

## Union solidarity



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**E**arlier this year, the four postal craft unions came together to sign and form the “Postal Union Alliance.” This was a major step toward protecting both the Postal Service and each of the union’s membership.

The financial crisis that is currently draining the USPS was created by a congressional mandate in 2006 that requires the Postal Service to pre-fund future retiree health benefit costs 75 years in advance.

The 12-point commitment letter of the unions calls for the parties to work together on the following topics:

- Maintain six-day and home delivery
- Protect and restore service standards and mail processing facilities
- Maintain full-time, full-service public post offices in every community
- Oppose the subcontracting of work and privatization of services
- Expand postal services to include basic banking, notary, check-cashing and other services
- End the corporate welfare of excessive pre-sort discounts
- Form a common front in the fight for genuine postal reform legislation
- Organize joint actions and speak in a united voice
- Unite with other labor unions in defense of the rights of postal workers and all workers
- Encourage joint efforts of our union members at the local level
- Support maximum cooperation in the next round of contract negotiations
- Build an alliance with the American people in defense of the public postal service

### Standing united to protect America’s Postal Service

Coming together is a big step that will help us all in our battle to protect the Postal Service. This union commitment continued on April 14, when the four unions wrote to Reps. Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Elijah Cummings (D-MD) of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee concerning the hearings held April 8 on President Obama’s postal proposals for the 2015 budget. One of the president’s proposals would end Saturday delivery, which would eliminate approximately 81,000 jobs. Another proposal is to phase out door-to-door delivery, which would eliminate an additional 16,000 to 20,000 jobs and would erode the postal networks. The letter also called for Congress to either implement the

recommendations of the Postal Regulatory Commission’s independent audit of the postal CSRS account (see the Report on CSRS Pension Allocation Principles, Segal Company, Nov. 22, 2010) or adopt FEHBP reforms that will reduce the postal retiree pre-funding burden.

On April 24, the four unions, among other unions, stood together at the “Stop Staples” day of action. More than 200 people gathered at the Washington, DC, rally to send a clear message that union postal employees stand side by side in solidarity when it comes to preserving jobs and moving America’s mail. We are opposed to privatization of postal retail services. This was no different from when the Postal Service attempted to contract out mail delivery.

As President Rolando stated, “Americans value and deserve postal services provided by highly trained, uniformed and accountable employees who work directly for the Postal Service, not for an office-supplies retail chain. Just as the members of the APWU stand with the NALC in our battle to preserve six-day mail delivery service, so do letter carriers stand with our brothers and sisters in this fight against privatization.” The Staples protest rally was a huge success.

Maintaining the Postal Service for America is important in so many ways. The Postal Service is the only universal delivery service available to everyone in the United States regardless of someone’s income level. It is reasonably priced and is the most affordable system in the world, moving more than 40 percent of the world’s mail. The mailing industry itself provides for more than 8 million jobs and more than \$1.1 trillion in economic activity to the economy. Changes to the Postal Service would affect many aspects of the mailing industry and many people, from the U.S. citizens who receive their mail to those working in the mailing industry. We should not destroy the system that has bound our nation together for the past 236 years. It is truly a national treasure and provides the world’s most efficient delivery network. The Postal Service does this without any taxpayer money.

**We have a large voting voice with more than 500,000 postal employees, as well as retirees and families.** With such a strong presence, the House and Senate know that we have a powerful voting voice. That is why voting each election cycle is so important to our members. All of us need to contribute to COLCPE. It is our future, and we are counting on each other to step up against those who want to privatize the Postal Service. With just 9 percent of our membership donating, you would wonder what the other 91 percent is thinking. This battle is real, and we need to come together. You cannot sit idly by and watch what is happening and not be concerned. Donating to COLCPE is the best insurance you can have.

No more excuses can be given. It’s time for everyone to donate and to talk with all our brothers and sisters about giving \$5 per pay period to COLCPE.