



The

Union Mail

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

February: Celebrating Black Heritage



*"Our lives begin to end
the day we become silent
about things that matter."*

Martin Luther King Jr.

President's Letter — pg. 2

"I am because you are."



Jonathan Smith

I am because you are" is an old African Proverb that my grandfather would say often, I did not fully understand its meaning until well after his death in 1991.

The phrase means that 'a person is a person through other people'. Or as others like to put it, 'i am what I am because of who we all are'. We are connected to one another. We are one people. I belong to you, and you belong to me. We owe our humanity to each other. Your peace and progress is connected to my peace and progress. Your fulfilment is connected to my fulfilment. You cannot be fulfilled by seeking only your interests and likewise, I cannot be fulfilled by being self-centered. And because we belong to one another, we should be concerned when other humans are being diminished or discriminated against. There is only one race and that is the human race. Let's look out for one another. Let's love one another. Where there is hatred, let's show love. Where there is war, let's plant peace. Where there is darkness let's shine our light. We are stronger, better and greater when we are together. "We must live together as brothers and sisters or perish together as fools" (MLK Jr.) Be human!

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and nonviolent change continues to inspire me and hopefully all of us to dream of a better, more inclusive world. I hope to see a movement to carry his dream forward of building a future where love triumphs over hate and freedom belongs to everyone. My dream is that this movement ensures access to the same opportunities for all

humankind. Inspired by the words of Dr. King, "We must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future."

From his leadership in the Birmingham Campaign to the historic March on Washington, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr.'s journey was marked by resilience and transformative milestones. Each step brought society closer to justice and equality, leaving a legacy of courage and determination.

As your president, I know that I must lead with the example MLK showed, of courage and determination. We have some very turbulent times ahead with consolidation, excessing and privatization knocking at our door. The very existence of the people's post office is under the most serious attack in our illustrious history. But I am comforted by my faith!

Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27)

While most people are familiar with Dr. King's history with justice and racial equality many people are not familiar with his history with the labor movement. His iconic "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech was delivered in support of striking sanitation workers in Memphis, TN on April 3, 1968, the day before he was assassinated.

In 1962, in a letter to laundry workers union, Dr King said, "As I have said many times, and believe with all my heart, the coalition that can have the greatest impact in the struggle for human dignity here in America is that of the Negro and the forces of labor, because their fortunes are so closely intertwined."

In 1961 at the AFL-CIO National Convention, King spoke, "Negroes are almost entirely a working people. There are pitifully few Negro millionaires, and few Negro employers. Our needs are identical with labor's needs — decent wages, fair working conditions, livable

housing, old age security, health and welfare measures, conditions in which families can grow, have education for their children and respect in the community. That is why Negroes support labor's demands and fight laws which curb labor. That is why the labor-hater and labor-baiter is virtually always a twin-headed creature spewing anti-Negro epithets from one mouth and anti-labor propaganda from the other mouth."

Martin Luther King, Jr believed that the labor movement enlarged the strength of the nation. King supported the rights of union membership and was a critic of employment laws that attempted to stifle union membership.

This is why in 2025, we still honor the life and work of Martin Luther King and follow his example in fighting on for justice for working people. ☐

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Chuck Zlatkin, editor
Francesca Adams, graphic designer

www.nymetro.org

To contact your officers, call 212.563.7553.

- President**
Jonathan Smith Ext. 108
- Executive Vice President**
Joseph Martir Ext. 110
- Dir. Ind Relations**
Edward Dalton Ext. 106
- Secretary-Treasurer**
Denisha Dobbins Ext. 107
- Dir. Organization**
Diane Erlanger Ext. 105



Metro NY
Labor
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LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL REPORT:

As the New Year begins...

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

Social Security Fairness Act is now law

On January 6, 2025, President Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) into law, delivering a hard-fought victory for postal workers and others. The legislation, which was overwhelmingly passed by the Senate on Dec. 20 and the House on Nov. 12, will ensure that affected Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees no longer face unfair reductions in their Social Security benefits. The Social Security Fairness Act repeals the WEP and GPO provisions in Social Security law that previously unfairly reduced or eliminated Social Security benefits for certain CSRS federal annuitants, including postal workers.

Taub becomes Vice Chairman of Postal Regulatory Commission

The Postal Regulatory Commission voted unanimously to designate Commissioner Robert G. Taub as vice chairman of the Commission effective January 1, 2025, succeeding Commissioner Tom Day. Agency regulations provide that the commissioners elect a member to serve as vice chairman for a term of one year.



Under the bus

In an interview with KNSD in San Diego, Albergo stated that the situation with postal workers, "As bad as you think it is, it's much worse!"

He stated that new employees, only work for a few months at the Postal Service." "They're literally only getting the job, so they can steal mail and quit! I mean it's amazing!" He continues. "You have criminal organizations, gangs, that are actually recruiting people to get a job in the Postal Service, so they can rob mail and drain bank accounts."

DOGE to focus on Postal Service

Right-wing proponents of privatization of the Postal Service have joined in with gusto to present "information" to the DOGE appointees of the incoming Trump administration, Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy. The two anti-union billionaires have received communication from the likes of Paul Steidler, a Senior Fellow with the right-wing Lexington Institute. Steidler wants to institute pension reforms, downsize operations, halt the Delivering for America plan, eliminate worker protection on the work-floor, and rapidly start AI in the Postal Service. Under the guise of efficiency and savings, Steidler wants to weaken union protections for postal workers.

President Trump wants to privatize the Postal Service

President-elect Donald Trump said, prior to his inauguration, that he's considering trying to privatize the U.S. Postal Service, he has long sought major cuts to the federal agency—that may now be possible in his second term.

Postal Police Officers out for themselves

When the Postal Service attempted to limit the scope of where Postal Police Officers can work, postal workers were in support of the Postal Police union in their fight with the Postal Service. But now with the recent remarks by Frank Albergo, the president of the Postal Police Officers Association, postal workers will be reassessing that support. Albergo in his attempt to gain popular support for his postal police, has decided to throw postal workers. ☐

Trump wants to dump DeJoy!

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

In a major surprise, President Donald J. Trump is looking to replace Louis DeJoy as Postmaster General of the United States (PMG). Originally appointed by Trump, DeJoy, who was a major donor and supporter of Trump, appeared to be serving the interests of the Trump administration in his tenure as PMG. But as reported by the Washington Post, “Donald Trump’s transition team is vetting candidates to replace Postmaster General Louis DeJoy even though Trump won’t have direct authority to fire him, according to four people familiar with the conversations, an early signal of the incoming administration’s plans to exert control over —privatize— the nation’s mail service.” Trump has great leverage in the future of the Postal Service as there are now four vacancies on the Postal Board of Governors. Last year, the Democrat-controlled Senate chose not to vote on President Biden’s nominees for the 9 member board, leaving the appointments to Trump. Among the

existing board are three Republicans, two who were initially nominated by Trump in his previous term.

According to the Washington Post, Trump is considering three nominees: Robert Taub, the vice chair of the Postal Regulatory Commission and former congressional chief of staff and special assistant to the secretary of the Army; Thomas Day, a member of the commission who had a 30-year career as an executive at the Postal Service.; Jim Cochrane, the chief executive of the Package Shippers Association, a trade group that represents companies including Amazon, DHL, FedEx and EasyPost. Previously, he was a consultant and Postal Service executive.

The board, then made up solely of Trump appointees, hired DeJoy in June 2020, as the Postal Service fought to survive pandemic-related financial distress and delivery woes. Before moving to the Postal Service, he served as a senior GOP official and donated more than \$2 million to the Trump

campaign and Republican causes.

People speculate that Trump’s opinion of DeJoy changed because the PMG’s leadership during the 2020 election season led to the relative success of voting by mail took place during an election that Trump lost. This has not escaped the knowledge of those entrusted with the determination of who should lead the Postal Service during this time in their vetting procedure. It has been reported that DeJoy did travel to Mar-a-Lago to meet with Trump and VP-Elect Vance in December 2024.

It is not known how the following action will impact the Postal Service, postal employees, and Louis DeJoy, but President Trump in his first days in his new term, took aim at diversity efforts within and without the government. Trump ordered federal officials overseeing government D.E.I. efforts to be put on leave. ☞



■ US President Donald Trump.



■ US Postmaster General Louis DeJoy.

Overworked, overwhelmed, and burnt out.

By Jonathan Smith, President of NY Metro Area Postal Union

2025 is here, but some challenges for the Postal Service feel all too familiar. We still have not completely recovered from the negative impact of the pandemic, letter mail is constantly dropping in volume, our short staffing has impacted our customer service ability, with lines going out the door because we just don’t have enough clerks to meet the public demand. The post office executive leadership constant attacks to close postal facilities in the poorest communities.

Inflation is making it harder to stretch your paycheck. The truth is our paychecks are just not keeping up with inflation. This dilemma in wage stagnation is making overtime more of a necessity than a desire. The price of groceries and gas, and everyday needs are through the roof.

The rise of Artificial intelligence (AI) while the post office keeps experimenting and investing in mail processing equipment designed not to assist us but to ultimately replace us. We have self-service lines in our customer service operations and what is sad is we have clerks encouraging the public to use these machines that are designed to eliminate their jobs. I absolutely refuse to use self-checkout lines in any store because I know why they are there. Plus, I don’t work there so why should I be ringing up and bagging my own shopping goods? If I do, it better come with a paycheck.

We also have new problems that

we have never faced before such as job security and layoffs especially as the postal service balks at their constitutional commitment to delivering America’s mail efficiently and promptly. PMG DeJoy is playing with America’s intelligence by changing the delivery standards, so the mail can legally get to its destination later, while at the same time telling the American people that the mail is arriving on time at a better than 90% efficiency rate. Liar. DeJoy is making and attempting to remove mail from airplanes and send everything on trucks and claim it will arrive at its destination just as fast. This defies the laws of common sense, liar. He is not only playing with the mail he is playing with our intelligence.

The worst impact of these challenges is that it eliminates the work-life balance. Missing holidays, our children’s /plays, or sporting events is not what we desire. When we request annual leave (that we have earned) we are being denied claiming “needs of service “even on our rest-days. Work is supposed to help us enjoy life. The Postal Service has made it so we need to work simply to survive.

DeJoy says that he is refurbishing facilities to build morale, well, let me give DeJoy a message: if you are serious about building morale, start by addressing your abusive supervisors that let their positions go to their heads. They need to treat their employees with dignity and respect. Stop



excessing positions, and staff these facilities properly so the employees don’t have to kill themselves and lines won’t go outside the doors of these facilities. Give us a decent raise in our current contract negotiations that signifies your sincere appreciation of our service. This would be a good start.

I was always taught that respect is what you do, not what you say. Mr. DeJoy: your actions speak so loudly; I can’t hear a word that you say. You claim to visit facilities all the time, which is usually carefully staged and orchestrated to give you a false sense of accomplishment, because the goal is to feed your massive ego and not to tell the true story of the struggles of the workforce. If you ever took an honest look at postal employees, you would find the most dedicated, committed, and loyal workforce you have ever seen, but because of their unwavering commitment to deliver America’s mail you will also find they are overworked, overwhelmed, and burnt out! ☞

Postmaster General DeJoy Speaks Before Senate and House Committees

By Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative and Political Director

Louis DeJoy is a piece of work. He is also the Postmaster General of the United States (PMG) and has been so since he was appointed in May of 2020 unanimously by the Postal Board of Governors. DeJoy became the fifth Postmaster General to join the institution from the private sector. Early on in his tenure it didn't look as if DeJoy was going to survive.

When DeJoy first assumed his position in June of 2020 he decided to his the floor running. He was going to institute massive changes quickly. The first thing he did was to abandon overtime for postal workers and to eliminate the addition of extra trips to make sure mail was delivered. He also continued the closing out of mail-sorting machines which had been instituted before he took over. DeJoy also continued eliminating mail collection boxes from the street.

These all seemed like good ideas to DeJoy because it would reduce cost. What he didn't take into consideration was the fact that mail was being delayed. There was a pandemic going on and the 2020 presidential election was coming up. There were investigations launched by the Office of the Inspector General of the USPS and various committees of Congress. The heat was on.

DeJoy had no choice by to give in to the pressure. He stated that the changes would all be suspended until after the election.

While it still appeared to some that DeJoy might be in trouble because of various charges made about his past behavior, a true metamorphosis was taking place. As one after another of the charges were dropped against DeJoy, he was cultivating relationships.

One area where DeJoy gained lots of respect was in his work to curry favor for the passage of the Postal Reform Act of 2022 among Republicans. To pass, the bill had to be bipartisan. Most people give credit to DeJoy in swinging a significant number of GOPers to guarantee the passage of the bill. Of course, the fact that DeJoy and his wife Aldona Wos have been big donors to Republican candidates for federal office for years, played a role in getting movement on the bill from Republicans. DeJoy had no problem working with Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) to gather bipartisan support for the bill.

Another area where DeJoy gained lots of respect was in the delivery of almost 400 million COVID-19 test kits by the Postal Service. But with all that good will, the ongoing problems with mail delays was something that plagued

the Postal Service landing in the lap of PMG DeJoy.

On Thursday, December 5, 2024 DeJoy testified before the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee for Oversight of the United States Postal Service. It wasn't a walk in the park for DeJoy. Postmaster DeJoy defended the agency's performance and plans, citing efforts to modernize the postal system through its 10-year "Delivering for America" initiative. He faced some tough question from Senators but none were more difficult than the questioning he received from Senator John Ossoff (D-GA). "Delivery in Georgia has been abysmal this year," said Sen. Jon Ossoff. Ossoff confronted DeJoy, "Has your tenure as Postmaster General been a success," Ossoff asked.

"Senator, I know how you feel about me, you've been quite public," DeJoy responded. "You think I'm a failure, fine, I don't.

On December 19, 2024, DeJoy spoke before the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability. DeJoy got some headlines from his response to criticism from Congressman Rich McCormick (R-GA). When DeJoy didn't like what he was hearing he covered his ears! McCormick was shocked but managed to say, "I hope you got that on camera!"

The Enemy Within

By Leo Persails

Taken from the NPC Newsletter, September, 2024

Turning the Postal Service over to private industry isn't a new idea. It's been supported for years by people outside our ranks. The Republican Party has been in power for 17 of the last 21 years. Former President Reagan formulated a committee specifically designed to investigate and report on the Postal Service. It didn't come as any shock when the main report of that committee recommended that private industry take over the Postal Service. The fact that the Republican Party is still trying to give the Postal Service to private industry under the present Bush (senior) Administration is also obvious. The changes made in the last year, and projections for the near future, show a trend to change us to a private concept that could easily result in a private takeover. There are many old Postal people who will say taking over the USPS isn't possible, simply based on history. It's true that we are unique in that we serve every hamlet and village throughout this great land. It's true that our postage rate is the lowest in the world. It's true our production rate and volume of handling are higher than those of the rest of the world. In fact, we are probably the only major business that other countries can't do cheaper. Other companies, like GM, Ford, or Chrysler may reap great profits by building cars with cheap labor in Korea, Mexico, or other countries, but that can't be duplicated with mail. Those countries, and others like them, can't move their own mail as cheaply as we move ours. Nothing beats a 25 cent stamp when you compare it with the cost of postage around the world. In addition, nothing compares to a 25 cent stamp when you compare it to



In Memoriam

Leo Francis Persails

November 17, 1989 – April 3, 2024

the cost of anything else. You can't buy anything for 25 cents anymore, and it doesn't matter what you want or where you are. A candy bar from a machine starts at 50 cents and everything goes up from there. A 25 cent stamp will send a message from one side of this country to another and hand deliver it to its destination. It's a plain and simple fact; You can't beat the value of a 25 cent stamp. We know all of that's true, and most of the public would also, if they took the time to consider it. The fact that it's true won't save us, because the people who want to own the Postal Service don't care about the service it provides or the money it saves the public. They care about one thing; the profit that can be made if the government turns over the Postal Service. The 25 cent stamp will be gone with the \$3000 and \$4000 car. It will be a thing of the past, like the

\$10 phone bill, and the \$100 plane ride. "They have tried to get us before," some say, "and they never have. What makes you think they can do it now?" The answer to that is simple. They no longer are attacking us from the outside. THE ENEMY IS WITHIN. They couldn't destroy the USPS as long as we provided the great service at the rate we do. They realize that in order to destroy the USPS, all they had to do was destroy the service. They had to enter with decision-making people who would destroy the service – people who would structure and mold us into something that duplicated private industry. The reason for that also, was simple. If we resembled private industry, then private industry would be able to take over. If the service were destroyed, the public would obviously support private industry taking over. To accomplish this, someone had to be put in charge to promote and accomplish their goals. There would have to be members put on the board of governors who supported their goals. That was easy to do, because the governors are appointed and the Republicans were in office for 17 years. They next needed a Postmaster General who would destroy us from within. That too, was easy. The PMG is appointed by the board of governors. It admittedly took them a while, because every PMG they appointed was impressed with the dedication and effort of our tradition. That converted a lot of PMG's to support the USPS and its employees. These PMGs found, as all before them had, that the employees are the service. The great tradition of the USPS had been handed down from employee to employee,

and therefore the service and tradition still existed. They learned that, in order to destroy the USPS, it would be necessary to destroy its employees and tradition. A plan was devised and finally a PMG was appointed to do just that. It's also possible he may have designed the plan himself, but regardless of where it came from, it's in effect. Our survival as the USPS is being put to the test. Employees are being fired at the fabled rate in our history. Excessing and cuts in hours are happening everywhere. Consolidation of MSCs and elimination of jobs, both management and bargaining unit are being ordered, while our work is given away. Job security is a thing of the past for everyone, including management. These people even eat their own. The greatest threat to all this is the employees of small offices throughout this land. Small offices are the backbone of the USPS. Small offices provide service to every American regardless of profit, plain and simple, they keep private industry out. The Postmaster General is ordering attacks on postal employees. He is demanding personnel cuts, both in management and in the bargaining unit. He is purchasing equipment and machinery at a blinding pace. A recent purchase request for \$800 million worth of bar code readers demon-

strates his push for automation. That is three times the number of other letter sorting machines currently operating nationwide. Don't confuse bar code readers with LSMs. Bar code readers don't require operators like LSMs do. Bar code readers can also sort mail so it eliminates carriers sort time as well as clerk sort time. Management – at least at the top – also has programs in the works to supply the necessary knowledge to businesses so they can bar code their own mail. It's like pre-sort mail is now, going directly to the carrier, only this type of pre-sort will increase by the thousands. I know some will say that this is only automation, which has always increased jobs before. You must understand that under this PMG, employment has to be reduced. The plan requires a cut in hours every time equipment is purchased. A dollar-for-dollar savings must be demonstrated to this PMG – or else.

A perfect example of that arose at a recent meeting in the Central Region. We were advised that 280 window clerk hours would be eliminated during the fiscal year. I asked if they were aware that Sears wasn't playing Post Office anymore, and would that cause the number to be reevaluated. I was told by one of their experts on automation that

contracting-out had no bearing on the reduction. I asked what did, and was told that the cost of the IRTs caused the reduction. I explained that the IRTs don't replace window clerks. IRTs might assist clerks in providing better service, but they don't replace them. I was then advised that the cost had to be made up, regardless. That type of mentality makes this use of automation different from any before it. This automation isn't designed or supplied to improve service. It is supplied to ELIMINATE EMPLOYEES. Their plan is obvious if you know their goals. They want to buy machines under the guise of improved production and lower labor costs. But they have to justify the cost, especially for amounts like \$800 million. So, jobs are eliminated. When employees are eliminated, particularly on a large scale, so is service. Management's goal is to eliminate small offices, establish mail factories that can't work, and replace people who provide service with machines that don't. If the USPS emerges as 100 mail factories that can't provide service, private industry can do no worse. It doesn't matter whether it works or not. If it did, they wouldn't change it in the first place. The enemy is no longer on the outside, the enemy is within. The enemy is destroying the best postal

service in the world, intentionally and from the inside. There can be no other reason for asking Sears and others to do our work. We can't control the service others would perform. So obviously we are giving away work without control of service. It's true Sears has nationally withdrawn from this job offer by the USPS, but the PMG will give it to anyone who will take it, and he is still trying. What business gives away its work without control of the service unless it doesn't care about the service? You should also be aware that postal officials are seeking to change next-day delivery requirements, yet another attack on service. The current leaders have turned the Postal Service into a runaway locomotive, and a lot of unsuspecting people are adding fuel without knowing it. They do it either because they are afraid for their jobs, or because they think they will be taken care of if only they shut up. I have news for them, if the service goes, so will their jobs. If the clerk craft and other APWU crafts are eliminated, how many supervisors will it take to supervise machines? If the supervisors are eliminated, how many managers will it take to manage nobody? It doesn't matter about the mail handlers either. If there are no clerk jobs to get, their union will have nothing to do. And if the carriers think they are the only ones left, that is the biggest joke of all. Who will they drink coffee with during EI meetings? And what will be done with the excess carriers when case time is no longer required? Do they think cluster boxes and other schemes for mail pick up by the public haven't been considered? If not, they will be when you're the last ones left and the enemy comes for you. THE ENEMY IS WITHIN, and we had all better realize it and prepare to fight. If they destroy the service, private industry will pick up the pieces, and 700,000

of us will be looking for work. The headhunters the PMG is using had better realize that their heads will roll too. The APWU has always led the way in battling these problems, and we obviously will here also. We have no choice. Nobody else is, and our jobs are at stake. We are first on the firing line, and as usual, our crafts will receive the most cuts. Some management jobs are being cut, with more of the same planned for carriers and mail handlers. Top management even plans to pit office against office to keep work. They tell us that low productions and grievances cause problems with the "decision gods." They use fear of excessing, and they pit craft against craft, as well as office against office. The choice is clear: We can either lie down and take what they give us, or stand up and have some chance of stopping them. I say we STAND UP. If the USPS is destroyed, I don't want to be part of helping it happen. Stopping a runaway locomotive won't be easy, but lying down won't even slow it. We need all crafts and managers who really care about our jobs, and the USPS itself, to get involved before it's too late. The enemy is within, and if we are to prevail, everyone has to be involved. The USPS leadership has to be exposed for what they are doing, and for what is happening inside. They can't be helped in reaching their goal of destroying employees and the USPS itself. We all have to stand together in this fight, and we have to do it now. The service cuts have to be exposed, and any inside information on that has to reach Congress and the public. The APWU can't fight this battle alone, and we shouldn't. If the tradition of the USPS is going to survive, if our children and others will ever find a career in the USPS, and if someone will remain to support our retirement the battle has to start now, and it needs every one of us.

The current leaders in Washington are on a self-destruct path. They are a new breed of management, and they require managers to blindly follow, or else. Nobody is safe under their leadership, and that includes all of us. Because you do a good job or suck up won't stop them. That's proven in their MSC consolidations. Everyone in the way was hit by that steamroller, and the after-effects are still coming down. Those driving the steamroller may have thought it was fun, but we will see what they think when they become the targets. This battle can't be won by retirement either. Someone has to pay into that fund to keep payments coming. Everyone is in this battle, and they better get involved. We're not only fighting private hawks and Republican politicians on the outside. The enemy is within, and is destroying the USPS. We all have to get involved, and we have to do it now. ☐

Editor's Note: The preceding article first appeared in the Michigan Postal Workers Union publication in 1989. I recently noticed that it is still being circulated and reprinted in various publications around the nation and felt that it needs to be republished once again in our own Messenger. Joe Foster from the Charlotte Area Local and Editor of the "Perspectives" said this in his reprint of this article: "The first and only time I met the author of the article was at a PPA editor's conference in Milwaukee, WI. This much I know about Leo Persails: He is highly regarded by my PPA counterparts. His views are based on long years of harsh experience, and he has written perhaps the scariest analysis of current postal events that I've seen yet. It has been lightly edited for technical reasons – punctuation, sentence structure, etc. Read it, then pass it along to someone else – like your supervisor, or that non-member at the next case who thinks a few bucks for union dues are too much. The war is on, the stakes are high, and if we are to save the Postal Service as an institution of, by, and for the people, we will have to do it ourselves. Ignore Persails at your own risk. You could end up unemployed."

— reprint Originally published in 1989



POSTAL PRIDE

Charity Adams Earley was the first African American woman to become an officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. She served as the commanding officer of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, which was an all-Black battalion of 855 women that managed postal services, delivering mail to over seven million soldiers in World War II. It was the only predominately Black US Women's Army Corps unit that was sent overseas during the war. Most of the unit served as postal clerks. Adams was the highest-ranking African-American woman in the army by the completion of the war. The group had a motto, "No mail, low morale".

While the feat was daunting enough, the almost entirely Black battalion also had to confront racism and misogyny.

In 2018 a monument honoring Adams was dedicated at Fort Lee, VA and was renamed Fort Gregg-Adams in 2023 for Earley and Lieutenant General Arthur J. Gregg. It was the first U. S. military base named for African-Americans.

An award-winning movie, "The Six Triple Eight" was made in 2024, directed and co-written by Tyler Perry, featuring the work of the unit starring Kerry Washington as Charity Adams.

By the completion of the war, Lieutenant Colonel Adams was the highest ranking African-American woman in the military. When asked about her groundbreaking achievements, Adams responded simply: "I just wanted to do my job." After celebrating victory, she left the service in 1946 to continue her education.

The Dayton Public Schools named one of their schools the "Charity Adams Earley Girls Academy" in her honor. In 1982, she was listed by the Smithsonian Institution as one of the 110 most important Black women American history.

On March 22, 2022, President Biden signed legislation awarding Charity Adams and the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor.

In October 2023, the Dayton Branch NAACP honored Lt. Col Charity Adams Earley by establishing The Lt. Col. Charity Adams Earley Award of Excellence.

Postal News Briefs

Trump wants to privatize Postal Service

According to the Washington Post "President-elect Donald Trump's transition team is vetting candidates to replace Postmaster General Louis DeJoy even though Trump won't have direct authority to fire him, according to four people familiar with the conversations, an early signal of the incoming administration's plans to exert control over—or privatize—the nation's mail service."

Retirement Incentive announced

On Jan. 13, 2025, the United States Postal Service and the American Postal Workers Union have mutually agreed to a one-time Retirement Incentive, including an "early out" option for eligible employees.

The parties agree that the Postal Service will make lump sum incentive payments totaling \$15,000 (less applicable taxes and deductions) to eligible full-time career employees who choose optional retirement or retire pursuant to a Voluntary Early Retirement (VER). Part-time employees will be eligible for a prorated amount, as provided in the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

New sorting and delivery centers begin February 22

The Postal Service is planning to launch twelve new sorting and delivery centers (S&DC) around the nation on February 22, 2025. These S&DCs are an essential part of the Delivering for America plan for an improved processing and delivery network. The Postal Service has targeted certain areas where it will aggregate delivery units into fewer, larger, centrally located S&DCs to simplify the entire network and create a more reliable and efficient Postal Service.

Bill to hold Postal Service Responsible for late delivery of bills

U.S. Representatives Sam Graves (R-MO), Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO), and Mark Alford (R-MO) re-introduced the Pony Up Act which would protect consumers by putting the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) on the hook for late delivery of bills. The legislation was originally introduced in the 118th Congress. Cosponsoring the legislation were Reps. Mike Bost (R-IL), Mike Collins (R-GA), Tracey Mann (R-KS), and Pete Stauber (R-MN).

APWU LOCAL BLDG. CORP

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

CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 19

5:30pm
General Membership Meeting
Via ZOOM

Wednesday, March 19

5:30pm
General Membership Meeting
Via ZOOM

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

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:

Wednesday, February 26

ZOOM Meeting ID #239-026-1053

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



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 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 or (917) 693-9427 if interested.



New York Metro Area Local, APWU
350 West 31st Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10001

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