

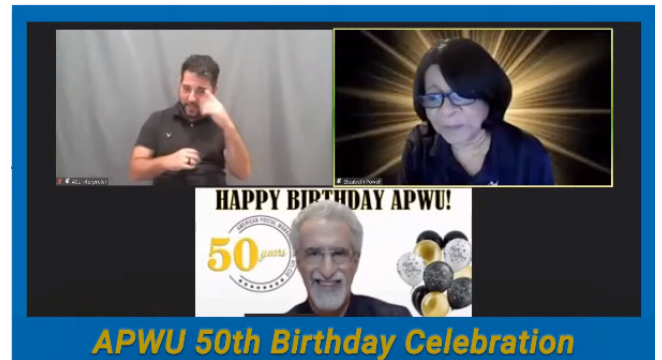
APWU Celebrates 50th Anniversary

On July 1, 1971 the APWU was born out of the merger of five postal unions. This July 1, APWU celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a livestreamed event, commemorating a half century of struggle, solidarity and victory.

The event featured 15 speakers, including APWU national and local officers and retirees, who reflected on the importance of the merger for all working people. Clerk Craft Director Lamont Brooks, MVS Director Michael Foster, Maintenance Craft Director Idowu Balogun and Support Services Director Steve Brooks each spoke about the gains won in their craft over the last 50 years. Multiple speakers shared their experiences with the working conditions before the Great Postal Strike, and how the formation of the APWU and collective bargaining helped to greatly improve their lives.

Secretary-Treasurer Powell reminded the members watching the event – from national and local officers to rank-and-file members – that they “have played an important part in APWU being the APWU,” and encouraged members to “remember the struggles that we have been in, the fights that we have had, to get to the place where we are today.”

In closing the event, President Dimondstein asked members to join him in a toast to all of those who



Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth “Liz” Powell and President Mark Dimondstein during the event

came before us over the union’s 50 years of struggle. “Let’s toast our courageous forefathers and foremothers who stormed the heavens in the historic 1970 strike. Let’s toast those leaders who fought for the common good and merged into one, more powerful postal union,” President Dimondstein said. “Let’s toast everyone, known and unknown, who engaged in this struggle on the front lines, and built a better life not just for themselves and their families, but for those of us who followed, and those who will follow us.”

The event is available to view on apwu.org and youtube.com/apwucommunications. The full version of this article can be read in the latest issue of *The American Postal Worker*.

Postal Workers, Allies Oppose Slower Service Standards

When postal management unveiled their 10-year *Delivering for America* plan, APWU vowed to oppose elements of the plan that would negatively affect postal workers, slow down the mail or degrade the service postal workers proudly provide the public. In the past weeks, together with our allies in A Grand Alliance, postal workers have showed up in a big way in the fight to stop management from slowing down the mail.

As part of their 10-year plan, postal management proposed changes that could slow down mail service for millions of people across the country. Their proposals to extend service standards would further delay first class mail and periodicals from the current one to three-day standard to as long as five days.

The APWU organized the public opposition to these proposals, and together with our allies, mobilized more than 130,000 submissions to the Postal Service’s public comment process on the proposals. The union has also participated in the Postal Regula-

tory Commission’s (PRC) proceedings reviewing the Postal Service’s proposed service standard changes.

“Postal workers serve our communities every single day with great dedication, and these negative service changes will affect every community,” said President Mark Dimondstein. “We’re proud to unite with the people in defense of the prompt and reliable service they deserve.”

The public comments were a key element of the union’s case at the PRC and were also cited in an important brief submitted on behalf of 21 state attorneys general. In addition, a number of allies submitted comments and briefs into the PRC case, including Public Citizen and the NAACP.

The proceedings at the Postal Regulatory Commission for the proposed service standard changes to first class and periodical mail have concluded. The PRC is expected to issue its advisory opinion on the changes in the coming weeks.