

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

SPRING 2021 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com

DUMP DEJOY AND HIS PLAN TO DEGRADE THE POSTAL SERVICE

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, a holdover from the Trump Administration, just unveiled his ten-year plan, ironically named “Delivering for America”. In the name of fiscal responsibility, he would slow mail delivery, cut retail office hours, close post offices and mail processing plants, and raise prices. Good union jobs would be lost and critical delivery of medicines, checks, bills and parcels would be delayed. Over a hundred Congress people have called for DeJoy to be removed.

The postal service has certainly been through a rough year. The pandemic has infected a lot of postal workers, leading to understaffing and serious delays. The number of parcels from online shopping has doubled and the US Postal Service lacks parcel sorting machines and warehouse space, compounding the delays.

But a major source of service breakdown has been the new Postmaster General, who came on line in June and within a month implemented a “pivot”, including removing processing machines and collection boxes, limiting overtime and leaving mail in processing plants and offices while running trucks “on time”. Mail delivery times plummeted and, as President Trump promised to refuse pandemic funding to disrupt voting-by-mail, the American people rose up in outrage.

On August 22, the largest protests ever in support of the US Postal Service emerged at 800 post offices. Three days later there were 300. The main demands were “Dump DeJoy” and “Protect the Vote”. Congress called hearings and advocacy groups filed lawsuits. DeJoy was forced to back off and postal workers put in heroic efforts to effectively deliver election-related mail.

Now DeJoy is back at it, with the full backing of the Postal Board of Governors, all of whom were appointed by Trump. President Biden cannot legally fire DeJoy, only the PBOG can. Although Biden has recently nominated three pro-worker, pro-public, diverse governors to vacancies on the board, they will not be enough to remove DeJoy. Fifty-three Representatives have called on Biden to fire the entire postal board and replace them with governors who will value affordable, reliable and timely mail service.

The American people will need to mobilize again if we are to save our national treasure, the people’s postal service. In mid-March the Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service, a coalition of 75 national advocacy groups (agrandalliance.org) held a three-day summit to establish a People’s Postal Agenda which would not only defend universal, public service but expand and improve the USPS to include postal banking, electric vehicles, charging stations and solar panels at every facility, one-stop government services, printing and wifi. Stay tuned for calls to action and keep the pressure on Biden and Congress.



Postal workers in Charlotte, N.C. protest harassment and mistreatment 4/2/21 (see story pg. 2)

A PEOPLE’S POSTAL AGENDA

(from *A Grand Alliance to Save the Public Postal Service*, agrandalliance.org)

The U.S. Postal Service was created nearly 250 years ago to help bind people together into one unified nation. Since its founding, the Postal Service has continually reinvented itself in response to changes in technology and social needs. Once again, it’s time to re-imagine how this public service can innovate to meet today’s challenges. Instead of job and service cuts or privatization, we need a People’s Postal Agenda that leverages our nation’s extensive postal assets to address unmet needs and sustain this vital service for generations to come.

Provide affordable financial services: USPS should help meet the need for affordable, trustworthy financial services, particularly among low-income communities and families of color who now must rely on predatory financial firms.

Shift to a clean renewable energy economy: USPS should take actions to drive a just transition, including replacing its delivery fleet with electric vehicles, install charging stations at post offices, and expanding solar panel installation on its properties.

Make communities safer and governments smarter: Postal workers already play an informal “neighborhood watch” role. Monitors on postal vehicles could expand that role by gathering data on public safety and environmental risks, from potholes to pollution.

Strengthen our care infrastructure: USPS could expand their alert service to enlist postal workers in a check-in system that makes it easier for seniors and the disabled to live independently and supports their families and caregivers.

Protect our democracy: Allowing all Americans to mail in their election ballots would help counter racist voter suppression and increase participation, particularly among low-income, disabled, older, and rural voters who face challenges getting to the polls.

Narrow the digital divide: USPS should anchor an initiative to expand broadband access, particularly in underserved rural areas.

Support good jobs: All postal workers should have decent pay and benefits and the right to bargain collectively. The Postal Service contributes to local economies and anchors a mailing industry that employs millions of Americans.

Protect public health: The door-to-door postal network could be leveraged even more strategically in the face of future crises, while post offices could become community wellness hubs.

Keep deliveries affordable for small businesses and consumers: During the pandemic, Americans have become even more reliant on e-commerce. USPS must continue to provide universal, affordable service for everyone, no matter where they live.

Support food security and local producers: USPS could expand on its experience with perishables to provide affordable delivery services for local food producers and people who have difficulty getting to grocery stores.

KEEP UP ON THE LATEST FIGHTBACK!

**cpwunited.com agrandalliance.org
apwu.org nalc.org
npmhu.org nrlca.org**

CHARLOTTE POSTAL WORKERS PROTEST MISTREATMENT AND HARASSMENT

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (FOX 46, April 2, 2021)- Postal workers are protesting, saying they aren't receiving basic worker's rights, like being able to use their earned paid time off, being treated with respect, and being able to take sick days without being belittled for doing so.

The Charlotte-area American Postal Workers Union president says the constant beratement of these employees by managers at the post office is unacceptable.

"Many of our workers have been unable to find vaccinations. Management is intentionally not staffing our offices," said Miriam Bell, President of the Charlotte Area American Postal Workers Union. Many of our workers are being forced to work 12-hour days, six days a week, which is in violation of our contract. Management is bullying employees. Ill and injured workers are being harassed."

More than 50 postal workers came out to march Thursday. They walked from the American Postal Workers Union to the USPS distribution facility where they say many problems are occurring. One worker who spoke with FOX 46 said she has experienced these problems firsthand.

"How they haven't protected us out in the stations with regards to COVID their refusal to sit down with our labor leaders and just overall the lack of respect that they have for people who have been there from the very beginning of the pandemic," the USPS worker said.

Another union official said the United States Post Office needs to take a step towards meeting in the middle to resolve these issues.

"They try to bypass the union, so this is what happens when you try to bypass the union. There's retribution and it doesn't stop here. We will continue until they understand and respect this union, the American Postal Workers Union for what they do and what they stand for in any post office, but particularly in this facility we had today," said Larry Sorrells, the President of the North Carolina American Postal Workers Union.

The USPS Communications Director sent FOX 46 a statement saying they respect their employee's right to express their opinions and protest on their days off, but they also expect all of their employees to treat each other, their customers, and the public with dignity and respect.

At the end of their statement, they also said they're committed to honoring their collective bargaining agreements but union workers say the post office has been bypassing the union left and right so we will have to wait and see what happens next.

The statement didn't respond directly to the forced overtime and harassment allegations.

WASHINGTON POSTAL WORKERS PUSH FOR VACCINE AFTER OUT-BREAK IN KENT FACILITY

(excerpt from MyNorthwest, by Nick Bowman, 2/10/21)

Washington state's postal workers are pushing to be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine alongside other frontline essential workers, following a recent breakout of the virus at a mail processing facility in Kent.

The Kent facility had 34 of its 160 workers test positive for COVID-19 over the last two weeks, with "an additional number off work in quarantine status," according to a notice from the local union. Across the entire Seattle postal district, 242 total USPS workers have tested positive for the virus over that same period.

That has local union representative David Yao calling on the Washington State Department of Health to move postal workers up into a higher tier for vaccinations.

"A lot of postal workers are older but they haven't gotten vaccinations, and for some reason, postal workers are not classified with grocery workers and transit workers as frontline essential workers," Yao told KIRO Radio.

He cites the fact that postal workers are operating as a "lifeline to get goods to people who don't want to leave their houses because of COVID" as the driving reason behind this push. He also points out that other facilities across the United States have seen similar outbreaks.

"Across the nation, there have been severe backups because some postal facilities have had to shut down because there are so many infections," Yao said.

According to the union, "tens of thousands" of USPS workers across the nation have either been infected, quarantined, or exposed to COVID-19 since the start of pandemic, 150 of whom have died.

FIRE THEM ALL!

Postal Board of Governors

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy

FOR DERELICTION OF DUTY TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE US POSTAL SERVICE

President Biden cannot fire the Postmaster General. Only the Postal Board of Governors can do that. But they have refused. They continue to rubber stamp his destruction of our national treasure. Biden should clean house and replace them with governors who will remove Louis DeJoy to preserve and protect the public postal service.

TELL YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO ADD THEIR NAMES TO THE CALL TO FIRE THEM ALL !

1-800-224-3121

EMERGENCY FEDERAL EMPLOYEE LEAVE is available for up to 80 hours (and up to 300 hours once OPM issues its guidelines) to obtain vaccination related to COVID-19 or to recover from any injury, disability, illness, or condition related to such immunization.

Other C-19 reasons to access EFEL include -

- * being subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19.
- * being advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.
- * caring for an individual who is subject to such an order as in (1) or has been so advised as in (2).
- * experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis.
- * caring for the employee's son or daughter if the school or place of care of the son or daughter has been closed, requires or makes optional a virtual learning instruction model, requires or makes optional a hybrid of in-person and virtual learning instruction models, or if the child-care provider of the son or daughter is unavailable, due to COVID-19 precautions.
- * caring for a family member with a mental or physical disability or who is 55 years of age or older and incapable of self-care, without regard to whether another individual other than the employee is available to care for such family member, if the place of care for such family member is closed or the direct care provider is unavailable due to COVID-19. **Further info at apwu.org**