

NEW DAY AT USPS



NEWS FOR USPS WORKERS, BY USPS WORKERS!

MAIL HANDLERS FACING ANOTHER SELLOUT CONTRACT

The most recent NPMHU contract update, dated Dec. 12 and titled “Economic Discussions Intensify,” reports that talks have focused on “areas of disagreement,” including proportional cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) and the “persistent disparities” in pay between Mail Handlers and other postal jobs. They then go on to say the negotiating team demonstrated their proposals’ “reasonableness” and “economic feasibility.”

This admission is deeply disrespectful to rank-and-file Mail Handlers. Acknowledging that Mail Handlers have long been paid far less than other crafts while calling the proposal “reasonable.” Have the negotiating teams of Mail Handlers Union officials in the past been unreasonable every single time to create this persistent disparity? Since when has negotiating “reasonably” with management secured Mail Handlers anything less than a sellout contract designed to save the Postal Service money at our expense?

The fact that the union is comfortable posting this update is disgusting and emblematic of an out-of-touch leadership that does not effectively represent its members. It’s ridiculous that updates only come every other month and that not one concrete proposal has been reported, nor management’s counterproposals.

The rank-and-file deserves to know the details of the negotiations going on, and the fact that union leadership isn’t publicly outing how little management cares about its workforce can only mean their proposals would earn scorn as well.

Management is seeking, through contract negotiations across all crafts, to limit raises and reduce benefits, claiming the Postal Service is running out of money, while executive pay is higher than it has ever been. By manufacturing this crisis and keeping worker pay low, the Postal Service never needs to worry about a staff that hangs around very long, avoiding the payment of benefits and the earning of pensions, reducing its long-term financial commitment to its workers, and lowering their operational overhead.

Since the 1970s, the Postal Service has increasingly been treated not as a civic institution but as a business expected to pursue profits, a shift that accelerated in 2021 with the launch of the Delivering for America plan under then-Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. Under Delivering for America, anything seen as limiting the USPS’s ability to compete with private firms like Amazon, FedEx, and UPS is targeted for elimination in the name of profitability.

Email Us at NewDayatUSPS@proton.me



The leadership of the Mail Handlers union, along with the APWU, NALC, and NRLCA, are not merely acquiescing to this agenda; they are actively enabling it through contracts that sacrifice worker interests on the altar of “reason” and “feasibility.”

Any agreement reached through this alliance needs to be resoundingly rejected by the Mail Handlers membership, and we need to prepare now for such a campaign to be supported by the rank-and-file. Now more than ever, the artificial barriers imposed by craft unionism need to be smashed. We all have more in common when it comes to what we would see change in our workplaces than not, and this old way of craft unionism holds us back from realizing our power.

This is why New Day at USPS is calling on Mail Handlers to organize to resoundingly vote No, following what we can only assume will be a complete sellout of a tentative agreement signed between USPS and the NPMHU. The effort to vote no must begin today. Rank-and-file Mail Handlers cannot afford to wait until a final agreement is announced, especially given the union leadership’s pattern of secrecy, concessions, and appeals to “reasonableness” and “economic feasibility” at our expense.

Organizing now means building communication across facilities, educating coworkers on what is at stake in this contract,

and preparing to reject any agreement that continues the long-standing pay disparities, limits raises, or further undermines benefits. A strong No vote is not just a rejection of a bad contract, but a necessary step in asserting the collective power of Mail Handlers against both management’s agenda and a union leadership that has shown it is unwilling to fight for the interests of its own members.

In calling for this, we also call for the support of USPS workers across all crafts, who over the past two years have been forced to endure, like falling dominoes, one disastrous contract after another signed by each of the USPS craft unions, with Mail Handlers now facing their turn as the next domino to fall. These sellout agreements have shared many of the same miserable terms: limited raises, appalling COLAs, and concessions that do nothing to improve the lives of postal workers. Rather than resisting management’s demands, craft union leaderships have repeatedly accepted contracts that prioritize cost savings and “feasibility” over the needs of the workforce. The result has been a steady erosion of real wages, benefits, and morale across the Postal Service. This pattern makes clear that the Mail Handlers’ fight is not an isolated one, but part of a broader struggle shared by postal workers everywhere.



NEW DAY AT USPS

New Day is a newsletter produced by USPS workers to rally our coworkers against USPS management and their agents in the different unions. New Day Committees are for gathering information and disseminating the basic outlook of class conscious USPS workers to the rank and file in the operation, as well as a base that our coworkers can use as a launchpad for campaigns around more immediate issues. Our long-term goal is the creation of a single union of all USPS workers.