

The Battle for the Post Office and Democracy

By Clint Burelson

(a) The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people. The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities. The costs of establishing and maintaining the Postal Service shall not be apportioned to impair the overall value of such service to the people. (US Code, Title 39, Part 1)

The United States Postal Service is widely recognized as the most secure, efficient, and affordable Postal Service in the world. The Postal Service is self-sustaining with all costs born by those who mail items or otherwise utilize the services of the Post Office. No taxpayer money is used to run the Post Office. A person can send a secure letter from the New York islands across the country to a friend living near the Redwood forests of California for just 45 cents.

2011 First Class Mail Letter Equivalent Prices in US Dollars

Year	USA	Canada	Great Britain	Germany	France	Japan	Norway
2011	.44	.61	.74	.77	.81	1.06	1.63

Source – 2011 Annual Report to Congress

“An independent assessment by Oxford Strategic Consulting named the U.S. Postal Service the best postal service among the 20 largest economies in the world. Criteria included the average number of citizens served, the number of letters and parcels delivered, service reliability and public trust.”

Source – USPS Postal Facts 2012

In spite of this obvious success, there is currently an alleged financial “crisis” threatening this long esteemed institution and Congress’s “solution” is to dismantle the Postal Service in order to cut costs. As a result, the Postal Service is in the process of implementing a “transformation” plan to: close or reduce the hours at small and rural post offices, delay the mail by closing or consolidating mail processing centers, eliminate living wage jobs and/or reduce the wages and benefits of postal workers, eliminate Saturday delivery, and require cluster boxes instead of home delivery. These are dramatic and damaging service changes that are simply unfounded, unnecessary, and against the law.

The damaging changes underway at the Post Office are a direct result of the lobbying efforts of large corporate mailers who do not want to lose their deep discounts and pay

their fair share of postage. To avoid higher postage rates for advertising, the large mailers have relentlessly pushed the Postal Service to cut costs by reducing postal services to the American people.

The companies lobbying for the reduction in service to the public are the major banks and financial institutions (Bank of America, JP Morgan, American Express, etc.,) large media corporations (Time Warner, McClatchy, etc.,) and other corporations who stand to directly benefit from the dismantling of the Post Office (UPS, FedEx, RR Donnelly, Pitney Bowes, etc.) The owners of these powerful corporations have used their money and power to elect, lobby and otherwise direct important government officials to make the service cuts that benefit the large corporations at the expense of the American people. This lobbying has also successfully protected the foolishly generous rates given to bulk mailers. In fact a case can easily be made that rates are so low for bulk corporate mail that this rate structure is essentially a subsidy for large businesses, which is unwittingly being paid for by higher postage rates for the American public.

For many years now, the large mailers, Congress, the President of the United States, and the Postal Board of Governors have cooperated in the systematic dismantling of the Post Office. This is evidenced by the transfer of work to the private sector through “worksharing” discounts, the purposeful short staffing of employees at the counters in post offices, the removal of collection boxes, and the substitution of cluster boxes for home or curbside delivery, etc. The reduction of service to the public increases the profit for the large advertisers and also undermines the good will of the public towards the Postal Service. The transfer of postal work to the private sector results in living wage union jobs turned into low wage non-union jobs. The private owner pockets the difference in wages.

Corporations Lobby and Citizens “Interfere”

The owners of banks and other major mailers have spent significant resources lobbying Congress and the Postal Service to close post offices and mail processing facilities in order to keep their postage rates disproportionately low and reduce the value of the Post Office. Just as many of the rich owners of corporations lobby to reduce social services so they can pay less in taxes, the same business interests lobby to reduce postal services so they pay less in postage rates.

Normally, corporations lobby Congress and the Postal Service behind closed doors, but in 2003 President George W. Bush, invited the corporations and others to submit suggestions regarding the Postal Service to the President’s Commission on the Postal Service. Many of the corporations argued to the Commission in 2003 that the Postal Service should close mail processing facilities and post offices. As an example, American Business Media (ABM), owner of business and professional publications such as *Adweek*, *Information Week*, *Daily Variety*, etc., submitted their comments on 2/11/03 through Gordon T. Hughes II, President and CEO and David R. Strauss, corporate lawyer, and stated the following:

If Congress believes that the national interest, as opposed to broad USPS customer interest, requires, for example, that there be dozens of post offices on Cape Cod and redundant mail processing plants throughout the country, then Congress, not ratepayers, should fund these extravagances. Otherwise, Congress must cease interference with Postal Service decisions.”

The above position, which was typical of many of the large mailers, who did not use small post offices or many of the mail processing plants, shows that corporate owners have long sought closures of mail processing facilities and post offices even when finances were not a problem and regardless of the effect on smaller businesses and communities.

According to a 7/6/11 report by the Office of Inspector General (OIG), 60% of first class mail and a whopping 80% of standard (advertising) mail are currently presorted and drop shipped by private mailers. The OIG report concludes that the private sorting of the mail and drop shipping is so vast that the large mailers no longer need nor desire as many processing plants. The move to consolidate America’s mail processing facilities to benefit large mailers such as Bank of America at the expense of citizens is an obvious and flagrant violation of the laws governing postal policy. Because of the distances involved and time frames, the consolidation of the mail centers can only be accomplished by delaying the first class mail for millions of Americans, in violation of the law, which states,

(e) In determining all policies for postal services, the Postal Service shall give the highest consideration to the requirement for the most expeditious collection, transportation, and delivery of important letter mail.

(f) In selecting modes of transportation, the Postal Service shall give highest consideration to the prompt and economical delivery of all mail. Modern methods of transporting mail by containerization and programs designed to achieve overnight transportation to the destination of important letter mail to all parts of the Nation shall be a primary goal of postal operations. (US Code, Title 39, Part 1)

The large mailers will benefit by fewer places to drop their mailings, better opportunities to maximize worksharing discounts, increased competitive advantage over the smaller mailers, and the eventual conversion of union jobs to low wage jobs. Small businesses and non-profit organizations who drop off the mail at their local post office will have to travel much further to drop off their mail or pay more for postage. While the large commercial mailers will benefit economically from consolidation, the millions of people whose mail travels through these plants will then have second class service for a first class stamp.

Similarly, the large banks and other large corporations have long attempted to get rid of small post offices in violation of the law. The plan to reduce services at small and rural post offices also violates the laws regarding postal policy, which states,

(b) The Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining. No small post office shall be closed solely for operating at a deficit, it being the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal services be insured to residents of both urban and rural communities. (US Code, Title 39, Part 1)

Manufacturing the Financial Crisis to Justify Service Cuts and Closures

Citizens were able to slow many of the closures of local mail processing facilities and post offices with impressive community organizing efforts. The large mailers and key members of Congress next manufactured a financial crisis to provide a better excuse for reducing service and taking away living wage job opportunities for the American people.

In December of 2006, President George W. Bush signed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA), passed by both Republicans and Democrats in Congress, which created the conditions for the current postal financial crisis by including the following changes in the law:

1. Required the Postal Service to pre-fund a Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund for employees 75 years in advance. (Note: No other government service has this requirement)
2. Required the Postal Service to pre-fund the entire health care advance funding within a 10 year period, which meant approximately 5.5 billion would be removed from the funds normally dedicated to covering postal services each year.
3. Placed an inflation-based cap on price increases for postage of most types of mail.

Representing the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), President Bill Burrus objected to the bill prior to its passage contending in part that the cap on most postage rates would put a cap on wages for workers and would undermine service to the public. However, the PAEA passed on a voice vote, thus without a record of each legislator's vote. Many who advocated and voted for the harmful changes in PAEA are still in office today.

The effects of the PAEA changes were seen immediately when the first payment for the retiree health care fund came due and increasingly so over the subsequent years. The unreasonable pre-funding schedule of the retiree health care fund has put a serious financial strain on the USPS and has thus lent false credibility to the notion that the Post Office is failing. There is currently in excess of 44 billion in the retiree health care fund set aside for possible retirees not even born yet. The large advertisers and their supporters in Congress such as Representative Darrel Issa, a Republican from California, are taking advantage of this manufactured crisis to ignore postal policy law and push for rapid facility and service changes that would significantly accelerate the dismantling and transformation of the Postal Service under the guise of "saving" the Post Office.

Owners of Large Corporations Lobby For Postal Service Cuts and No Increase in Their Postage Rates

The Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service was created in 2004 as the public friendly name for the large mailer association that previously identified themselves more honestly as The Mailer's Council. Notable members of this wealthy large mailer coalition include: Time Warner (People Magazine, Sports Illustrated, CNN, etc.), Bank of America, American Express, Pitney Bowes, and AT&T.

“Currently numbering twenty-five associations and companies, the 21st Century Coalition encompasses mailers and suppliers making up the heart of what is still a \$1 trillion industry that generates 7.5 million jobs during this deep recession. Our members, and their customers, use every class, service and product of the postal system....

...Restructuring/Facilities Closings. The Postal Service needs to have freer rein to manage the system as its business declines. We urge Congress to not inhibit the changes postal management deems essential to align the system with decreases in volume, shifts to less expensive mail (i.e., changes in the “mail mix),” and the reduction in revenues both entail. In this regard, the Coalition supports closing underutilized post offices and other dedicated postal facilities, yet making access to postal products and services more ubiquitous by offering them in supermarkets and other outlets more convenient to more Americans. Similarly, we support streamlining processing networks and facilities to match the needs of projected volumes...

...The Coalition urgently reminds one and all that mailers and suppliers – again, those who pay USPS' bills -- are at least as challenged financially as USPS. They simply cannot afford, and therefore will oppose, any rate increase. (Source - Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service Letter to Senators Lieberman, Carper, Collins, and McCain 3/26/10)

The large mailers like to tout the number of jobs controlled in the private sector related to the mailing industry. However, they do not tout the low wages and benefits they pay their private sector workers doing postal work. Some of the better known companies listed in this particular letter, who claim they, “are as financially challenged as USPS,” include: American Express, AT&T, Pitney Bowes, Time Warner, and Verizon. They are replacing family wage jobs with low wage jobs and keeping the profit.

The Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service continued with their message of no increases in their postage rates, worked to get smaller businesses to buy in, and utilized threats of taking their business elsewhere.

“I am [position] of [company name]. We depend on the postal system and support [X] jobs right here in [name of town]. We are very concerned about the Postal Service's financial problems, and urge you to help get them back on their feet. But we are even more concerned with proposals to increase postal rates not to

support USPS, but to reduce the deficit. Our business simply cannot afford an increase; the consequences would be devastating for us.” (Source – Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service Message Points for Grassroots Communication 9/28/11)

“The U.S. mailing industry today reiterated its position that the industry will oppose any Postal reform legislation that includes a proposal by the U.S. Postal Service to increase postage rates. The Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service, a coalition comprising industries that rely on the mail, warned that postage increases will drive more customers away from the mail and hasten the demise of the U.S. Postal Service.” (Source – Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service press release dated 3/22/12)

The large mailers make their objections to the rate increase known, because raising the rates on the large advertisers is a logical choice to ensure service to the American public. Also, it is simply their fair share of the cost. According to many advertisers, mail, because it can be targeted at a specific individual based on collected data, provides the best return on the investment for advertisers.

The Obvious Solution of Matching Revenue with Cost

Although there were options in the PAEA to raise postage to cover costs due to “extraordinary or exceptional circumstances,” which is the case given the recession and other factors, the large corporations communicated to Congress that any postage increases were unacceptable and should be off the table.

In 2010, the Postal Service did request a general rate increase for all mailers due to exceptional circumstances. However, the large corporations, under the “Affordable Mail Alliance,” recruited many small businesses, newspapers, and non-profit organizations to join with them to oppose the rate increase. The Postal Regulatory Commission ruled that the recession was an exceptional circumstance, but the Postal Service did not demonstrate that the proposed rate increase was designed to address the effects of the claimed exceptional circumstances. Despite the opportunity to resubmit the rate increase, the Postal Service dropped the attempt to raise rates.

Although the Postal Service over the last few years has eliminated many postal jobs and made damaging service cuts to the general public, the only acceptable plan for the large mailing corporations was even more job eliminations and deeper service cuts to the American people in order to protect the large mailers low and privileged rates.

As mentioned previously, the Postal Service is self-sustaining and the law states, “The costs of establishing and maintaining the Postal Service shall not be apportioned to impair the overall value of such service to the people.” Other sections of the law not included above also prevent service cuts, but these parts of postal policy law are also being ignored. The usual and obvious method of balancing the postal budget and retaining the overall value of service is to increase postage rates so that revenue matches costs.

Type of Mail	% of Volume	% of Revenue	Revenue Per Pound	Avg. Weight Per Piece
First Class Mail	46%	51%	\$9.21	0.8 oz
Standard Mail (Advertising)	48%	26%	\$1.85	1.8 oz

Source: U.S. Postal Service, Cost and Revenue Analysis (CRA) and Revenue, Pieces, and Weight (RPW) Report, FY 2010.

Given that volume of advertising mail is greater than first class mail, but the revenue from advertising mail is approximately half the revenue coming from first class mail, the fair solution to the financial concerns of the Post Office would be to raise the rates specifically for advertising mailers. The large advertising mailers have been receiving generous postage discounts or subsidies for years and should pay more. Any discounts should be reserved for non-profit mailers and individuals sharing information and opinion and thus contributing to an informed and active citizenry.

Likewise, the Postal Service should stop making, “Summer Sales” discounts for large volume mailers and, “Negotiated Special Agreements” (NSAs) for the large companies powerful enough to get the sweetheart deals that reduce their postage rates. Such postage discounts to the large mailers reduce the overall revenue to pay for postal services, subsidizes the ability of the large corporations to advertise, and makes it difficult for competitors who are not given the sweetheart deals or other large volume discounts.

Obvious means of increasing revenue to match the costs of postal services include reconfiguring the punitive pre-funding of the health care fund, returning overpayments to retiree funds and raising postal rates on advertising mail. Just as legislation created financial difficulties for the Postal Service, legislation can solve the financial difficulties. Such legislation should be straightforward and without other harmful provisions to further dismantle the Post Office under the guise of “saving” the Post Office.

Democracy and the Post Office

At the time of the American Revolution, democracy was a relatively new idea for governing, as Kings, Queens, churches, and legislative bodies controlled by the upper class were the dominant models of government in most countries. Following the American Constitution, the new federal government representatives decided that they needed an informed and active citizenry to make the experiment in democracy successful. As stated by James Madison,

"A popular Government, without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

In order to promote democracy in our country, Congress soon began the process of expanding postal services to every resident in the country and subsidizing the distribution

of newspapers so that the American people could “arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.” In the beginning of the 1800s, many individuals and associations of individuals provided information and opinion through the subsidized newspapers. Moreover, the low postage enabling the American people to express their views was subsidized by money from merchants. As things stand now, although still inexpensive, citizens overall pay more for their postage than businesses. The postage rate structure has turned upside down as citizens now subsidize large business advertising rather than business subsidizing democratic communication.

The founders of the US Constitution intended for the Post Office to be a crucial part of the infrastructure for a democratic nation. As a result of the low postage, people of all colors, incomes, political opinions, etc. could utilize the mail at affordable prices and thus freely exchange information and ideas. For example, Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave, contributed greatly to public debate on many topics in the 1800s through his own newspaper and newspapers owned by others.

A look at the communication models of today, reveal a very undemocratic media. Despite the fact that the public owns the airwaves and right of ways, the communication systems are structured such that there is high financial barrier to present a variety of views. As a result most of the media today is owned and controlled by the owners of large corporations, who spread information from a corporate point of view. The example of the Post Office as a democratic model providing affordable access to all of the American people is a system worth renewing and emulating to support a vibrant democracy and well-educated citizenry.

Moreover, the security of information is another important element of the Postal Service model of communication. Well known to postal workers is the sanctity of the mail. As a letter passes through the Postal Service, the content of the letter is considered sacred and protected by law.

In communicating through the internet, the owners of corporations are able to collect data from individuals who utilize the internet or even send and receive emails. Such businesses can keep track of which websites users clicked on, the words in user searches, or anything else a person does online. Such data are sold to advertisers and others interested in personal data of individuals. The personal data collected by these corporations from individuals online can and has been used against people in a multitude of ways including the denial of jobs, credit, health and life insurance, child custody, and even criminal proceedings.

Consider for a moment if the Post Office offered a public option for internet access. The Post Office would make a strong effort to implement universal service, providing each home with affordable (perhaps free) and fast internet access and email accounts. Moreover, a person’s online activities could be made secure from corporate eavesdropping, tracking, and data collection.

The bottom line is that the battle for the Post Office is a battle for democracy and fairness. On one side are the few owners of Bank of America, JP Morgan, Time Warner, Verizon, FedEx and other large corporations who want to reduce service to millions of Americans, eliminate family wage jobs, avoid paying their fair share of postage, and essentially control the Post Office for their own benefit. On the other side are the millions of American people who utilize the Post Office for “personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence” and look to “arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.”

The Post Office is a successful, beloved, and democratic institution with a proud heritage and important role for the future that must be protected by the American people.

About the Author

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See below for:

What Can People Do to Protect the Post Office?

What Can Congress Do?

What Does the Law Say?

More Information About the Post Office

What Can People Do to Protect the Post Office?

1. Contact your Congressional Senators and Representatives and ask their position on important issues affecting the Post Office (such as the 12 items in “What Should Congress Do?”) Request that your representative actively work to implement the 12 items in “What Should Congress Do?”)
2. Contact your local and state government representatives and ask their position on important issues affecting the Post Office. Inform your representative that you are opposed to the dismantling of the Postal Service and request that your representative write Congress and the President regarding the matter.
3. Create coalitions to educate the public and save the Post Office. There are local coalitions already started in various communities, such as “Community and Postal Workers United,” <http://cpwunited.com> to protect the Post Office and the interests of the American public.
4. Ask the wealthy owners of corporations who are driving postal policy to stop lobbying for the dismantling of the Post Office. The owners of Bank of America, Time Warner, and other visible corporations active in their support of dismantling the Post Office are dependent upon a positive corporate brand image and are therefore responsive to public opinion. Corporations who continue to support reducing postal services could be challenged with rallies, pickets, and other actions to expose their harmful and self-serving activities.
5. The small to medium businesses and non-profit organizations could communicate to Congress that they oppose the dismantling of the Post Office and support the protection of democracy that the Post Office provides.

What Should Congress Do?

1. Enforce and honor the law. The dismantling of the Post Office and reduction of postal services to the American people violates long standing postal policy laws under USC Code, Title 39, Part 1 (see below)
2. Stop and reverse the consolidation of mail processing facilities in order to keep expeditious and overnight delivery
3. Restore post offices and lost service hours in all communities
4. Staff customer service windows so that people are served in an expeditious manner
5. Preserve Saturday delivery
6. Preserve and restore home and curbside delivery
7. Stop the contracting out of postal functions to private interests
8. Raise the current low advertising rates for the large corporate bulk mailers
9. Reconfigure the pre-funding schedule for the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund
10. Pay all postal workers a family wage and provide basic benefits such as health care and retirement
11. Preserve the Post Office as a workplace for Veterans
12. Allow the Post Office to provide secure and private internet access and email

What Does the Law Say?

United States Code (USC) – Title 39 – Postal Service - § 101. Postal Policy

(a) The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people. The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities. The costs of establishing and maintaining the Postal Service shall not be apportioned to impair the overall value of such service to the people.

(b) The Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining. No small post office shall be closed solely for operating at a deficit, it being the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal services be insured to residents of both urban and rural communities.

(c) As an employer, the Postal Service shall achieve and maintain compensation for its officers and employees comparable to the rates and types of compensation paid in the private sector of the economy of the United States. It shall place particular emphasis upon opportunities for career advancements of all officers and employees and the achievement of worthwhile and satisfying careers in the service of the United States.

(d) Postal rates shall be established to apportion the costs of all postal operations to all users of the mail on a fair and equitable basis.

(e) In determining all policies for postal services, the Postal Service shall give the highest consideration to the requirement for the most expeditious collection, transportation, and delivery of important letter mail.

(f) In selecting modes of transportation, the Postal Service shall give highest consideration to the prompt and economical delivery of all mail. Modern methods of transporting mail by containerization and programs designed to achieve overnight transportation to the destination of important letter mail to all parts of the Nation shall be a primary goal of postal operations.

(g) In planning and building new postal facilities, the Postal Service shall emphasize the need for facilities and equipment designed to create desirable working conditions for its officers and employees, a maximum degree of convenience for efficient postal services, proper access to existing and future air and surface transportation facilities, and control of costs to the Postal Service.

For More Information About the Post Office

Local Organizations Making a Difference

Community and Postal Workers United (CPWU) is an organized effort to bring local groups of community members and postal workers together to fight back against the dismantling of the Post Office and protect the interests of the American public. <http://cpwunited.com>

There are also many other local groups fighting back, which I do not have enough information on.

National Unions

American Postal Workers Union (APWU) www.apwu.org

National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) www.nalc.org

National Postal Mail Handler Union (NPMHU) www.npmhu.org

National Rural Letter Carriers Association (NRLCA) www.nrlca.org

Online Articles About the Post Office

Excellent, thoughtful, and current information about the battle for the Post Office is coming from **Save the Post Office** at www.savethepostoffice.com, a website maintained and authored by Steve Hutkins, a literature professor who lives in a small town in Hudson Valley, New York. In addition, the site also features the writings of Mark Jamison, a former small town postmaster who provides intelligent insight into the corporate management culture and other issues regarding the Post Office.

Mainly links to articles about the USPS, but often has articles not shown on the major media websites.

Postal Reporter at www.postalreporter.com run by an APWU member.

Postal Mag at www.postalmag.com run by an NALC member.

Postal News at www.postalnews.com run by a retired postal supervisor.

Postal Employee Network at www.postalemployeenetwork.com run by a former postal worker

Postcom at www.postcom.org run by the Association for Postal Commerce, which is an association of large mailers. Has links to postal news in other countries where strikes are quite common.

Government Web Sites

United States Postal Service (USPS) www.usps.com

Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) www.prc.gov

2003 President's Commission on USPS at <http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/usps/offices/domestic-finance/usps/index.html> contains testimony from corporations on their positions regarding the USPS.

Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) <https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=mtac> - The USPS has a committee where representatives from the large mailers like Time Warner, UPS, FedEx, Bank of America, etc. come to postal headquarters and advise postal management representatives on how to run the Post Office in ways that benefit the large mailers.

USPS Office of Inspector General (OIG) www.uspsoidg.gov - Although biased in terms of their recommendations, OIG reports often contain valuable source information. The OIG reports are often used to justify postal and legislative actions and therefore being aware of recent and upcoming OIG reports helps in understanding recent and upcoming changes affecting the Post Office.

US Government Accountability Office (GAO) www.gao.gov The GAO reports on issues in other agencies besides the Post Office, but is valuable for the same reasons as the OIG described above. Watch for the GAO's Phillip Herr who has been aggressively recommending the dismantling of the Post Office.

Congressional Research Service (CRS) - Easy to read background information on topics to help congress members understand an issue, but with no official release site can be hard to find. Fortunately, the Federation of American Scientists have collected quite a few on their website at www.fas.org

Local Union Publications

Local unions publish newsletters that contain valuable reporting of what is occurring at the local level in Post Offices across the country. Local union representatives and members often write with refreshing honesty and wisdom about issues regarding the Post Office. The distribution of union newsletters at non-profit rates across the country is a prime example of the importance of the Post Office as a democratic institution.