer screening tests for 870 veterans sat so long in the plant that they expired. A museum reported it was missing \$300,000 in membership renewal checks.

In Atlanta, trucks waited three or four hours for their turn at jammed loading docks; the line got so long it backed up onto the highway. In Houston, an anonymous worker tipped off the press that the new sorting machine wouldn't fit

in the new building.

USPS says these are just growing pains. But it has had to slow down, faced with protests and Congressional pressure—especially over how mail delays could affect the election. In May, DeJoy announced he would pause any further plant consolidations until the new year. In September, USPS canceled the downgrading of another eight plants besides Buffalo.

## A PUBLIC TREASURE

Postal Service competitors are all in the package sector. There's nobody else delivering birthday cards and pension checks—because this is a public service, not a money-maker.

True, you can send a document by UPS or FedEx, but it's going to cost you dollars, not cents, and even more for a remote or rural address. Only USPS has a mandate to provide universal service at universal rates. Only USPS visits every doorstep, every day.

Demand for this service has declined in our era of email and electronic payments—but it's still significant. Last year USPS carried 59 billion pieces of first class mail, 3 billion periodicals, and 7 billion packages.

USPS is also still the biggest package shipper, though probably not for long. Last year Amazon leapfrogged UPS, and it is close on the Postal Service's heels.

Muddying those figures is the fact that USPS actually completes the "last mile" of delivery for a substantial share of Amazon and UPS packages. Even as Amazon expands its subcontracted, nonunion delivery force, it's likely to keep leaning on USPS wherever deliveries are too far-flung and labor-intensive to be profitable.

Competition from USPS also keeps a lid on the rates that UPS and FedEx can get away with.

## HUBS AND SPOKES

Under DeJoy's plan, some of the downgraded plants would also

house Sorting and Delivery Centers (S&DCs), another new type of facility: home base for letter carriers from five to 10 zip codes.

There are 31,000 post offices in this country—one per zip code—more than there are Starbucks and McDonald's locations put together. Think of post offices as a web: 99 percent of us have one within 10 miles of home. The new setup would be Amazon-style hubs and spokes.

Many carriers would commute 30-45 minutes to pick up the mail from an S&DC, then drive straight back to their delivery neighborhood in a rickety USPS delivery truck—and reverse those steps again at the end of the day.

## PIECEMEAL PRIVATIZATION

What's behind all the attacks on the postal service? Unlike other public services that are perennially on the chopping block, USPS already gets zero tax dollars.

Yet a string of right-wing politicians, Donald Trump among them, have called for privatizing it. Some European countries have actually done that, to the detriment of customers and workers. The U.K., for instance, privatized the Royal Mail a decade ago; now its parent company plans to resell it to a Czech billionaire.

So far the U.S. public seems unwilling to stomach wholesale postal privatization. But piecemeal privatization started long ago, and the low-hanging fruit have already been picked.

Eighty to 90 percent of letter mail is presorted by private companies, who get a hefty postage discount for taking away union postal work. USPS also contracts out a lot of trucking—some of it to DeJoy's old company, XPO Logistics.

Steve Hutkins, a retired English professor who runs the excellent blog [savethepostoffice.com](http://savethepostoffice.com), sees USPS undergoing a "gradual process of corporatization," so that it is run more with the values of a profit-making business

rather than a public service.

Service cuts, he has observed, generally end up saving less money than anticipated. "Most things that save money involve cutting services," he said. "There's no magic to just being more efficient." And when you slow down the mail, some dissatisfied customers go elsewhere—so you lose revenue, eating into any cost savings.

## A BETTER WAY

Interestingly, this summer DeJoy moved to eliminate some of the presorting discounts for package consolidators. Perhaps this simply makes business sense now that USPS can do the work more cheaply in-house, by replacing workers with machines.

Still, in a press release, APWU President Mark Dimondstein called it "a welcome early step in the right direction" to undo rampant outsourcing.

Postal unionists have their own vision for modernizing USPS: rather than cutting costs, raising revenue by expanding services. Since letter carriers are already visiting every door, why not offer an option where they check in on elderly residents?

Since post offices are already in every community, why not make them hubs for internet access, fishing licenses, passport renewals, electric vehicle charging, and even basic banking as an alternative to predatory check-cashing stands?

"If I were running the Postal Service, I wouldn't want trying to save money to be my top consideration," Hutkins said. "If the emphasis were on improving service rather than cutting costs, you could start talking about what else can the Postal Service do. Jobs are a good thing; they're good for the community. I wouldn't look to be replacing jobs with machines." ☐

*A version of this article appeared in Labor Notes Issue #548, November 2024. Don't miss an issue, subscribe today.*



# The NY Metro Conference Center is Open for Business

By Joseph Martir, Executive Vice President

Good day Sisters and Brothers. In today's fast-paced and increasingly interconnected world, the role of conference centers has evolved from simple meeting venues into dynamic hubs that foster collaboration, innovation, and networking. Whether it's a corporate event, a large-scale industry summit, or an educational seminar, the modern conference center is designed to meet a wide range of needs. Offering state-of-the-art technology, flexible spaces, and an array of services, these centers are more than just a place to gather—they are environments that inspire creativity and drive productivity.

That's why I am proud to announce the New York Metro Area Postal Union Conference Center is now open and available for rent.

The conference center offers the following:

- **Advanced Technology**

Technology is at the heart of every successful event, and conference centers are equipped with cutting-edge tools to support seamless communication and interaction.

This includes high-speed Wi-Fi, audio-visual equipment, video conferencing capabilities, and interactive screens that allow for real-time collaboration.

- **Versatile Spaces**

One of the key benefits of the conference center is the flexibility of its spaces. Whether you're hosting an intimate board meeting, a small convention, or a trade show, the center offers customizable rooms that can be adapted to meet the specific needs of the event. From small breakout rooms to expansive exhibition halls, the layout can be easily adjusted to accommodate various group sizes and purposes.

- **On-site Amenities and Services**

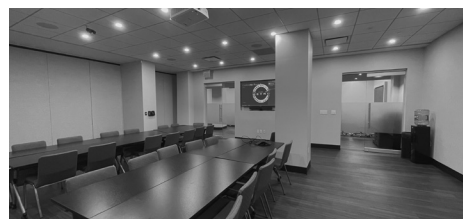
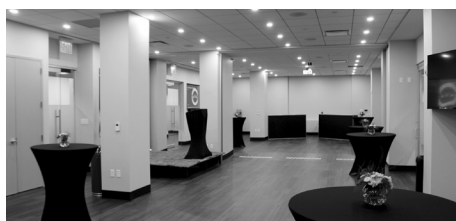
The modern conference center offers more than just meeting rooms. They provide a variety of on-site amenities that enhance the overall experience for attendees. This can include on-site accommodation for multi-day events.

## The Role of the Conference Center is for Business and Education

The evolution of the conference center is not just about providing physical space—it's about creating an environment that enable collaboration and innovation. For businesses, the center serves as neutral grounds where teams can break away from the daily grind and focus on strategy, leadership, and problem-solving. With an increasing number of companies embracing hybrid work models, conference centers have become essential for bringing remote teams together for face-to-face interactions, strengthening team cohesion, and fostering innovation.

In the realm of education, the conference center is invaluable for hosting seminars, workshops, and academic conferences. This provides a platform for knowledge sharing, enabling professionals and scholars from diverse fields to exchange ideas, present research, and engage in thought-provoking discussions.

Finally, the modern conference center is far more than just a meeting venue—it's a thriving ecosystem that supports collaboration, learning, and growth. With its blend of advanced technology, flexible spaces, and a focus on sustainability, the conference center of today is a key player in shaping the future of business, education, and community engagement. Whether you're an organizer, an attendee, or a speaker, the center offers the tools and environments needed to connect, innovate, and succeed in an ever-evolving world. 🌐



# Shop Stewards Appreciation 2024



## All crafts at Church Street wore Metro Cancer t-shirts every Friday in honor of Breast Cancer Month





## POSTAL PRIDE

Frank Hitchcock was the 44th Postmaster General. He served as PMG from 1909 until 1913. He is credited with starting the first U. S. airmail service. His support of air mail led to his enlistment in the Air Corps Reserve, where he rose to the rank of Colonel. Hitchcock was also credited with creating the postal savings system. He also made the prosecution of mail fraud a top priority. But what Hitchcock will most be remembered for is, when in 1912, he authorized local postmasters to allow postal employees and American citizens to reply to letters addressed to Santa Claus.

Originally, people would journey to a designated post office to pick up a letter to Santa. In the 1940s, mail volume increased to the point where the Post Office Department invited charitable organizations and corporations to participate for philanthropic purposes—providing written responses and small gifts. For years, the program invited children to send letters to Santa Claus at 123 Elf Road, North Pole 88888. Operation Santa is a yearly undertaking now with children receiving gifts from donors all across the nation. Beginning in 2019 the “adoption program” started being carried out online. In 2020, more than 1 million people went to USPSOperationSanta.com, resulting in more than 21,000 packages being shipped to children who had sent their wishes to Santa.

In 2024 the Postal Service announced the debut of an online e-commerce catalog for the fulfillment of gifts: Santa’s Gift Shoppe, an online option developed exclusively for USPS Operation Santa letter adopters, powered by Toys”R”Us which offers a streamlined experience, making it easier for participants to shop for the ideal gift and ship it from the comfort of home.

The online catalog boasts a selection of toys and gifts from Toys”R”Us, allowing letter adopters to find something special for each letter writer, while the integration with shipping options from the Postal Service, such as USPS Ground Advantage, helps ensure that gifts are affordable to ship and arrive in time for the holidays.

“USPS Operation Santa has connected communities through holiday goodwill for over a century,” said USPS Marketing Vice President Sheila Holman. “This year, through our collaboration with Toys”R”Us, we’re thrilled to bring an easier way for generous people to make a difference. With the launch of this new e-commerce platform, we’re making it simpler than ever to help fulfill wishes and spread holiday joy.”

The Postal Service tells the public that there isn’t a limit to the number of letters one can adopt. However, they should make sure that they are able to fulfill the letters that they do adopt.

## Postal News Briefs

### New Chair of Postal Board of Governors

During the recent meeting of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors, Amber F. McReynolds was elected to serve as chair of the Board of Governors. McReynolds has served on the Board of Governors since May 2021. She also currently chairs the Board’s Election Mail Committee. Also, The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced the retirement of Joseph “Joe” Corbett, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President, effective December 31, 2024. Luke Grossmann has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President, effective November 30, 2024.

### House passes Social Security Fairness Act

By a 327-75 vote, the House passed the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82), legislation that would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The WEP and GPO are parts of Social Security law that reduce or sometimes eliminate earned benefits for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees, including postal workers. This is a major win for postal workers and other federal annuitants who have been victimized by the WEP and GPO for decades.

### NLRB Bans Captive Audience Meetings

Recently, the National Labor Relations Board issued a decision in Amazon.com Services LLC, ruling that an employer violates the National Labor Relations Act by requiring employees under threat of discipline or discharge to attend meetings in which the employer expresses its views on unionization. AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said,

“NLRB again demonstrated its commitment to working people with the decision to ban captive audience meetings, a coercive tool bosses regularly use to gain an unfair advantage before union elections.”

## APWU LOCAL BLDG. CORP

Building Corp for the end of 2024 will be available in the January 2025 issue.

## CALENDAR

**\*\*There is no Union Meeting during December**

**Next Union Meeting Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

## ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

### Members Only!

- Download Zoom App
- Enter Meeting ID #548-304-2304
- Mute audio
- Video must be on

**\*\*For news, upcoming events and more, visit our website at [nymetro.org](http://nymetro.org)**

**SISTERS!** As an APWU member, you are a member of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R. (Post Office Women for Equal Rights). Prior to the pandemic, all sisters were invited to P.O.W.E.R. meetings at the Union Office on the 4th Thursday of every month at 1:00pm. Because of social distancing concerns, Diane Erlanger, Director of Organization, and Chairperson of NY Metro P.O.W.E.R., told the Union Mail that we would be holding the P.O.W.E.R. meetings on ZOOM at a later time -- 5:30 pm.



### NEXT MEETING:

**\*\*There is no December meeting**  
ZOOM Meeting ID #239-026-1053

[Follow ZOOM instructions outlined for the Membership meeting on this page.]

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**We are seeking talented individuals interested in joining the NY Metro Union Mail team as writers, journalists, editors and/or photographers.**



Contact Chuck Zlatkin at [chuck.zlatkin@nymetro.org](mailto:chuck.zlatkin@nymetro.org) or (917) 693-9427 if interested.

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## *Season's Greetings to All*

**2024 has been another year filled with struggle, but we have survived.**

Postal workers continued to do our jobs to serve the American people. Those customers that we serve continue to hold the Postal Service and postal workers in high regard.

The continued implementation of the Delivery for America – 10 Year Plan to raise prices and cut services has made our jobs more difficult. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has failed in his responsibility to protect and promote the Postal Service, but we, the employees, have stepped up to fulfill our responsibilities regardless of the lack of support from those mandated to lead us.

We would like to also remind and encourage you to support our APWU National negotiators by wearing your union gear every Thursday, as they continue to negotiate our new contract. We also would appreciate your support for your local leadership team by volunteering to become a shop steward, attending union meetings, call the union office and sign-up for the members only email blast (212-563-7553) and treating each other with dignity and respect.

Through the work of many, but with the leadership of the New York Metro Area Postal Workers Union, we have been able to publicize the lack of competent leadership at the helm of the Postal Service and how that impacts negatively on the people we serve. Now, more than ever, it remains part of our challenge to make sure that Postmaster General Louis DeJoy either resigns or is removed from office.

As we stay committed to our work to serve the American people, it is essential that we continue the fight against postal privatization, and stay committed to protecting a public Postal Service, our jobs and our retirement. The Postal Service is a necessary element of this nation's infrastructure, and the committed work of our members is the main reason why.

As we approach the holidays, we will continue to do our work, even when not supported by those in leadership. It is also most important that as we approach the New Year, we remember to acknowledge those closest to us and let them know how much they mean to us.

*Happy holiday season.*

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