Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

SUMMER 2025 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com

Ex-FedEx director, David Steiner to become Postmaster General

(statement of Brian Renfroe, NALC president)

"As the union representing 295,000 active and retired letter carriers, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) strongly condemns the reported selection of David P. Steiner to lead the Postal Service. Steiner comes directly from service on FedEx's board of directors, presenting a clear conflict of interest. Steiner didn't just stroll in from the private sector—he comes straight from one of the Postal Service's top competitors.

"His selection isn't just a conflict of interest—it's an aggressive step toward handing America's mail system over to corporate interests. Private shippers have been waiting to get USPS out of parcel delivery for years. Steiner's selection is an open invitation to do just that.

"During his tenure as Waste Management, Inc.'s CEO, Steiner took a stand against unions. He built his brand on union-busting, slashing jobs, and replacing workers with machines. He has publicly bragged about shrinking the union footprint. Now, he's being handed the keys to one of the nation's largest unionized employers. At a time when collaboration with workers helped USPS turn a $144 million profit in the last quarter of 2024, this decision flies in the face of everything that's working.

"This isn't just bad policy—it's a direct assault on the workers who keep the mail moving and the public connected. The damage will hit rural communities hardest, where the Postal Service isn't just a convenience—it's a lifeline. And make no mistake: if this appointment stands, it threatens 7.9 million jobs tied to the postal industry and service to over 300 million Americans.

"The nation's letter carriers are outraged that the Postal Service Board of Governors has chosen an anti-union postmaster general with a major conflict of interest. The board has the responsibility to do what is best for USPS. This decision is not only a failure in that responsibility but shows open contempt for the work of America's letter carriers and the public good."

(statement of Mark Dimondstein, president of the APWU)

"The hundreds of millions of people that rely on the Postal Service should be deeply concerned that the BOG should select a PMG from the Board of Directors of FedEx. FedEx is not only a major competitor of the Postal Service in the package market, but are part of the chorus of billionaires, profit-driven corporations, and Wall Street that advocate for major privatization of postal services. By cowering to this administration, the BOG has likely chosen a "fox to guard the hen house."

"The APWU will continue to oppose actions by any PMG who takes steps to privatize and undermine the public Postal Service, make sweetheart deals with the big mailers, and engage in more subcontracting. Likewise, the APWU has always shown a willingness to support management policies that strengthen the public Postal Service, expand services, continue to return subcontracted work, and respect the hard work and union rights of postal workers who move the mail."

Contact Your Congress Critter
Do Not Privatize the USPS—ever !
Support H.Res.70, S.Res. 147–
https://actionnetwork.org/letters/do-not-privatize-the-usps

No Cooperation with ICE!

The Washington Post reported that the Postal Inspection Service had "quietly begun cooperating with federal immigration officials to locate people suspected of being in the country illegally." The article cited documents and anonymous sources and pointed to a video the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) posted online that showed at least one officer clad in a "U.S. Postal Inspector Police" jacket at a recent immigration raid of a Colorado nightclub where more than 100 migrants were detained.

Click, sign, share… Keep DOGE & ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) away from the Postal Service… *https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/keep-doge-ice-away-from-usps/*

Sanctuary Union Resolution (NALC Branch 82)

Whereas, the National Association of Letter Carriers has consistently defended immigrant workers, as has the AFL-CIO, recognizing the contribution of immigrant workers to the quality of social, cultural, political and economic life in the United States, and

Whereas, employers hire undocumented immigrants at low pay, even below minimum wage, use them to keep all workers' wages down and to divide and bust unions, and threaten to have them deported if they complain or try to organize, and

Whereas, the Trump administration has vowed the mass deportation of millions, turning workers' legitimate grievances against their immigrant neighbors rather than against the billionaire class, and

Whereas, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have begun raiding and arresting immigrants, on the flimsiest of pretexts, with no regard for how long they've lived in the U.S, how dependent their families are upon them, or the ties they have with their communities, and

Whereas, the NALC is committed to ensuring that our Union is a safe and welcoming place for all our members, their families, and for our communities, regardless of their immigration status, and

Whereas, many cities such as Portland, have declared themselves Sanctuary Cities, and universities and schools such as Portland State University and Portland Public Schools, Sanctuary Campuses, where officials have vowed not to volunteer the immigration status of their residents, workers, or students, nor to cooperate with ICE.

Therefore, be it resolved that NALC Branch 82:

Declares itself a "Sanctuary Union," that will protect the rights and safety of all of our members, their families and the communities we proudly serve, regardless of one's immigration status,

Will not voluntarily cooperate with federal agents in the arrest, prosecution or attempted deportation of our members, their families or our community members, to the extent allowed by law;

Will not collect immigration status information from our members, their families or our community members that may be used against them, to the extent allowed by law;

Declares support for Sanctuary Cities and Sanctuary Campuses;

Calls on our union leadership to collectively bargaining new contract language that strengthens workplace protections for immigrant members;

Will continue to build alliances in the community with others engaged in similar work, such as Jobs with Justice, to protect the undocumented, and participate in labor-led protests in response to ICE raids or employer collaboration for the sake of union-busting…

Passed at NALC Branch 82 membership meeting, May 14, 2025

OSHA Heat Standard Still Under "Study"

As climate change continues to heat the planet (Phoenix hit 115 degrees Fahrenheit in June) and letter carriers continue to get sick and even die from the heat, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is still unable to hold the USPS management accountable for violations of specific heat-related safety measures.

OSHA has been working on a proposed standard for indoor and outdoor heat illness since 2021.

While the language of the proposed standard has not be released, the rule is expected to include temperatures that trigger requirements under the rule such as mandatory rest breaks. OSHA has previously stated the rules to protect workers from heat illness would be followed after the heat index reaches 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Oregon, California, Colorado, Minnesota and Washington all have tight standards with employer requirements for every temperature increase, usually above 80 degrees. Certain amounts and timing of hydration, minutes of rest per hour, shade and acclimation are required, based on the temperature and type of work. This specific gradation is particularly important to prevent heat illness because workers often do not realize they are heat stressed, become confused or disoriented, may make serious mistakes while driving or walking up and down steps, and suffer heat stroke before they realize their symptoms.

Unfortunately, as federal employees, letter carriers are not covered by the state safety standards, only the "General Duty Clause" of the federal OSHA.

OSHA has been issuing citations for heat exposure under the General Duty Clause of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act with limited success and almost no accountability. The general duty clause provides: "Each employer … shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees."

The Right to Refuse Unsafe Work

Letter carriers and their unions have encouraged members to refuse unsafe work, meaning, in the case of extreme heat, bring the mail back.

The United States Supreme Court, in the 1974 Whirlpool vs. Marshall case, issued a landmark ruling which clearly defined a worker's right to refuse work where an employee has reasonable apprehension that death or serious injury or illness might occur as a result of performing the work.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration advises that workers have the right to refuse to do a job if they believe in good faith that they are exposed to an imminent danger.

Section 502 of the Labor Management Relations Act protects the right to refuse unsafe work.

As demonstrated in the National Labor Relations Board decision, TNS, Inc., 329 NLRB No. 61 (Sept. 30, 1999), Section 502 protects an employee(s) from permanent replacement if the employee(s) stops work "in good faith because of abnormally dangerous conditions." Work stoppages protected by §502 do not violate no-strike provisions in a collective bargaining agreement and prevent an employer from terminating and permanently replacing an employee who refuses to work.

OSHA advises that employees who refuse such unsafe work are protected from retaliation, in the situation where the employer cannot immediately correct the dangerous condition, when the employee asks for other, safe work and if not provided, remains at the workplace until ordered to leave by the employer.

Keep Up on the Latest Fightback!

cpwunited.com agrandalliance.org
apwu.org nalc.org npmhu.org nrlca.org
savethepostoffice.com bit.ly/SaveOurPostalService

Bolinas, CA community activists in their July 4th parade

Remote California Town Gets Its Post Office Back

By Hailey Branson-Potts, (excerpted from LA Times), May 10, 2025

For more than two years, a big wooden sign in west Marin County has displayed a set of hand-painted numbers, dutifully changed each morning. "Days Without a Bolinas Post Office," the sign reads. The number Friday: 806.

The sign has been a charming, if sad, reminder to the 1,200 or so residents of Bolinas of the loss of their beloved post office, which was booted from its downtown building amid a spat between the U.S. Postal Service and its longtime landlord.

Last month, Bolinas resident John Borg nailed a new message to the top of the sign — the wooden equivalent of a P.S. on a letter. It reads: "We Did It, Bolinas!!! New Post Office Opening by Fall!!!"

"I think the past two years gave our town a taste of what potential privatization of the Postal Service could mean for other underserved and rural places throughout the country," he said. "That includes reduced retail operations, delays and inconvenience, increased prices ... more focus on bigger communities that can deliver more profit."

In Bolinas — a haven for poets, painters, writers and actors — residents got creative in their push to reopen the post office. They picketed with placards reading, "Real Mail Not Email!" They marched in local parades dressed as letter carriers, composed songs and wrote more than 2,000 letters in hand-painted envelopes that they sent to Postal Service officials.

Most people in Bolinas...do not get home mail delivery. Residents long relied upon daily trips to the post office for parcels, pension checks and mail-order prescriptions, not to mention a chance to catch up on the local gossip.

Since the post office closed, their mail has been delivered to the smaller town of Olema — a 40-minute round-trip drive through the forest on Highway 1 — where the post office has repeatedly closed because of flooding. And sometimes it has been rerouted to nearby Stinson Beach.

The relocations have been more than just an inconvenience for the town's elderly residents, many of whom cannot drive. There is little public transit, and 47% of the town's residents are over 65. Residents have reported problems getting mail-order prescriptions, lab results, healthcare coverage updates, paychecks and other packages.

"It is certainly a relief to have the post office back," said Khtikian, a retired attorney who helped with the citizens' campaign. "While there are certainly much bigger problems in the world, it's an example of what can be done by people not giving up and not being discouraged and believing in their ability to be effective."

The **Federal Unionist Network** represents federal workers, 700,000 of whom were recently stripped of their union rights and tens of thousands are losing their jobs. Their fate and those of postal workers (and all workers) are intimately connected. To join the federal worker fight- back, go to https://www.federalunionists.net/