



# Respite, But Not Relief



While it seems that the American electorate has chosen a new direction in our most recent election, the Postal Service, as we know it now, is not entirely out of the woods, not by a long shot. There is no question we were in real danger with the previous administration and in case you have any doubt that the future of the most trusted government agency was uncertain at best, remember the report from the White House Task Force on the United States Postal Service. In that report they argued **“...many industrialized countries have pursued privatization of their postal systems – either completely or in part – to lower costs for consumers while improving service quality...The USPS’s current business model has become outdated due to changes in technology, markets, and customer needs and preferences. It is unsustainable and must be fundamentally changed if the USPS is to avoid a financial collapse and a taxpayer-funded bailout... Reforming its business model, rather than simply providing relief, is necessary if the USPS is to survive in the digital economy.”**

The White House was not alone in its offensive to destroy the family sustaining jobs of the United States Postal Service. The Office of Management and Budget jumped in on the act and opined in their report **“This proposal would restructure the United States Postal System to return it to a sustainable business model or prepare it for future conversion from a Government agency into a privately-held corporation.”** They add, **“A privatized Postal Service would have a substantially lower cost structure.”**

That **“lower cost structure”** means less for Mail Handlers. Even the Postal Service under lifelong postal employee and PMG, Megan Brennan, supported an array of draconian

measures that would reduce the wages and benefits of all postal employees including mail handlers. As reported by the Huffington Post **“The U.S. Postal Service wants Congress to help it make significant cuts to employee benefits as part of a plan to balance the agency’s books, according to a draft business plan HuffPost obtained. The proposal would save an estimated \$18 billion on employee compensation over a decade by shaving paid leave, raising workers’ share of pension contributions, and shifting new employees into less secure 401(k)-style retirement plans. The change to pension contributions would amount to a cut in take-home pay for hundreds of thousands of workers, while saving the agency nearly \$7 billion.”**

It’s pretty obvious that the powers that be intend to save billions by taking it out of your pocket as well as denying you a well-earned retirement with dignity. This is obviously unacceptable and we are committed to doing everything we can to prevent this from happening.

It is worth noting that the Service intended and fully supported these measures during the leadership of an “employee friendly” PMG in that of Megan Brennan. Now with PMG Louis DeJoy at the helm, a private sector subcontractor appointed by the outgoing president, don’t expect any favors.

Clearly, we have great challenges ahead and still need comprehensive legislation so that we can have a fair shot at protecting the wages, benefits, and working conditions that we have earned over decades of struggle.

Stay Vigilant Brothers and Sisters!

In Solidarity,  
John Gibson

## It Aint Over!

## Wear A Mask.

Left, Right, Conservative, Liberal, the COVID virus has zero political affiliation. This insidious disease doesn’t give a rat’s behind where you work or where you play and will take advantage of anyone who lets their guard down, even for a second. Hell, the president contracted it and he may be the most protected person on the planet. I’m sure many of you heard it prior to the election just like I did, **“the virus will just go away on November 4th”**. How’d that work out? In the three Districts under the jurisdiction of Local 308, cases are spiking and employees are contracting the virus at the highest rates we have seen. Stay Safe and PLEASE wear a mask.

- IF YOU ARE SICK, STAY HOME. NOTIFY THE EMPLOYER.
- IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, NOTIFY MANAGEMENT AND/OR YOUR UNION REP. GET TESTED.
- IF YOU TEST POSITIVE, NOTIFY THE EMPLOYER AND/OR YOUR UNION REP.
- WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES AT WORK.
- MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING, EVEN IF YOU HAVE A MASK.



*NPMHU, Local 308  
President’s Report  
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