



## American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

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Dear APWU Member:

We need your ideas!

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Our Collective Bargaining Agreement (union contract) determines our wages, benefits and conditions of employment. Our current union contract between the APWU and the United States Postal Service expires on September 20, 2018, a little over one year from now. In June of 2018 we will open formal negotiations with management. APWU preparations are already underway.

The theme of our last contract struggle was “Good Service, Good Jobs, Good Contract!”

Now we need your suggestions for our contract theme/slogan for 2018 (contest entry form enclosed). I encourage you to discuss your ideas with co-workers and family members -- keeping in mind some of our major goals for upcoming negotiations: *a) Job Security including protection of the no lay-off provisions and limits on subcontracting; b) Fair pay raises that reward postal workers for our hard work and contributions; c) Bridge the gaps between the divisive “three tier” wage and benefit structure; d) Protect and expand career jobs; e) Uplift the PSE workforce; f) Hold abusive managers accountable; g) Expand and enhance postal services.*

Negotiations are never easy. In the current political environment they will be extremely challenging. Our success will depend on how much power and leverage we muster with **member involvement** and support from the public. By successfully doing this in 2015 we made real progress in the last union contract.

Beginning with the selection of our theme/slogan, and continuing over the next year, we will be building momentum, establishing our contract action teams, wearing our union gear and educating postal customers. There will be many opportunities, and much need, for you to get involved! Together we can win!

Start now by sending your suggestion(s) for our contract theme/slogan to headquarters. The deadline for submissions is September 20, 2017.

We look forward to hearing from you. As we embark on the difficult road of contract negotiations affecting 200,000 postal workers, the successful *Stop Staples* fight reminds us that when we become active, stick together and stay determined in the fight for justice, we can win!!

For Contract 2018, we are already “Fired Up and Ready to Go!”

In Union Solidarity,

Mark Dimondstein, President