

Philly PARCEL

Official Publication of the Philadelphia Bulk Mail Center Local 7048, American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
Volume XXV Number I February 2008

"One Workforce - One Struggle - One Union"

**We're NOT
For Sale...**

**Is This BMC In
A State Of
Transition?**



The President's View

BMC NETWORK

What is a Bulk Mail Center seems to be the question of the day. BMC's have been around since the mid 1970's placed across the country in 21 different sites from the east coast to the west coast. The overwhelming majority of the mail in these BMC's that have been processed involves parcel post. Along the way there have been annexes that processed other types of mail, but for the most part the BMC's handled the parcels. Now the leaders of the USPS want to take this away from us. It is no longer a service that we provide to the American Public. It is a Business. In fact the window clerks these days do not offer parcel post to the customers as one of their options.

This tells me giving away the work that postal workers have done forever is not by accident. It seems to be a concerted effort on the part of the USPS' hierarchy. The American Postal Workers Union leadership in Washington DC has been told on more than one occasion by postal service management officials their "potential" plan is to subcontract out parcel post work. This is disgraceful and should be brought to the attention of politicians within areas where BMC's are located. If it occurs, untrained personnel will be handling the American Public's mail with less experience than career postal employees. They will not be subject to the same rigorous hiring standards as postal employees and may not be subjected to background checks.

We have been hearing for a number of years the possibility of Sack Sorters and Parcel Sorters being ripped out of all the BMC's. This has already been done in a few BMC's in the mid-west. The plan to "consider" doing this is certainly not a new one. The question of the day is that if this goes through, what will happen to the Philadelphia BMC?

In my opinion based on what I wrote in the last edition of the Philly Parcel, BMC's as we know them will operate in a completely different manner. We have been informed and it is no secret that parcel post mail volume has declined dramatically over the past five fiscal years. The main reason is because of the major discounts offered and accepted by the major mailers who use the postal service. Much of the parcel post bypasses facilities like ours through what is known as cross dock transferring. These mailers have their mail prepared and delivered to a facility in which it does not need to have any processing performed in a BMC then goes elsewhere and then eventually delivered by a letter carrier. It seems what will occur next if plans go forward is to have none of the processing of parcel post done by any POSTAL EMPLOYEE at BMC's.

What would occur next in my opinion if it does not happen simultaneously is to try to figure out what work would be performed by BMC employees. In the event the mail and the machines disappear, then it would come down to what would be brought into BMC's. This supposedly has yet to be decided, but as I reported on previously every BMC across the country is owned by the postal service and is located in great transportation areas. Therefore some types of operations are expected to be in-sourced into BMC's. **At this point in time nothing is official.** The APWU at this leadership briefing was required to sign a non-disclosure form agreeing not to write about potential in-sourcing. Therefore I will wait for the time when the postal service moves forward officially on this endeavor.

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

We can ensure that whatever inconveniences occur in the Philadelphia BMC the contract will be followed. In the event there is excessing (relocation) of employees to another facility the contract will be followed. There will be meetings for each tour to address questions by the membership. Hopefully we will have a better turnout than the one on January 23rd. The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at 4:15 pm.

In closing I would like to elaborate on the reason for the delay in reporting in writing on the January 9, 2008 meeting that I was invited to attend in Washington DC. I wanted to wait until our National President Bill Burrus put something out on the topic which was recently done and disseminated throughout the BMC including APWU bulletin boards. By now everyone should have had the opportunity to read his letter.

As we speak there is a nationwide mail audit going on in every Bulk Mail Center. When I asked our Plant Manager Florence Brittingham about the purpose she indicated to me that she was informed that it was confidential. If this is the case, it is amazing that the top postal official in our facility is not being briefed. I find that the two issues are without a doubt related to one another.

Clerks under our jurisdiction have been involved with this audit and have briefed me as to the process. The information compiled is being forwarded to higher up management outside the facility we are told. Hopefully our National will be able to have further communications on this audit as it relates to potential subcontracting of our parcel post.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Vincent Tarducci, President, APWU Local #7048

January 25, 2008

The Honorable Michael Nutter
Mayor City of Philadelphia
City Hall
Broad and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Mr. Nutter,

First I would like to congratulate you on your becoming the new Mayor of our great city and wish you the best in the years to come. My name is Vince Tarducci. I am the local union president for the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) out of the Philadelphia Bulk Mail Center (BMC) located at 1900 Byberry Road in Greater Northeast Philadelphia. I have held this position since 1989 and have been employed at the BMC since April of 1980. Presently there are approximately 1200 employees who are employed at this location. I was born and raised in the City of Brotherly Love and have lived here my entire life. The Philadelphia BMC opened a few years prior to my hiring date in 1975 and thanks to the City of Philadelphia local politicians and labor leaders this facility was able to remain within the city limits allowing for employment and Philadelphia local tax dollars. The purpose of my letter is my concerns about plans to subcontract our work, most likely outside our great city. The United States Postal Service, in August and September of 2007, has informed leaders of the APWU about their possible plans to give the Parcel Post Mail away.

What this means basically is that untrained personnel will be handling the American Public's mail that postal workers at the plant in Philadelphia have handled for over 30 years. These employees have less training and less experience than career postal employees. They are not subject to the same rigorous hiring standards as postal employees; do not take an oath of office; and may not be subjected to background checks. These employees of private subcontractors are simply unable to safeguard the mail or the public against biohazards, mailed explosives, and many other dangers. The intervention of a big city Mayor like yourself would be paramount to slowing down this process as it continues right in your very own backyard. The almighty dollar of BIG BUSINESS is the main reason this is occurring. The United States Postal Service has been around for well over 200 years. Our Founding Fathers had a plan that the United States Mail would be handled by United States Postal Workers without making a profit on the backs of the employees; our members would not be used and abused. We were created to be a Service to the Public.

Every one of our members was required to take a test and obtain the necessary grade that made them eligible for Postal Employment. Farming out our work, the public's US Mail would have our Founding Fathers rolling in their graves. It is a disgrace and needs to be looked at by Mayors, Congressmen and Congresswomen, US and State Senators. Taking any work away from OUR city should NOT be done with a stroke of a pen. It must be handled with open discussions with politicians, union leaders and the public. I appreciated your Open House after your inauguration as it sent a message to every Philadelphia Resident what you are about. I believe it is important that before US Mail gets processed away from your City, and the good chance that employees become relocated to other postal facilities outside your City, that your office gets involved before it is too late. In closing, officers of my Union would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss this issue of paramount importance to APWU members.

Yours truly,

Vincent Tarducci, President
Philadelphia BMC Local #7048
(267) 994-3235 cell#

Cc- William Burrus, National APWU President
Pat Eiding, President Philadelphia AFL-CIO Central Labor Council
File

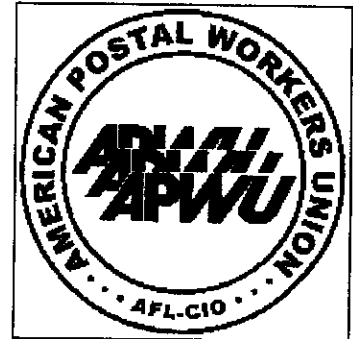
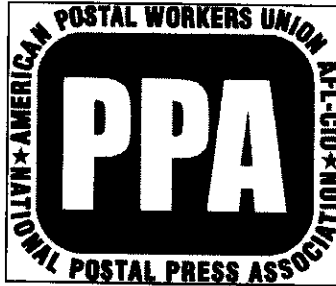
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AND MANY MORE TIDBITS!

NOTE:

The winner of the previous Philly Parcel contest correctly naming the first President of the APWU as Stu Filby was, Ron Dever, clerk, tour 3.



**NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:
 Wednesday, February 20, 2008
 4:15 PM**

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Local 7048 has a website available with postings, local manuals, officer's reports, etc. Our website was developed in co-operation with the Pennsylvania Postal Workers Union. It is now its own domain and can be accessed directly as:

www.phillybmc.com

Our website is currently being administered by Information Director and Maintenance Craft Steward, John Gushue, Tour 2.

ONE LAST THING!

Please take a minute to update your contact telephone numbers, (home and cell) with the Local. Use a separate form to jot down your contact information and we will log it in a secure folder. Help us keep you informed! Thanks!

God Bless America, *Ray Pavel*. Editor

***Philly* PARCEL**

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