

# Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

January, 2013 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - [www.cpwunited.com](http://www.cpwunited.com)

## POSTAL SERVICE IS UNDER ATTACK — What Do We Do? STAND UP — FIGHT BACK!

The November - December lame duck Congress took a pass on postal legislation, despite bi-partisan attempts to cut 6-day to 5-day delivery and eliminate union lay-off protections. Next up – a whole new set of postal bills to be introduced in the 2013 session.

**But wait!** The Postmaster General is moving forward to **close 81 mail processing plants** (18% of the total) **beginning in February**, eliminating tens of thousands of jobs. Since July, he has closed 48 plants (10% of the total) and his POSTplan is scheduled to close a total of 229 (50% of the total) by 2014.

*(below is our CPWU letter to affected local union presidents, offering help with the fightback.)*

POSTplan also targets 14,000 mostly rural post offices for massive cuts to service hours (25%-75%) or closure. The Rural Organizing Project in Oregon has produced an excellent toolkit for organizing to save rural post offices --

<http://www.rop.org/organizing-to-save-rural-post-offices/>

### Get involved!

Find the local CPWU coalition in your area -  
[www.cpwunited.com/local-coalitions](http://www.cpwunited.com/local-coalitions)

How to fight a closure or organize a rally,  
[www.cpwunited.com/how-to-fight](http://www.cpwunited.com/how-to-fight)

Contact us: [cpwunited1@gmail.com](mailto:cpwunited1@gmail.com)

Join us on facebook @ [Postal Workers United](https://www.facebook.com/PostalWorkersUnited)

## LETTER TO LOCAL PRESIDENTS at PLANTS FACING “CONSOLIDATION”

Dear (President of Local Union):

We write because you are in an area where a P&DC is on the list to be closed and/or Post Offices are facing reductions in hours and closings.

Postal workers are in big trouble. We face a concerted effort to intentionally cripple, bankrupt, union-bust & then privatize the Postal System. The forces behind this attack would love to get their hands on the 67 billion dollars that the USPS generates every year.



*December action to stop sale of Berkeley, California post office*

Now more than ever, our four postal unions, labor allies and our communities must come together to beat back this assault. We cannot just rely on lobbying the politicians in Congress, who created this mess.

Community & Postal Workers United is a coalition of postal activists including Letter Carriers, Clerks, Maintenance, Mail Handlers, Truck Drivers, and members of the community from coast to coast. We are fighting to keep facilities open across the country. We are the group that made national news when we staged a hunger strike – demanding No Closures! No Cuts! Repeal the Pre-funding Mandate! Refund the Pension Surplus! -- June 24 – 28 in Washington, D.C., with support rallies across the nation.

We have created an online resource – [www.cpwunited.com](http://www.cpwunited.com) -- for the purpose of sharing information on tactics to fight cuts and closures and to inspire others to fight and win. The website contains strategies used by successful campaigns against local “consolidations”, “reductions” and “discontinuance.”

We invite you to join us in the fight and form your own local coalition. By pooling our resources and experience we can achieve strength in numbers.

Community & Postal Workers United (CPWU) is offering assistance in the fight to keep your Post Offices and/or P&DC open.

We can work, fight and win...together. *(continued on back)*

### Keep Up on the Latest Fightback!

[www.cpwunited.com](http://www.cpwunited.com)

[www.savethepostoffice.com](http://www.savethepostoffice.com)

[www.apwu.org](http://www.apwu.org)

[www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org)

[www.npmhu.org](http://www.npmhu.org)

[www.nrlca.org](http://www.nrlca.org)

(continued from front)

Thank you for your time and consideration. Do not hesitate to contact us.

In solidarity, CPWU Steering Committee

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Some of the December postal hunger strikers encamped on Mall

## SECOND POSTAL HUNGER STRIKE

A half dozen postal hunger strikers completed a six day fast for six day delivery and declared a “people’s victory”. The strikers established an “emergency” encampment on the National Mall, demanding that Congress and the President halt closures and cuts to the U.S. Postal Service.

Six day mail delivery was on the chopping block, according to Representative Darrell Issa, Senator Joe Lieberman and Senator Tom Carper who were engaged in secret postal reform negotiations. One of the hunger strikers, John Dennie, a retired mail handler from New York, was arrested in Issa’s office for refusing to leave until the Congressman pledged to save six day mail delivery.

The postal hunger strikers paraded with a horse and carriage from the Postal Museum, up Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House to celebrate the 237 year history of the postal service and 150 years of Saturday delivery (city free delivery was established 1863). They attempted to deliver a giant postcard calling on Obama to use his veto power to save six day mail delivery. President Obama has twice allowed for cutting to five day delivery in budget proposals. “We helped elect Obama and he owes us,” said Ken Lerch, a local letter carriers union president.

Cutting mail delivery to five days will eliminate 80,000 postal jobs, according to postal unions. The hunger strikers claim the cuts would gut service and send the postal service into a death spiral.

**Postal Workers Have the Right to Speak Out Against Closures**

**“... As long as postal workers are acting on their own time and are not using postal funds, however, they can speak against and actively oppose facility closures without violating the Anti-Lobbying Act.”**

[www.apwu.org](http://www.apwu.org)

**National Day of Action to  
Save America’s Postal Service  
“Catch the Spirit of 1970!”  
Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
(anniversary of the Great Postal Strike)  
*Fight Closures! Fight Cuts!  
Fight Delay of Mail!***

Repeat the Pre-Fund Mandate! Refund the Pension Surplus!  
\*\*\* **ORGANIZE AN ACTION IN YOUR CITY** \*\*\*  
Congress, the President and the Postmaster General must be shown the massive support of the American people for their constitutionally mandated postal service.  
Sponsor: Communities & Postal Workers United

## BAY AREA LABOR/ COMMUNITY COALITION FIGHTS CLOSURE

(see photo on front)

“Towns and cities throughout our entire country are losing historic post offices. The giant real estate company CBRE advises the USPS on what post offices to sell and then profits as the listing agent. UC regent Richard Blum is the chairman of CBRE. Blum is married to California Senator Dianne Feinstein. The USPS proposes to sell Berkeley’s beautiful 1914 Main Post Office. It has two priceless New Deal art works. Our grandparents paid for this building and countless others in the country that are on the USPS hit list. Over 3,700 post offices are at risk of sale or closure. Sold post offices have morphed into restaurants and offices. At some we must ask permission to see our public art work.” (from *Save the People’s Post Office flyer*)

**MAIL BEING DELAYED? TELL US ABOUT IT** 48 mail processing facilities were “consolidated” this summer. We’re seeking documentation from postal workers and the public about delay of the mail. Contact us, [cpwunited1@gmail.com](mailto:cpwunited1@gmail.com)