



Rally time

In October, letter carriers joined together with thousands of other Americans as part of the “One Nation Working Together” march in Washington. We carried the message that America needs an economy that works for all. The inclusive gathering included workers from many fields, both unionized and non-union, as well as veterans groups, Native Americans and unemployed workers. It appears many of the One Nation “policy principles” are in sync with our goals:

1. Working together for the creation, protection and advancement of good jobs.

- Create new jobs in every sector, so that everyone in our country who wants to work can find a job.
- Provide immediate action to stimulate job growth, retention and consumer demand.
- Provide a fair chance for every worker in our country to succeed and advance in the workplace:
 - Everyone who works in America should have the right to join with their co-workers to have a voice on the job.
 - Pay all workers a living wage.
 - Close the race, gender and all other unjust pay gaps.
 - End all forms of workplace discrimination and expand anti-discrimination law to be inclusive of everyone.
 - Make every job a safe job.
 - Provide paid sick days and paid family leave for all workers.
- Rebuild the U.S. economy for the 21st century:
 - Reorient our country’s trade and tax policies to tackle job loss and promote the creation of good jobs at home.
 - Create a national industrial policy to transform our economy into a sustainable one that provides good jobs and a good quality of life for America’s families.
 - Provide greater national investment in new jobs, improved infrastructure and public education.
 - Prevent the repeat of the economic crisis by addressing the problem of financial institutions, including those deemed “too big to fail.”

2. Working together for justice and equal opportunity for all.

- Advance and implement policy principles and practices that prohibit and prevent discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or gender.

- Strengthen and preserve voting rights for all Americans.

3. Working together to protect and strengthen the safety net, and create opportunity for all.

- Protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare.
- Repair private pension systems.
- Complete the promise of accessible and affordable health care for all, including the public option and other effective means to provide coverage for everyone.

We were reminded at the rally that there have been accomplishments that were mandated by the 2008 U.S. presidential election and there are opponents to that progress, such as:

- The Affordable Health Care Act was passed, so the insurance companies are coming after us at election time.
- Consumer protections for home owners and credit cards were enacted, so Wall Street is spending millions of dollars to defeat us.
- Labor has worked to end tax breaks for corporations that ship jobs overseas, so now multinational corporations are doing everything possible to beat us.

It’s clear that big business is seeking to destroy a labor movement that has always supported and promoted free enterprise. It’s our responsibility to stand up to such attack with the campaign work we perform and the choices we make on Election Day.

USPS has announced a revision to the Postal Service Policy on Workplace Harassment. The policy update reflects changes in the accepted purviews as follows: sex discrimination is further described to include gender identity and gender stereotypes, sexual orientation and genetic information have been added.

The new language will read as follows, in pertinent part:

The USPS is committed to providing a work environment free of harassment based upon race, color, religion, sex, including gender identity and gender stereotypes, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, or in reprisal for employee or applicant’s complaint about or opposition to discrimination or participation in any process or proceeding designed to remedy discrimination. ☒