

# A Poke With A Stroke Of A Pen

It took us 65 years to get the right to have a set schedule, overtime pay for extra work, decent wages, seniority rights, health benefits and a retirement that is the light at the end of our career tunnel. It can take a mere 4 seconds of a President's pen to set it all back to the 1900s. "Oh that's just the Union crying wolf again," some will say. "That's just the left ranting again!" others will claim dismissively. The vast majority of postal workers won't give any of it a second thought. Some will claim they didn't even know that their job security was under fire.

Whether you lean to the right, left, or just stand in the middle in your politics, if you are living in America today, you know that our elected government can change things by Executive Order for all American — for good, bad, or otherwise. That is our reality!

## The Force of Law

By definition an Executive Order (E.O.) is a rule or order issued by the President to an Executive Branch of the government which has the force of law. The US Postal Service is a part of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government. You are a civil servant and take the same Oath of Office that the U.S. President takes, and the Postal Service touches every community in this nation.

On Thursday April 12, 2018 the President issued Executive Order on the Task Force on the United States Postal System. The E.O. only has 7 sections. The 1st Section deals with "Policy" which states, "*The USPS is on an unsustainable financial path and MUST be restructured to prevent a taxpayer-funded bailout.*"

Section 2 identifies who is being tasked to evaluate postal operations and finances and lists the heads of major government agencies including the Attorney General on issues related to the monopoly we have on the mail (e.g., only we can deliver 1st class mail and only we can deliver to mail boxes) **when operating in the commercial marketplace.**



Western Region  
Coordinator's Report

Omar M.  
Gonzalez

## A Trillion to One Postal Service

Notice the E.O. is not just on the Postal Service — its very title says "Task Force on the United States Postal System." The task force will be looking at the entire postal system of this country and make recommendations to restructure it — i.e., *to change it.*

Our US Postal Service is the hub of a trillion dollar postal industry employing millions of workers. On July 26, 1775, the Second Continental Congress established the U.S. Post Office. We thus came into existence before the United States was established on July 2, 1776, and before the United States declared its Independence on July 4, 1776.

The history of our Postal Service is the history of our nation — so much so, that Article 8 of the US Constitution adopted in 1787 states, "*Congress shall have the Power to establish Post Offices and Post Roads*". The Executive Order is messing with a fundamental block of the nation.

## Eliminations

Section 3 of the E.O. declares that the Task Force SHALL develop recommendations for "**administrative**" and legislative reforms to the US postal system. These recommendations are to be consistent with a previous Executive Order issued in March 2017.

That E.O. is the "Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch", which calls for a proposed plan to reorganize governmental functions and **eliminate unnecessary agencies.**

What is meant by "administrative reforms", and reforms to what? Section 3 states that our operations and finances will be the focus of the task force: letter and mailbox delivery (this can af-

fect our lay-off protections and privatization); universal service obligations (this will lead to privatization); and the state of USPS workforce, operations and costs (this means our contract with management, our job security, our benefits and our standard of living).

## Good — Get Rid Of the Slugs

The E.O.s read like they are well intended. The Task Force has heard the views of the commercial, nonprofits, competitors, and some residential users of the Postal Service. Reports indicate the mailers are satisfied with the manner in which they were received. The Postal Unions have met separately with the Task Force and seemingly have adopted a united front.

Alarming there are some among us that welcome administrative reform, believing it will rid the Service of union "slugs", lazy workers, crazed bosses, nepotism, and other real or perceived postal ailments. Somehow they mistakenly believe that the E.O. created Task Force is going to "save the post office." That is NOT the intent of the E.O. and anyone who believes this is way off base. After all, the "slugs" they are targeting are all of us.

The report, due in late August, will likely recommend restructuring within two parts:

1) Legislative — This gives us a fighting chance with Congress under the Constitution, with the understanding that what Congress gives, they can take away.

2) Administrative — That is by decree or via more E.O.s, which can affect us immediately and force us to the courts.

**By the stroke of a pen your livelihood and that of your family can be eroded! Will you be ready? Will you take action to safeguard your life?**