

Contract Negotiations Update: APWU Initiates Contract Mediation

In our continuing efforts to get the contract the members deserve, the APWU invoked mediation on April 3, 2019 – sending a letter to the Acting Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and to the Postal Service. The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) is a federal agency that provides public and private-sector labor-management mediation, and by law it is responsible for facilitating the APWU's demand for mediation with the Postal Service.

In mediation, a neutral expert with the experience and training to develop information about the parties, their industry, and their issues will help them look for common ground towards reaching agreement.

A mediator may offer suggestions and recommendations to either or both sides, but does not have the authority to impose a settlement, set contract terms, or require that the parties end mediation with any kind of agreement. The process is expected to take approximately forty-five (45) days.

Even when mediation fails to get a total resolution, this step may help narrow and focus disputes. Such narrowing of some disputes could make interest arbitration more successful for the members.

As the mediation process moves forward, the APWU national officers, members from the field, legal counsel, and staff members are working daily in preparation for interest arbitration. Internal meetings are occurring and will continue on a regularly scheduled basis.

Craft officers, the core committee, the Industrial Relations Department, and the President are developing persuasive evidence and arguments, concerning your work and the appropriate compensation for your service, to present to the Postal Service and to an arbitrator.

“Mediation is just another one of the APWU's efforts to ensure that no stone is left unturned in our continuing battle to get the members what they deserve in their next contract,” said Industrial Relations Director Vance Zimmerman.

“Management's recent final proposal showed their disrespect for the hard work of the postal workers by demanding a new 4th tier of employees with lower pay, fewer benefits, less leave, no cost-of-living increases, limited lump sum pay increases for current employees, and the threat of layoffs,” President Mark Dimondstein said.

“This next step in the process is one more tool we can utilize to help get the workers of today—and tomorrow—the wages, benefits, and work environment they deserve,” he continued. “We truly are fighting today for a better tomorrow.”

APWU Gear Day is Still Going Strong!

While the APWU National prepares for interest arbitration, Gear Day is going strong! Keep ‘Gearing Up’ to show management we are united in the fight for a good contract. Post pictures online (tag #APWUUnited), and email them to nccc@apwu.org.



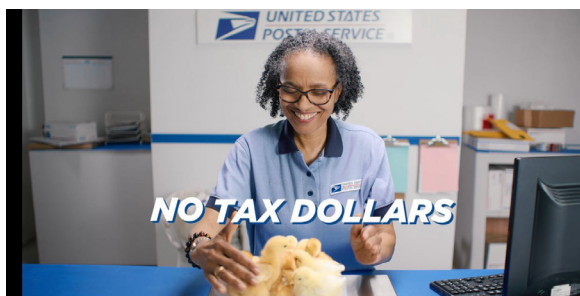
New York Metro Area Postal Union



Madison Wisconsin Area Local

If sending pictures with cell phone, in order to get high resolution, please email photos one at a time at “original” file size.

Have You Seen it Yet?



On April 12, the APWU released a new ad continuing our offensive against the White House proposals to sell the Postal Service to private corporations and spread the message that the USPS runs on NO tax dollars.

Text “Keepit” to 91990 to view the video!

How to Participate in Workers Memorial Day

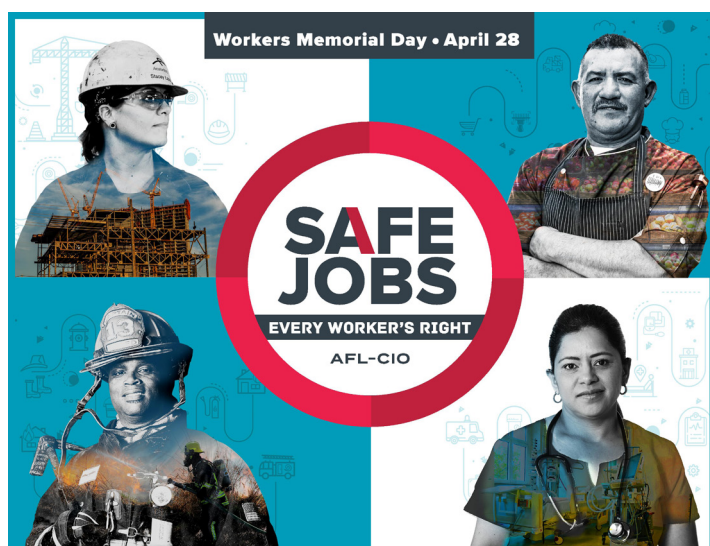
Each year on Workers Memorial Day (April 28), working people throughout the world remember those who were hurt or killed on the job, and recommit to the struggle for a safe workplace.

Virtually every safety and health protection on the books today exists because union workers fought together to win them, the most notable being the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

On April 28, 1971, the Occupational Safety and Health Act became effective and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) was formed. Since the law was passed, significantly fewer workers have been killed on the job each year; however, there is still a long way to go. Right now, the federal government is reversing safety regulations and slashing resources for safety enforcement.

The Post Office is a dangerous place to work. In Fiscal Year 2018, 23 USPS employees died on the job – an increase from 12 postal employee deaths in 2017 – and 42,749 injury claims were approved, an increase from 42,594 in 2017.

This Workers Memorial Day, we call for an end to the unnecessary injuries and deaths of our brothers and sisters. We push for action by – and increased protections for – all workers. Report safety hazards in the workplace and let’s hold management accountable to fix them.



Things You Can Do on Workers Memorial Day:

- Wear a sticker! (Contact your local leadership for more information)
- Be alert for safety issues – not only on Workers Memorial Day but every day – and submit a PS Form 1767 Report of Hazard or Unsafe Working Condition Form when you see something. Speak up and stay on it until the hazard is abated.
- “Red tag” broken and damaged equipment, and ensure that Form 1767s and Red Tags are available in your work areas.
- Hold a moment of silence with your co-workers when you all clock-in to honor all those injured or who have lost their lives at work.
- Join a local union safety committee.

The APWU National encourages you to speak with your local union officers about becoming involved in the union’s safety campaign. The life or limb you save may be your own!

Together, let’s *Stand Up for Safe Jobs!*