



#SAVETHEPOSTOFFICE MOVEMENT

President's Report

By Becky Livingston

As I prepare to write this article there are so many important issues I need to cover that I truly don't know where to start. I have just returned from a MOVEON.ORG #SAVETHEPOSTOFFICESATURDAY day of action, where there were over 30 concerned citizens rallying in front of the Main Post Office downtown to support the Postal Service. I am working closely with Lew Moye, president emeritus, CBTU Saint Louis Chapter to organize a #SAVETHEPOSTOFFICE day of action for Tuesday, August 25, 2020. APWU Headquarters called on all of us to organize or participate in this day of action to get the word out to the senators that we need at least \$25 billion in postal funding in the next stimulus package to cover the lost revenue due to COVID-19. We need Congress to rescind the bill that they passed in 2006 to pay \$5 billion every year to fund retiree health benefits 75 years into the future. There are too many reasons to list as to why the post office needs the \$25 billion in funding, but we need it and we need it now! Our jobs depend on it. While the national election and voting rights have been combined with our efforts to secure the funding needed to make sure the Postal Service is around for decades to come, we know one thing for sure, we provide essential services to the country every day of the year, year in and year out and the public depends on us. Voters should not be forced to choose between their health and their fundamental right to vote. Voting by mail with an absentee ballot is a safe and secure method of voting in most states already. Not every voter will

choose to vote by mail, but every voter should have the option to do so and to know that if they vote by mail their ballot will be handled with the integrity and priority service that it deserves. This is a very important election and we need to make sure everyone has an opportunity to vote and to do so without worrying that their vote and voice will not be heard. The Postal Service has a 91% approval rating, making us the most trusted and valued agency in the country and PMG DeJoy is attempting to destroy that trust! We are called the United States Postal Service for a reason. PMG DeJoy is attempting to run it like a business. The services that you provide every day by coming to work to make sure that the mail is processed and delivered is vital to the country. I hope everyone is taking the time to recognize that the country is standing with us and we are not alone in this struggle. The country is finally giving you the recognition that you deserve and have deserved since the day you started working for the post office. From day one of the COVID-19 pandemic the postal employees were notified by the United States Postal Service that you were to report to work as you were considered essential workers no matter the anxiety or health concerns you had show-



ing up to work every day. United States Postal Service employees were declared essential workers because of the important **services** that you provide to the country. People in rural communities, seniors and people with disabilities depend on the USPS to deliver essential medications and daily necessities in a timely and affordable way; working people depend on the USPS for their paychecks; veterans depend on the USPS for medicines and VA benefits; small businesses depend on the USPS to ship their products to customers; and without the USPS' public service commitment to provide the "last mile" of delivery, rural and tribal communities might be excluded from mail services entirely by private companies that may not find it profitable to continue rural postal routes. People from across the country are standing up and fighting back with us! 2020 has presented some challenges like none we have ever seen, but we are the APWU; union strong and we will get through this together!

I hope everyone has received your St. Louis Gateway District Area #SAVETHEPOSTOFFICE mask. This was the executive board's way of saying thank you for your continued support and membership in the St. Louis Gateway DAL #8. If you have not yet received your mask please contact your craft director and/or the Union Hall and we will make sure it is personally delivered. If you are members of IT/ASC support services craft, please stop by the Union Hall any time Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. to pick up your masks.

Please continue to properly social distance and wear your masks. 1767s, Safety and Health forms, are being turned in every day because management and employees continue to violate postal policies regarding the wearing of masks when they are unable to maintain the proper social distancing guidelines. There have been employees put off of the clock because they refused to wear the masks. This refusal could result in Failure to Follow Instruction discipline if the request to wear the mask and to practice social distancing is not followed. If the mask is too restrictive, please notify your supervisor that you need the face shield that they are required to provide. Please remember this is for your safety as well as your co-workers. Please respect the policies. I am receiving too many reports that when the stewards walk into an area there are employees, management included, that are not practicing the guidelines. When I get those reports I go directly to the district manager. Since the start of the pandemic the Gateway District has reported over 200 COVID-19 positive cases and there have been two losses of life reported due to COVID-19. Over the last two weeks the Gateway District has averaged five COVID-19 confirmed positives a day, which means we all need to respect each other and wear the masks and social distance. The COVID-19 pandemic is still with us and we've come too far to give up now! Dignity and respect need to be applied to all aspects of our daily lives, but by following these simple guidelines it could save a life. Please stay safe and be kind to one another!

Executive Vice President

By Gene Hollenbeck

This is where I would normally talk about how well our family day picnic went, but since we weren't able to have one this year because of the pandemic, I will just remind you to save the date for next year. We have scheduled our picnic for August 22, 2021.

On August 25 we participated in the national day of action here at the Main Post Office. We had a good crowd and we had a lot of support from our labor family. We also had some city officials and the nominee running for Congress. President Livingston spoke for our members and did a great job.

We have been able to get seven PSEs converted to career for the month of August. Welcome to the family. We will continue to fight to get more PSEs converted.

Thank you for your support and always remember, **we are all in this together.**

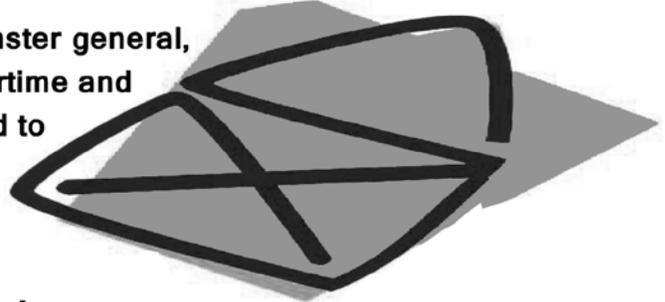
Fighting Today for a Better Tomorrow.



DEFEND YOUR POSTAL SERVICE!

- **Wondering Why Your Mail Is Delayed?**

Louis DeJoy, the new Trump-appointed postmaster general, has imposed new work rules that eliminate overtime and ban workers from ensuring all mail is processed to your mail carrier - in effect preventing some of your mail from being delivered on time.

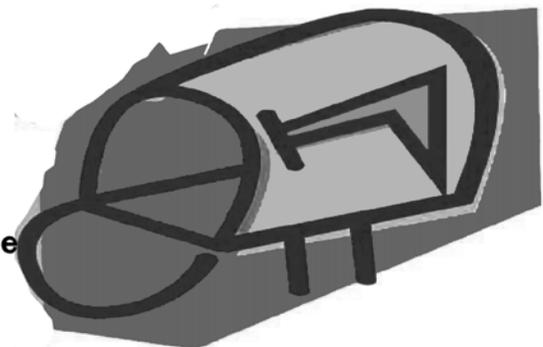


- **Financial Crisis Threatens Postal Service**

Congress passed a law in 2006 that required the Postal Service to fund retiree health benefits 75 years into the future! The \$5 billion annual financial burden - not imposed on any other government agency or private corporation - combined with the unprecedented economic effects of the pandemic, may cause the USPS to run out of funds soon.

- **Corporations Got Bailed Out
- Postal Service Got Sold Out**

The U.S. House passed a \$25 billion postal rescue plan but the Senate has failed to act on it, putting the safety of your 2020 election ballot in jeopardy.



HELP SAVE YOUR POSTAL SERVICE!

- **Contact the USPS Board of Governors, Chairman Robert M. Duncan:**
(606) 298-3511; mduncan@inezdepositbank.com



Tell them to end mail delays and fire Louis DeJoy!

- **Call your Senators at 202-224-3121**

Tell them to:

- 1. Approve the USPS rescue plan!**
- 2. Repeal the 75 year pre-funding requirement!**
- 3. Fire Postmaster Louis DeJoy for delaying the mail!**

#Save Our Postal Service

SaveOurPostalService.stlouisapwu.org

Secretary-Treasurer Report

By *Robbie Robertson*

Let's do this Together in Unison



Greetings my brothers and sisters. Right now, we are under attack and we need all hands on deck. We need members contacting their senators at the federal level. This is not the time to be complacent while the Senate is not standing up for what is right for the Postal Service. This is a time to participate. We are the middle class and these changes could affect us tremendously.

On August 25, APWU national had a day of action for saving the people's post office. This day of action was a success. I believe this was the best day of action in my APWU career.

Our St. Louis Chapter CBTU President Emeritus Lew Moye (civil rights leader) and President Livingston organized our day of action. We had several unions in attendance: UAW, MPWU, CWA, AFGE, NMHPU, United Way liaisons. Several guest speakers: Lew Moye (CBTU president emeritus/civil rights activists) (UAW) member; President Becky Livingston; CLC

President Pat White; State Senator Karla May; St. Louis City Treasurer Tishaura Jones; our Democratic future US congresswoman Cora Bush; Missouri Postal Workers Union President John Zamudo; John Bowman (UAW) NAACP president and many constituency groups such as: Keith Robinson – president, APRI, Jay Ozier, president - CBTU, executive VP – St. Louis CLUW, and veterans association.

President Livingston gave a very informative descriptive on the different issues we are currently facing. Even though no machines were taken out of our building, an injury to one is an injury to all. We need to start understanding we are all in this together. This is not the time to be divided.

I am asking you personally to make the choice for the best interest for your family and love ones. Please share the information with your family members and friends. Share the information on social media.

COME TO OUR SIDE OF THE FENCE

We started in 1928 as the credit union for postal workers. Today, we've opened our doors to everyone in our surrounding communities, but our roots remain. We can save you money on:

- Checking accounts with online banking, mobile banking, mobile deposit and more¹
- Auto loans with low rates and no payments for 90 days² (even on refinances!)
- Home equity loans with low rates and no closing costs³
- Mortgage loans with competitive rates
- Savings, CDs, money markets and IRAs
- Club accounts for youth, teens and seniors
- And more!

Start saving money and open your accounts and loans online today!



Federally
Insured By
NCUA



314-892-5400

NeighborsCU.org

Downtown • Fenton • Florissant • Hazelwood
Jennings • South County • St. Peters

neighbors
CREDIT UNION
Where the grass is greener

¹Message and data rates may apply from your wireless carrier. ²Interest will continue to accrue during deferral period. ³If loan is paid off and closed within 24 months from opening of loan, member must reimburse the credit union for fees paid.

Membership eligibility required on all offers. Restrictions apply on all offers. See Neighbors Credit Union for complete details on all offers.



Day of Action

August 25, 2020




Editor's
Corner
By Shelia Patton-Harris


The American Postal Workers Union has always been at the forefront of racial justice. As an organization, the union has fought for all of its members and secured good paying union jobs for all. Solidarity means that we all stand together. An injustice for one is an injustice for all.

At the national convention in 2016, the American Postal Workers Union passed a resolution pertaining to the black lives movement. Two thousand delegates from around the country, all races, unanimously supported a "Black Lives Matter" resolution. It stated the APWU will encourage its members to participate in any rallies, petition drives, or other actions pursued by the campaign against racial discrimination and for transparency in policing.

In these confusing and troubling times, it is more important than ever that we pull together. We face challenges that are new and far reaching. We must not falter in our resolve to protect and keep good postal jobs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of our lives.

Lack of child care, no school and the fear of contracting a deadly virus are very real issues. If you are not going to report to work, you are still responsible for calling in and notifying the job that you will not be present. Don't assume that since you didn't report, that management knows you are not coming. You do not want to incur AWOL charges. There is really no reason for failing to call in. Unless you are in a coma or otherwise incapacitated, you should make every effort to call in or have someone else notify the Postal Service of your situation. AWOL charges reflect poorly on your attendance and could subject you to discipline.

If you are issued discipline, make sure you file a grievance in a timely manner. You have 14 days from the date you received the discipline to file. You have to ask for a steward and do the paperwork. If you are off the clock, call the Union Hall and give the details to someone at the hall. Whatever you do, don't ignore discipline. If you have questions or need assistance, please ask your shop steward.

We will get through this.



We Wish to Extend Our Condolences to
the Friends and Families of:

Shirley Orr

Retired Tour 1 Manual Clerk
Retired with 50 years of service

Robert Gary

Tour 1 Manual Clerk

Paula Jenkins

Window Clerk at Clayton

Edward Gamble

Brother of Shelia Patton-Harris
Tour 1 Shop Steward and Editor

James Hampton Jr.

Brother of Christine Smith
Retired Clerk



Associate Office Director's Report

By Melani Brown



Greetings members. In this article I would like to discuss the online check stubs that some of the members have opted to have. What I am hearing a lot of is that members who are getting their check stubs by this method are not really looking at them. Let me give you several examples of what I have heard. If you are calling off through the ERMS system (i.e. 1-877-477-3273) write down your confirmation number, and keep your confirmation numbers. Look at your 3971s when you sign them and make sure you are down for the leave you requested, this is very important because the call in can be looked up and confirmed by this number. This is going to play a big part in getting leave changed from one type to another. If you have called in for whatever reason,

please check your pay stub because if there is a problem or if you were put in for the wrong type of leave, the sooner the mistake is identified the easier it is to get fixed. Nobody wants to get ready to go on vacation and then have management tell them they can't take it because they don't have enough AL hours. Because at this point you won't be allowed to go and the union will then have to fight to get everything straightened out. There is a lot of information on your pay stubs and it's definitely not the easiest thing to read, so if you're unsure, check with someone or call me. I will help you to figure it out, even if there's nothing wrong and you just need help in understanding what you are reading. I don't know about you but I would rather be safe than sorry. As most of you know, all your

deductions are listed for that pay period and for year to date deductions. This is how you make sure that your insurance premiums are being deducted, your thrift savings is being done correctly and anything else that you are having automatically deducted from your pay is being taken out like it's suppose to be. Please, when you are looking at you pay stub take a couple extra minutes to look at the whole stub, not just what you're getting paid. This could save you from a lot of headaches later on or worse. If you need any assistance with this, you can contact me @ 314-231-7665 or my cell is 314-337-6717.

In solidarity!



Barber, Arnishia
Bell, G. Michael
Brooks, Brittany
Brooks, Mona
Brown, Markeisha
Coffman, Louis
Collins, Crystle
Conway, Capri
Criswell, Jasmyn
Dunbar, Victor
Duncan, Delontate

Evens, Rodney
Foster, Emmanuel
Gavin, Henry
Griffin, Amie
Hamilton, Shirlene
Henson, Christy
Henson, Michael
Hightower, Britney
Hudson, Alleda
Johnson, Ciaira
Johnson, Jasmine

Johnson, Marquita
Johnson, Raven
Johnson, Tyana
Marable, Robert
McGee, Rebecca
Miller, Corey
Moore, Michael
Paige, Verneshia
Riley, Sheila
Sharice, Angela
Simmons, Craig

Spencer, Jamy
Valentine, Tomika
Wallace, Melvin
Waller, Alexandria
Ware, Aja
Warlick, Whitney
Washington, Corey
Weston, Ganecha
Wilkins, Kimberly
Woodford, Steven
Wright, Amari

Maloney Introduces Bill to Counter President's Politicization of the Postal Service

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, the chairwoman of the committee on oversight and reform, introduced the nonpartisan Postmaster General Act in response to President Trump's politicization of the U.S. Postal Service. Her bill comes in the wake of testimony from Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and the chairman of the Postal Service board of governors, Robert Duncan, highlighting their partisan campaign activities, extensive fundraising, and political donations of millions of dollars to GOP candidates and causes, as well as some political activities that continue even now.

The bill would prohibit the Postal Service board of governors, the postmaster general, and the deputy postmaster general from holding any political position while in office, as well as restricting nominees for postmaster general and deputy postmaster general to those who have not engaged in political activities in the four years prior to their appointments — ensuring that these positions are filled by qualified experts rather than political operatives.

“Congress passed a law in 1970 to reform the Postal Service and ensure that it is independent and removed from politics, but President Trump has turned that law on its head.” Chairwoman Maloney stated. “He installed a GOP partisan as chairman of the board of governors, who turned around and inserted his fellow Republican fundraiser as postmaster general. As we heard at our hearing, both of these officials are longtime Republican operatives, fundraisers, and mega-donors, and they are overt about their efforts to help Donald Trump win in November. In so many areas, including the Postal Service, the Census Bureau, and the Justice Department, President Trump is fundamentally degrading the long-standing independence of our core constitutional functions to his own political ends right before our eyes.”

Robert M. Duncan

Within hours of testifying before the committee in his role as board chairman, Duncan appeared in a prerecorded video shown at the Republican National Convention in an effort to help President Trump get re-elected. In addition, Duncan's official biography on the Postal Service's government website boasts about his fundraising prowess for partisan Republican causes: “Outside of government service, he served as chairman of the Republican National Committee from 2007 to 2009. As RNC chairman, he raised an unprec-

edented \$428 million and grew the donor base to 1.8 million — more donors than at any time in RNC history.”

Duncan is currently serving on two Republican super-PACs at the same time he is overseeing the Postal Service. American Crossroad and the Republican Senate Leadership fund.

Louis DeJoy

DeJoy, who held a fundraiser for President Trump in March of this year just prior to his selection, acknowledged that he is prolific donor to multiple Republicans.

He admitted he has donated \$3.2 million to Republican candidates and committees since 2016, including \$1.3 million to the Republican National Committee and \$1.2 million to President Trump's victory fund.

He also admitted that he was serving as chairman of the GOP fundraising committee for the Republican convention when he was chosen as postmaster general and held that position until three days before taking office.

DeJoy's admissions followed last week's revelations from former Inspector General and Board of Governors Vice President David Williams, who told members of Congress: “I resigned from the board of governors because I was convinced that its independent role had been marginalized and that representations regarding an independent Postal Service for the nation were no longer truthful. I felt the public was owed the truth in this matter.”

It also follows a warning from David Fineman, a former chairman of the Postal Service board of governors, who called the administration's interference with respect to the Postal Service “absolutely unprecedented.”



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic
The St. Louis Gateway District Area Local #8 will sponsor a

FOOD DRIVE



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

October 3, 2020



Items may be donated at
1705 S. Broadway



Between the hours of
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



Cash and gift cards would also be appreciated.
Please support the local food pantries with your donations.

Vote as if Your Job Depended on It

By Shelia Patton-Harris

If you didn't notice, the Postal Service is being used as a political pawn. A postmaster general with no postal experience, a former chairman of RNC, was installed to run the Postal Service. Fifty years ago President Nixon enacted a law to prevent political appointments such as this from happening. But President Trump found a loophole and Louis DeJoy, one of Trump's fat cat political fundraisers and donors was the new postmaster general. Suddenly the mail is delayed all over the country. This delay caused the death of thousands of chicks that are routinely shipped through the Postal Service. The Department of Veteran's Affairs complained that patients were not getting vital medications in a timely manner.

Congress and the American people were in an uproar. DeJoy was called before Congress. When questioned about his plans, he decided he would delay his proposed changes to the Postal Service until after the election. Everyone could see through the Republican plan to delay mail and declare the mail-in ballots late.

We are under attack. If you have never voted in a presi-

dential election, you must vote in this one. Your job may depend on it. We have to get out the vote. No matter what political party you are aligned with, you must vote with the best interest of your livelihood in mind.

Statements like, "My vote doesn't count" or "My one little vote doesn't matter so why bother?" are going to cost us dearly. Everyone in your household, your friends, your relatives, church members, co-workers and Facebook friends have to be encourage to vote in this election. No one should remain on the sidelines.

As postal workers, we have to decide which candidate will protect our jobs and the Postal Service. If we sit idly by and do nothing, we might end up with nothing. We must call and write to Congress to lobby for the Postal Service. Let the people in Congress know how you feel and show them that we are a power to be reckoned with. .

Who you vote for is your business. When you cast your ballot, think about your job and the way of life you have become accustomed to. With that in mind, vote for the candidate of your choice.

Please vote!

IMPORTANT DATES

Must register to vote by Wednesday,

October 7, 2020

Must request an absentee or mail-ballot application by

October 21, 2020

Both the absentee and mail-in ballots must be received by 7pm on Election Day.

General election – **Tuesday, Nov 3**

WARNING!

Due to the Trump administrations sabotage of the Post Office we encourage you to request and return your ballot ASAP! Ideally mailing your ballot back a month in advance or dropping it off at your Post Office.



ACTION ALERT!

CALL 844-402-1001

tell your senators to include
**at least \$25 billion in postal
funding in the next stimulus!**



Without funding, the Postal Service could run out of money this year!



On May 15, the House of Representatives passed initial legislation (HEROES Act) that had provisions to fund the Postal Service. These included:

- **Emergency funding of \$25 billion** for lost revenue due to COVID-19
- **USPS access to the \$10 billion line of credit** passed in the third stimulus with no strings attached;
- **Hazard pay** for postal and other essential front-line workers



It is now up to the Senate to pass stimulus legislation that includes financial relief for the Postal Service. *Your senators need to hear from you NOW! Call 844-402-1001 to be connected or write them by visiting apwu.org/savethepostoffice.* Tell them to protect the public Postal Service and its' dedicated workers!

Contact your senators! Visit apwu.org/savethepostoffice

Call 844-402-1001 Tell your senators to:
**include at least \$25 billion in postal
funding in the next stimulus!**



POST AND DISTRIBUTE

St. Louis Gateway APWU
1705 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104
Address Service Requested

PRST STD
US Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 860

Press On

Official publication of the St. Louis Gateway District Area Local of the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO published bimonthly. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor of the local. All articles submitted for publication are subject to editing.

Shelia Patton-Harris ... Editor
PROUD MEMBER
POSTAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL
President..... Rebecca Livingston
Vice President..... Gene Hollenbeck
Secretary-Treasurer Robin Robertson
Dir. of Industrial Relations.....Dave Childers
Editor.....Shelia Patton-Harris
Dir. of Research & Education.....Dean Hathaway
Sergeant-at-Arms.....Claudella Suggs

DIRECTORS
Clerk Craft.....Bill Brady
Maintenance.....Chris Wilkerson
Vehicle Service.....Bobby Riehl
IT/ASC.....Janis Dumas
Associate Office DirectorMelani Brown

Union Office
1705 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63104
(314) 231-7665
FAX: (314) 231-5709
After Hours (314) 810-4099

Office Hours
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Steward Booths, Downtown
Clerk ... 314-436-5331
Maintenance ... 314-436-4668
MVS ... 314-436-5027

GATEWAY LOCAL CALENDAR

Sept 7 (Mon)	Labor Day Holiday	
Sept 9 (Wed)	Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)	Zoom Meeting
Sept 13 (Sun)	General Membership Meeting (3 p.m.)	Zoom Meeting
Sept 14 (Mon)	Steward Training (9 a.m. & 6 p.m.)	Zoom Training
Sept 30 (Wed)	Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)	
Oct 3 (Sat)	General Membership Meeting (9:30 a.m.)	
Oct 5 (Mon)	Steward Training (9 a.m. & 6 p.m.)	
Oct 12 (Mon)	Columbus Day Holiday	
Nov 4 (Wed)	Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)	
Nov 8 (Sun)	Executive Board Meeting (2 p.m.)	
Nov 9 (Mon)	Steward Training (9 a.m. & 6 p.m.)	
Nov 11 (Wed)	Veterans Day Holiday	
Nov 26 (Thurs)	Thanksgiving Day Holiday	

There will be no General Membership Meetings in the months of July and August.

The Union Hall will be closed on holidays.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Zoom meetings will replace in person meetings and training until the CDC deems it safe.

More information is available on the website stlouisapwu.org



Moving?
*Send us your new address
so we can stay in touch.*

Help our office secretary by sending us your address changes. Your union spends many work hours and pays significant postage fees to obtain your correct address. We cannot get your union paper to you on time without your correct address. Thank you.