

SCRIBE ARTICLE FOR THE AUGUST 2012 POSTAL RECORD

The ten Postal Hunger Strikers June 25-28, to SAVE THE POSTAL SERVICE, were able to get an incredible amount of good press from all over the country. The message to Congress was, STOP STARVING THE POSTAL SERVICE. Meaning, the Congressional mandate that the USPS pre-fund for future retiree health benefits to the tune of 5.5 billion dollars per year. This has accounted for nearly all of the Postal losses since 2006. No other institution, public or private, is required to pre-fund for health benefits. And Congress is forcing the USPS to pre-fund through 2082! Repeal the pre-funding mandate and the Postal Service would be doing just fine financially. Not to mention the fact that the USPS has over funded its pensions by 50 to 70 billion dollars! Thanks to the heroic Postal hunger strikers, these facts were printed over and over again in most major newspapers in the United States. Even media from other parts of the world carried the stories of the hunger strikers. Because of the hunger strikers, we were able to get the truth out and counter the disinformation campaign being waged against us by Wall Street, corporate America and even Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe.

The Hunger Strike to Save the Postal Service in Washington, DC and the solidarity rallies, marches, and hunger strikes across the country significantly raised the level of public awareness, pressure on Congress and the PMG, and generated much greater interest in Communities and Postal Workers United (cpwunited.com). We are a national presence and positioned to move the struggle to a higher level. We must unite labor and the public to preserve the peoples public Postal Service.

I want to thank the ANSWER Coalition which provided office space and accommodations and helped organize the culminating and very militant rally/protest at L'Enfant Plaza.

IN THE STRUGGLE,

Kenneth Lerch
President NALC 3825