

THE SAN FRANCISCO REGION

SENTINEL



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FRIENDS, FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES.....LEND ME YOUR EAR

FROM THE DESK OF: JAMES SCOGGINS

In January of this year Sonia and I had the pleasure and honor to participate in the Los Angeles Teacher's strike, which resulted from the Los Angeles Unified School District's failure to negotiate a much-deserved collective bargaining agreement. Within a week or so after the teachers went on strike a negotiated collective bargaining agreement was reached. However, as important as this event was, that is not the subject of this article.

To get to this event we took the gold-line light rail from Pasadena to the Union Train Station in downtown Los Angeles where we had to transfer and take the red-line light rail to our destination. While we were waiting on the platform proudly wearing our APWU gear, we were approached by a young man who appeared to be in his mid-thirties and he told us that his father retired from the USPS and was a member of the San Diego Area Local. The gentleman went to tell us that while his dad was still employed and when he was a senior in high school that he applied for one of the APWU Scholarship Funds and he got it. He went on to say how that made such a positive impression on his life, which is

why he was out supporting the striking teachers in their efforts. Oh yeah and let me back up a little bit, this young man is now a psychologist with the Los Angeles Unified School District and on this particular day it was raining cats and dogs, yet he took the time to come out and support the teacher's union and their efforts.

I'm sharing this encounter with you all because it is apparent that this man's dad educated and exposed him to the benefits of the union while he was a child and now that he is a grown man, he obviously never forgot the positive impact the union had on his life and that of his family. It is therefore important that our current members, especially those that are still raising children to let our children and grandchildren know what the union is doing for postal workers throughout the nation and how it benefits the families, neighborhoods and communities of postal workers as well.

This most important task may be achieved by taking our children and other family members with us to participate in the upcoming National Day of Action because when they see your commitment and passion to protect our jobs and possibly their futures it will be a lesson that I am sure that they will never forget. Teach them through example that there are some things in life that require us to not just sit on the sideline as observers, but rather become active

participants who are making our concerns public in an effort to maintain our right to a living wage. By taking this campaign to the street we are demonstrating to our children, family members and friends that not only is this fight just for postal workers, it is also for everyone who receives U.S. Mail and/or uses the services of the U.S. postal service. The reason being is because if the postal service is privatized there may be some neighborhoods that private companies may not deliver to; there may be others that will be charged more for delivery than others; and yet other private companies may not even deliver to certain areas at all, unlike the U.S. postal service who delivers to everyone for the same price. Additionally, bring as many people as you can with you on the National Day Action so that collectively we can get the word out that the postal service does not cost the public anything because the postal service does not receive any tax dollars from America.

My brothers and sisters, union jobs are rapidly becoming an endangered species in America and the privatization of the postal service is so close to being a reality that it frightens me as it should you. Now is the time to take action, but union stewards and officers cannot do it by themselves, they need the help of every postal employee and their circle of friends and family members to make sure the word gets out. We cannot succeed in saving the postal service from privatization without the help of family, friends and the community. So, ask your local stewards, local officers, National Business Agents and National Headquarter officers what can you do to get involved with saving the postal service.

Go to the following link to have your voices heard:
www.usmailnotforsale.org

The struggle Continues,

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WHO NEEDS THE UNION?

FROM THE DESK OF: CHUCK LOCKE

You may have said to yourself, who needs the Union? The truth is, we all need and benefit from the Union. Today's Union serves the same purpose for which it was originally founded. Unions were formed to raise the standard of the working class by increasing wages and benefits for both workers and their families, fighting for better working conditions, and workers safety. Without the Union as we know it today, there would still be sweatshop conditions, child labor, unlivable wages, and 70-hour work weeks.

Employers today are trying to shed their responsibility to provide employees with health insurance, good pensions, reasonable work hours, and a safe work place. As the nature of our work has changed over the past 20 years, we rely more on the collective voices and bargaining power the APWU provides to keep management from making the workplace intolerable. So, the next time you hear someone say who needs the Union, speak up and tell them "we all do!"

The APWU has filed a National Dispute under Article 1.5 claiming a new position should be created related to the monitoring of retail operations in the Consumer Affairs office. In the 2010 Collective Bargaining Agreement, the parties agreed to assign/reassign all nonmanagerial and nonsupervisory work to the Clerk Craft. This dispute attempts to hold management accountable to what they have agreed.

2019 will be bring us a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. The APWU has been fighting hard to gain better working conditions, wages, and benefits for our members. Individually we would not be able to negotiate for ourselves the wages and benefits that we all enjoy today. Collectively we can and will win this fight. United we are strong and have the power to take on the Postal Service.

Thank you for being a member of the American Postal Workers Union. You are the backbone of our Union and we couldn't do it without you!

Democrat or Republican?

Now that I have your attention, the answer is who cares. Whether your congressional representative is a Democrat or Republican doesn't really matter, what matters is how they vote. Here are some of the Bills currently being purposed in the House of Representatives.

House Bill 60 attempts to bring back delivery standers to the 2012 levels.

House Bill 54 fights to keep 6-day delivery for all.

House Bill 33 would continue the Postal Services independent off budget status and not be subject to privatization.

House Bill 23 would maintain door to door delivery. I encourage you to contact your representative and ask them to support the above House Bills. You can view your representative's voting record on line at Congressional Votes Database - GovTrack.us.

President Trump's budget is an insult to all postal employees. It openly calls for the elimination of collective bargaining, cutting wages, and reducing retirement benefits. I don't know about you, but I am not living a life of luxury. I just received my FERS retirement estimate after 32 years in the Post Office and it wouldn't even pay my rent. If it wasn't for the FERS annuity and social security, which Trump is also attempting to eliminate, FERS employees would retire in poverty or be forced to work until we die. The White House task force recommended over a dozen cuts to service as well. This included the closing of post offices, increasing prices for services, reduced delivery days, and placing limits on business expansion. The report also recommended more contracting out of our work, mailbox franchising, which would allow other companies access to mail boxes for a fee, and ending unprofitable services. All of these recommendations would lead to the loss of thousands of good Union jobs. One of which could be yours.

Elections have consequences and there is no greater threat to the life of the Postal Service than the 2020 election. So, this time don't just vote Democrat or Republican, vote for candidates who support the Postal Service and the working-class people of our great Country.

The APWU will be having a National Day of Action on April 15th for us to inform our communities about the United States Postal Service. I challenge you to attend this action and bring co-workers, friends, and family. Check with your local Union office to find the location of your day of action.

Go to the following link to have your voices heard:

www.usmailnotforsale.org

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TIME TO GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE SAND.....

FROM THE DESK OF: SONIA CANCHOLA

Trump created a task force in June 2018 from the Office of Management and Budget. This committee was supposed to look into the sustainability of the USPS. They were supposed to look into the nuts and bolts the organization and make recommendations on how to make it sustainable. These people selected are predominantly supporters of privatization and big business. This is similar to me going to a financial planner to help me get my finances in order so I can live comfortably in the future. Well, something went horribly wrong because my financial planner gave me a report of doom and gloom, but he never asked me for copy of my monthly expenses or tax returns. He never even asked me how much I make monthly or yearly. Never asked me about my dependents, if I'm married or single. My report was basically I'm better off dead! Instead my financial adviser took my neighbors income, stats and monthly budget and advised me that I had to live within these means.... Pretty extreme right? Pretty ridiculous right? Well, that is exactly what happened during the OMB task force "investigation". The members of the task force **never** contacted the USPS to find out any stats, figures or information regarding the USPS's finances now or future. Instead, they contacted other countries and took stats and information from them and made a determination on the fate of the USPS. In December 2018, the OMB made their report public and it was to sell off the USPS. These are the people we are leaving the fate of the USPS. I would like to mention we all have something big to lose.

NEVER has the USPS been under such blatant attack as it is under this administration. Don't get me wrong, we have supporters and non-supporters from both sides of the isle. However, never has there

been a president who is anti-USPS, anti-union and very pro-privatization.

My question to you is: **Will you be on the sidelines and allow someone take your job, retirement, benefits and future away or are you going to join the fight?**

APWU has been working diligently developing commercials, researching stats, hiring economists and developed an Anti-Privatization Campaign. This campaign is a strategic plan to mobilize union members, non-members, activists, allies and the public in the fight against the corporate/government plan to sell off the USPS. Here are a few items for this campaign to be successful:

- Talk to your friends, family and customers about the selling off of the USPS. Customers have no clue about this. Polls have shown that customers want to hear from “postal workers”.
 - Inform the public that we use ZERO tax dollars to run the USPS.
 - The USPS keeps itself viable through the purchases of stamps and services at the counter.
- Selling off the USPS will raise the price of stamps and services.
 - Some rural areas will have to pay more to get their mail delivered. If they are a low-income area, they will most likely not receive service at all. Delivery will cost different price for a letter or same weight package going to Malibu, Compton, San Diego or Blythe.
 - FedX and UPS cannot provide the service to 157 million door to door deliveries we currently do. We see that with every FedX and UPS drop shipment where the USPS delivers the “last mile” specifically because they do not have the infrastructure to do it like the USPS.

- There will be no sanctity of the mail. The employees who will be delivering the mail will not take care of the mail as we do. They will be low paying jobs and they will not have the urgency.
- Two of our biggest losers if the USPS gets sold off will be veterans and our senior citizens. Both, veterans and seniors get their medicine only through the USPS. The Department of Veteran Affairs has partnered with the USPS to provide them their medicine for free. This is an unnecessary burden to our vets and seniors.
- Selling off the USPS will immediately cancel our Collective Bargaining Agreement. Not only APWU’s but NALC, NPMHU, NRLCA and NAPS. With a wave of a pen, the president can void out our CBA and all of our benefits will be gone. Not only those of current employees such as vacation, overtime, holidays, TSP, retirement, social security but the benefits for our retired employees also.

This is a blatant attack on the “middle class”. For what? FOR PROFIT! Those people who want to sell off the USPS like to have you believe we are billions of dollars in the red. However, although our volume of letter mail has gone down drastically, we can all agree that the sale of parcel delivery has gone through the roof. The only reason why we are in the negative is because of the 2006 Congressional mandate to prefund our retirement 75 years in advance. NO other company federal or not have ever been given that mandate.

A National Call to Action has been declared by President Dimondstein to be held on April 15, 2019. If this is your day off, we need you to contact your local union to help pass out fliers to the public informing them that we take ZERO tax dollars. If this is not your day off, you can help us out during lunch

(make sure you are not in uniform) or better yet, you can submit a 3189 change of schedule and ask for April 15 to be your non-schedule day off. How important is this issue to YOU? How important is this issue to your family? Now is the time, we need YOU to get involved. We encourage you to bring your family to help pass out this information. If you are interested in participating in your local Anti-Privatization committee contact California Area Local 909-981-2260 and provide them your contact information OR email me directly at scanchola@apwu.org.

Another plan of action is to reach out to our congressional representatives. We have made it very easy for you to email them asking them to support HR33. Simply go to www.usmailnotforsale.org and fill out your name and address and you will be directed immediately to your congressional representative's contact information. In fact, you will be able to fill out the email right from your smart phone! We have made it very easy for you to participate but it won't end there! It must NOT end there, we need you to share the link with your family, friends, neighbors and social media.

Finally, we are not alone! APWU will continue to work with other postal union, the AFL-CIO and allies who have committed to support us in this anti-privatization fight.

If you want more detailed information on this APWU Anti-Campaign please contact me directly.

Go to the following link to have your voices heard: www.usmailnotforsale.org

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WE ARE NOT IN THE CLEAR- THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

FROM THE DESK OF: SHIRLEY TAYLOR

Many of our members mistakenly believe that because, for the most part, friends of labor and working men and women took over the House of Representatives, that we can breathe freely and that our jobs, benefits and our very livelihoods are safe and protected. Brothers and Sisters, this is just not the case. While it is true that many of the new House majority are our backers, it is not true that they all are aware (as many of the public is also unaware) that the United States Postal Service takes no tax dollars. They have no idea that the deficit which the Postal Service has is strictly due to the Congress requiring the Service to pay for health benefits to employees not yet born. They are unaware that we are the only organization (public or private) required to operate under such ridiculous conditions. They do not know that the services we offer to the public are paid for by the products and services we provide to the public. My brothers and sisters, we must renew our efforts and visit and communicate to all of the members of Congress that the US MAIL IS NOT FOR SALE! We must advise that the United States Postal Service must be preserved and that it should not be broken up and sold off. We must advocate that a free and affordable mail service must be guaranteed to everyone who abides in these United States of America. We must advocate for continued six-day mail service. We must advocate that Post Offices not be closed and that Plant consolidations be halted as it has been shown that such actions have caused the delay of mail and the deterioration of service to the public. We must advance the idea that postal banking be reinstated. This would allow members of the public, in what can best be described as banking desert areas in the United States, to be provided with affordable banking opportunities. This in turn would prevent payday lenders to no longer have the ability to prey upon working class people by charging predatory interest rates for services the USPS can provide to them at reasonable rates. Many countries have postal banking. This is something which we must collectively do for ourselves and our families and communities.

One such endeavor is the yearly February conference held in Sacramento, California every year

which is called the California Legislative Coalition. It is held at the Mail Handlers Union Office. In attendance, you will find the Postmaster Association, the Supervisor Association, the Mail Handler Union, the National Association of Letter Carriers Union, the Rural Letter Carriers Union, the American Postal Workers Union and NARFE. The purpose of this yearly meeting is to come together to lobby the State of California on initiatives to promote and save the USPS. This means advocating for such things as not selling off postal property or promoting voting by mail in order to enhance revenue. (Note: Many of our friends in Congress start out in our state legislatures) Presentations are given to advise what all these postal partners are fighting for on the national level to preserve the United States Postal Service. Judy Beard, National APWU Legislative Director, (who assisted by APWU Secretary-Treasurer, Elizabeth Powell) once again gave a great presentation on what the national APWU union is doing in the legislative field this year. The California State APWU leads the APWU delegation and we have representatives from both Northern and Southern California as well as APWU Retirees at this conference. I believe that California is the only state which conducts this type of joint venture. I would like to give a shout out to NBA Chuck Locke who lead a large delegation from the Sacramento Area Local. I was able to bring some retirees from the Bay Area who wanted to attend. I would like all to know that our recently deceased brother Mike Evans, California State APWU President, was especially active in this coalition and he will be deeply missed.

DAY OF ACTION--- APRIL 15, 2019

Our national union has called for April 15, 2019 to be a day of action to advise the American Public that the United States Postal Service takes no tax dollars to operate and to ask the public to keep the USPS from being broken up and sold off to companies who will raise prices and fail to offer universal and affordable mail service to all of the American Public. I am sure there are many other locals planning to participate in the Day of Action, but I would like to take this opportunity to give a big shout out to the **Bakersfield Area Local**, who will be out on the front line to, as they say: "getting ready to make the White House Shake!!!!." In addition, the **East Bay Area Local**, will be out at the Walnut Creek Post Office. A very loud shout out to our **Oakland, CA. and San Francisco Retiree Chapter members (Juanita Boles, Maryann Medina, Karen**

Wing, Judy Lynn Lynn, Alice Lindstrom) who will be in front of various post offices in Oakland and San Francisco. I hope as many as you are able to go out and join our brothers and sisters on the picket line to educate the American Public that the US Postal **should NOT be for sale and that the American people deserve a public Postal Service which will provide a universal, fair and affordable mail service for all regardless of an individual's income, status or address location. The United States Postal Service is in the United States Constitution and it should remain available for all.**

The struggle continues and remember to give to **COPA**. Think about giving via payroll deduction. We need to support those who support us and the job you save just could be your own.

Go to the following link to have your voices heard:
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The Struggle Continues,

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