

Postal Workers Celebrate the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A Great Champion of Labor

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. IS UNIVERSALLY recognized as one of the greatest civil rights leaders of all time, but few people think of him as a labor leader. In fact, he was also a great champion of working people. King was assassinated in Memphis, TN, where he had traveled to support striking sanitation workers who were protesting dangerous, discriminatory working conditions and fighting for a union.

An All-Out Assault

Today, the Postal Service is in the grips of a manufactured financial crisis that is being used to justify an all-out assault on workers, on service to the people, and on the USPS as a great public institution.

On Feb. 19, the American Postal Workers Union will enter negotiations with postal management for a new union contract covering more than 200,000 postal employees.



“As I have said many times, and believe with all my heart, the coalition that can have the greatest impact in the struggle for human dignity here in America is that of the Negro and the forces of labor, because their fortunes are so closely intertwined.”

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King understood the importance of labor unions in winning good jobs for African-Americans and all working people. He pointed out that unions had a positive effect on all who labor – even those who were not unionized. “If you are making a decent salary in a non-union company, you owe that to the unions,” he said.

Dr. King also acted as the conscience of the labor movement, and frequently called on unions to fight for racial equality in their own ranks and in society at large.

The American Postal Workers Union also understands the connection between workers’ rights and civil rights. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of African-Americans have been employed by the Postal Service under our union contracts, which have enabled African-Americans to obtain living-wage jobs.

Our goal is to win a labor agreement that protects good jobs and guarantees the right of all Americans to have good postal services, regardless of who they are, where they live, or how much money they have. We want to stop the closing of post offices and reductions in service. In fact, we want to expand service. For example, we are fighting to secure postal financial services for the millions of Americans who don’t have access to banks.

Please support our fight for your postal services and for a labor contract that is fair to postal workers. We will need your help. For more information, contact us at nccc@apwu.org, or visit our website, at www.apwunccc.org.

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American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO