

Unions & Management Launch Election Mail Task Force

On September 3 the APWU and the other postal unions joined a national labor-management Task Force on election mail. The Task Force includes top postal leadership as well as representatives from the postal unions and management associations. Legislative & Political Director Judy Beard is the APWU representative on the task force.

It is reviewing and providing input on the USPS's plans, operations and internal communications, as well as identifying ways to resolve potential problems, all with the aim of ensuring the Postal Service securely and successfully handles election mail this year.

In light of the fact that postal workers on the frontlines know best, the APWU proposed to expand this effort to the local level. Local election mail labor/management committees have now been established at each postal facility to identify operational needs and to establish a communications and issue-resolution structure throughout the postal network.

If you have any ideas and/or witness any problems that need addressing, contact your local APWU representatives for the successful processing, transportation and delivery of election mail is a vital priority.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

The 2020 election is already underway. Vote like the Postal Service and our jobs depend on it, because they do!

The APWU has launched a new webpage with information on voting, volunteering, union endorsements, and the issues at stake during this crucial election. Members are encouraged to go to apwu.org/labor-2020.

Vote by Mail: Safe and Trustworthy!

Postal workers have been successfully processing and delivering "vote by mail" for generations. It is tried, tested, secure and virtually fraudulent free. It is part of our proud civic duty, part of our mission. During this pandemic voting by mail will be the only way millions of people have the ability to safely vote.

The APWU encourages all our you to speak to your family, friends, and community about voting by mail. As postal workers, we can reassure the public that the Postal Service is up the task of delivering the country's election mail and that their mail ballots are safe and secure!

"Amid the ongoing pandemic, there are those in power weaponizing this crisis to discourage people from voting," said Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard. "We all have a role to play in combatting voter suppression and protecting the integrity of our



elections. We must speak up against lies spread about voter fraud. Let friends and family members know that voting by mail is safe and secure. Together, we can elect leaders who will fight for voting rights. Help defend our democracy by sharing this important election information far and wide."

For more information and facts on voting by mail, members are encouraged to visit apwu.org/voting-mail. Share the link with family and friends!

Country Waiting for Needed COVID Stimulus; USPS in the Mix

As this News Service Bulletin goes to press, Congressional leaders and the White House remain deadlocked in negotiations over a new COVID-related stimulus package for the country. While the possibility for a new stimulus bill to become law remains unclear, postal relief has been a core feature of various proposals, thanks to the ongoing activism of postal workers and the public.

Throughout the summer, APWU members were central in bringing public attention to the need for \$25 billion in emergency postal funding:

- On June 23, an APWU National Day of action delivered 2 million petition signatures calling for postal funding
- On July 23, an APWU-led Day of Action generated 30,000 phone calls to the U.S. Senate



Hartford Local (CT) members during the Aug. 25 day of action

- On August 25, with the public keenly aware of Postmaster General DeJoy's harmful policy changes, the APWU held another Day of Action to #SaveThePostOffice. Postal workers, allies, and community members came together at over 300 locations across the country, demanding \$25 billion in funding and an end to the harmful delays.

“Last March Congress passed legislation giving corporations over \$500 billion in stimulus. It is high time Congress and this Administration provide postal financial relief desperately needed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, said President Mark Dimondstein. “The public has made it clear that they value their public postal services and postal workers.”

“I commend APWU members for their many efforts in organizing and mobilizing their communities towards the need for emergency postal funding,” he said. “We have the public firmly with us. The struggle continues.”

APWU will continue to build our movement in communities across the country and demanding that Congress and the White House support the USPS with \$25 billion for COVID-19 relief. The APWU National will continue providing updates on the stimulus negotiations on apwu.org.

Federal Judges Issue Injunctions Against Postal Management's Mail Delays

Four Federal judges issued temporary injunctions halting destructive changes to mail service instituted by PMG Louis DeJoy in July. Their rulings focus on mail-in ballots and other election mail.

The first injunction, issued on September 17 by federal Judge Stanley Bastian in Washington state, prohibited the Postal Service from making any operational changes before the November election. The court's decision was made based on concerns that Postmaster General DeJoy was making or allowing operational changes or policies that could slow down the mail and result in the disenfranchisement of voters who are voting by mail.

On September 21, a federal judge in the Southern District of New York, issued the second nationwide injunction against the Postal Service involving election mail. Judge Victor Marrero's decision found that even if DeJoy's changes, ideas and statements were not intended to impact election mail, managers in the field understood his directives differently. In the in-

junction, Marrero laid out a highly specific course of action for the Postal Service to make sure that all election mail flows smoothly through the system.

Additionally, the injunction requires the Postal Service to put in writing its practices for handling election mail, for strong communication between headquarters and the field, and for all managers and supervisors to be instructed on the steps to take to meet the Postal Service's top priority of supporting voting by mail.

These two injunctions were followed by two more on October 1, from judges in Pennsylvania and Washington, DC. Those courts issued similar injunctions against management's operational changes.

The Postal Service has begun the process of complying with all four injunctions. The APWU will continue to make sure that the Postal Service follows the rule of law and complies with these rulings, and that all the people in the country continue to receive the prompt, efficient service they deserve.