

APWU NEWS Bulletin

MARK DIMONDSTEIN, President JUDY BEARD, Editor

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APWU NEGOTIATING TEAM DELIVERS OPENING DAY STATEMENTS



On June 25, contract negotiations began for our next main collective bargaining agreement with the Postal Service. The current contract expires on Sept. 20. Both the union and postal management exchanged opening statements, outlining their respective goals for the next agreement with each side expressing their desire to reach a negotiated agreement. Thousands of APWU members and supporters across the country tuned into the virtual livestream and answered the call to “gear up” with union gear on the workroom floor.

In his remarks, Industrial Relations Director and Chief Spokesperson for negotiations Charlie Cash emphasized the impact that the contract being negotiated today will have on postal workers and their families. The current contract will cover 200,000 postal workers and will affect three times as many people when their families are considered. “I know what a postal job can mean to a worker and their family,” said Cash. “It can mean having a respectable job that lifts up a family...The kind of income and benefits that give us a steady existence and allows for a comfortable retirement.”



Industrial Relations Director Charlie Cash delivers his Opening Day statement at USPS Headquarters

In stressing the APWU’s priorities during contract negotiations, Cash stated “We are open to new ideas, and we want enforceable agreements, opportunities for career employment for everyone we represent, and pay and benefits that recognize the employees not seen by the public every day.”

“To you, the leaders of the Postal Service,” he continued. “It is time to deliver not just to America, but to those represented by the APWU, and I am confident that they will continue to do what they have always done—deliver prompt, reliable, and efficient service to the American public.”



APWU President and Lead Negotiator Mark Dimondstein delivers his Opening Day statement to postal management on June 25.

Executive Vice President Debby Szeredy introduced the union’s core bargaining committee. In addition to the President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Industrial Relations Director, the core committee includes Clerk Division Director Lamont Brooks, Maintenance Division Director Idowu Balogun, Motor Vehicle Service Division Director Michael Foster, and Support Services Director Arrion Brown.

Secretary-Treasurer Powell followed, reading statements from AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson, and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) in support of the APWU.

President Dimondstein, Lead Negotiator, then delivered his Opening Day remarks, welcoming the opportunity to represent APWU members and stating the APWU’s clear and transparent goals for this round of contract negotiations.



Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth "Liz" Powell reads statements from allies in support of postal workers.

"We advocate that all bargaining unit work in retail be returned to the Clerk Craft and that all the work bargained for in the 'Jobs Memos' of 2010 finally be returned to the workers as promised. In light of the impact of profound and rapid technological changes on our jobs, it is high time for a shorter workweek with no loss of pay. And of course, the union strives to protect the hard-won gains and job security provisions secured over generations and for dignity and respect on the job."

"Our dedication to the postal mission carries on day in and day out, whether in times of pandemics and natural disasters or more 'normal' times," Dimondstein continued. "And postal workers have earned, and deserve, a good and improved union contract."

"As postal workers pour our lifeblood into the institution and its mission, workers deserve good annual pay increases, stronger safety rights, an end to the unfair and divisive two-tier career pay scales, limits on subcontracting, a career workforce, and better workhour guarantees and rights for Part Time Flexibles," President Dimondstein said.

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— PRESIDENT MARK DIMONDSTEIN

TO WATCH THE FULL VIDEO OF OPENING DAY, VISIT APWU.ORG OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

Just say no! to the Postal Pulse

Do not take the Postal Pulse! Negotiations for a new union contract began June 25, and any information you give management can be used in retaliation against us during negotiations and arbitration.

The APWU is urging union members to refrain from participating in the USPS management's Postal Pulse survey. Negotiations for a new union contract began June 25, and any information you give them can be used in retaliation to hurt us during negotiations and arbitration.

Regardless of pressure from supervisors or managers, letter correspondence, excessive emails, or other tactics, employees are not required to participate in this survey. The APWU urges you to not participate in the Postal Pulse.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF THESE NEW CHANGES TO THE SURVEY:

- A new company is conducting the survey—Perceptyx—instead of Gallop.
- There is now a "5-point" scale (Strongly agree to Strongly Disagree).
- Questions have been added and others "refreshed".
- There will be no more paper surveys sent to employee homes; instead, the paper surveys are being sent to work locations, as well as electronically.

Stay united, and don't be fooled by management's tricks created to divide us. We want to remind members to wear APWU gear with pride every Thursday throughout the contract campaign to send a powerful message to management that we are Union Proud, Say it Loud! The APWU negotiations team is working diligently to secure a good union contract for postal workers. Stand strong - Don't let management take your pulse!