



Western PA. Postal Workers Solidarity Committee

November 29, 2016

"THAT'S A WRAP" OF STAPLES DEMONSTRATIONS IN 2016

The brave and loyal cadre of the Western PA Postal Workers Solidarity Committee, joined by other union and community activists, closed out the third year of Staples demonstrations on November 13, at Monaca. Just in the nick of time, as the weather has since deteriorated to frigid temperatures, miserable cold rain, and lately even snow! Nevertheless, the activists turned out in effective numbers to drive home the message to Staples again, that **THE US MAIL IS NOT FOR SALE.**

The demonstrations are suspended until after the holiday season. Experience has shown that beginning around Thanksgiving, through the end of December, there are insufficient numbers of members available to effectively stage demonstrations, since service is required to deal with the heavy mailing season. While this has always been the case, the growing volumes of parcels has increased the need for additional staffing. Hopefully you will have recharged your batteries over the holidays so that you can engage when the demonstrations are resumed in 2017. The Committee has agreed for a tentative schedule beginning next year for January 8 at East Liberty, January 22 at McKnight, and February 5 at Robinson Township. Mark those dates on your calendar now so you may be prepared to join in.

This year closes on a very positive note for this struggle. The National Labor Relations Board has recently issued the Administrative Law Judge's decision in which he sustained the Union position on the critical elements of the case against the Postal Service. This is a significant development as the Union continues to present a "full court press" against this destructive scheme. The importance of this development cannot be overstated. The Judge covered all the points raised by the Union, finding that the Union was sustained in every argument. The Decision could not have been written in stronger terms supporting the Union. APWU publications have and will continue to set forth the details of the case. For our purposes here, the victory is a welcome morale boost to the dedicated demonstrators.

We believe that more is yet to come before the final nail is driven in the Staples job raiding coffin. But this moment must be savored and recognized as an important step towards that goal. To those that have joined us "on the line", we salute you for a job well done. You have earned and won our respect for standing with us over these last few years. You are heroes owed much by your fellows. We are proud to have stood with you throughout this struggle. As we contemplate what is before us next year, we are strengthened with the confidence you will stand with us. We are making labor history together. It is a noble quest, and a necessary one. In the interim, we wish you have a safe and happy holiday.

Chuck Pugar, President
Pittsburgh Metro Area Postal
Workers Union

Mike Plaskon, President
Branch 84 National Association
Of Letter Carriers

Kelly Dickey, President
Local 322, National Postal
Mail Handlers Union

John P. Richards, President
Pittsburgh Area Retiree
Chapter Of The American
Postal Workers Union

Frank Wozniak, Assistant
District Representative
National Rural Letter
Carriers Association