

The Local Line

"A PPA Award Winning Publication"

The Official Voice of the
Northwest Illinois Area Local

Update by: Jackie Engelhart

Sad News at Palatine

Postal workers are considered essential and so we go to work and get a paycheck and take the risk that some will become infected and get sick, or possibly die. At Palatine we have ten positive cases and one co-worker and union brother who succumbed to the COVID-19 virus. He and his family are in the thoughts and prayers of his many friends and co-workers. We hope there will be no more. **USPS Needs Help...** The COVID-19 Pandemic has taken over 10,000 lives in the U.S, and infected thousands of people. It has also put millions out of work and caused economic hardship for people and the businesses that normally pay their salaries. The Postal Service has taken a huge financial hit because of the virus. The USPS financial problems worsened by the pandemic were the subject of an article in **The Washington Post** "The USPS financial problems have worsened dramatically as first class and marketing mail have withered during the pandemic.

The USPS needs an infusion of money and President Trump has blocked potential emergency funding for the agency that employs around 600,000 workers, repeating the false claim that higher rates for Internet shipping companies Amazon, FedEx and UPS would right the budget. Trump threatened to veto the \$2 trillion CAREs Act if it contained any money directed to bail out the USPS, according to an anonymous senior Trump administration official. Instead Senators Gary Peters and Ron Johnson added a last minute \$10 billion Treasury Department loan to the Cares Act to keep the agency on firmer ground through the spring of 2020. Lawmakers originally agreed to a \$13 billion direct grant the USPS would not have to repay but that was blocked by Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin who said you can have a loan or nothing at all. Without the loan, which awaits approval by the Treasury Department, the USPS would be "financially illiquid" by 9-30-2020 according to estimates provided.

As its main source of funding dwindles, the USPS could be seen as ripe for a makeover; conservatives would like to privatize it. The USPS projects it will lose \$2 billion each month through the coronavirus recession while postal workers maintain the nationwide service of delivering essential mail and parcels. That work often comes at personal risk. Nearly 500 have tested positive for the virus and 462 presumptive positives per the USPS. 19 have died and more than 6,000 are in self-quarantine due to exposure. While Trump and Mnuchin pushed through private-sector bailouts in the Cares Act any postal relief funds in a Phase IV stimulus bill would be a poison pill. Postmaster Megan Brennan asked lawmakers for another \$50 billion, \$25 billion to offset lost revenue from declining mail volume due to the virus and \$25 billion for modernization, plus another \$25 billion Treasury loan to pay down 14 billion in existing public debt. The USPS may not make it past September without missing payrolls or service interruptions."
Read the other side...

Floor Edition

April 14, 2014

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Special points of interest:

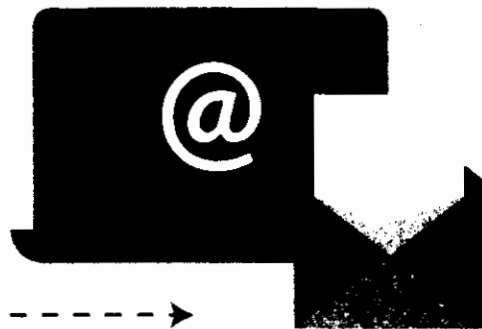
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Email Your Members of Congress

**TODAY - tell them to
include postal funding
in the next stimulus**
@ apwu.org/covidletters



Now is the time for urgent action to **save the United States Postal Service** from the devastating financial impact this crisis is having on its ability to operate and serve the American people.

Postal workers are essential workers who proudly step up everyday and serve the country by processing and delivering: the mail, lifesaving medical supplies and prescriptions, critical information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and absentee ballots.

We are calling on Congress to add these provisions in the next stimulus bill:

- One-time funding of at least \$25 billion;
- Funding of the difference between postage revenue and actual operating costs;
- Compensate the USPS for paid sick leave;
- Hazard pay for USPS workers;
- No strings attached for money borrowed by the USPS.

We are asking for everyone's help to ensure that this pandemic does not destroy the U.S. Postal Service, a true national treasure and a vital part of America's response and eventual recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tell Congress: Support Our Public Postal Service

As Congress prepares further legislation to address the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, it is crucial to contact all our representatives and urge them to provide the financial support the Postal Service desperately needs.

To write a letter to your House Representative and Senators, go to:
apwu.org/covidletters. Share this with your friends, family, and co-workers!

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www.apwu.org

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