

## *Stop Staples!*

# Union Members Gear Up For April 24 Day of Action

APWU members are busy making plans for events at more than 50 Staples stores in 27 states on Thursday, April 24, to protest the sweetheart deal between the USPS and the office-supply chain.

“We must win this fight,” said union President Mark Dimondstein, “and we can win it – but only if the members of the American Postal Workers Union are engaged and involved in the struggle.

“We are urging union members to participate in a protest if an event is planned in their town, and to ask their co-workers, friends and family to take part as well,” he said.

“We are thrilled that our sisters and brothers in the National Association of Letters, the National Postal Mail Handlers Union and the National Rural Letter Carriers Association have pledged their support for the campaign. That is the true meaning of solidarity,” he added.

“I want to remind APWU members to be sure to reach out to our brothers and sisters in other unions – especially the other postal unions – when planning for the National Day of Action,” Dimondstein said.

In the run-up to the National Day of Action, the APWU is asking union members to:

- Sign the online petition at [www.StopStaples.com](http://www.StopStaples.com).
- Sign the postcard addressed to Staples CEO Ron Sargent and distribute copies to co-workers, family and friends.
- Sign the Pledge Card and volunteer to help win the battle.
- Wear the *Stop Staples* sticker and pass some out to friends and associates.
- Get the latest info at [www.apwu.org](http://www.apwu.org).
- Spread the word!

A list of protest locations and the material is available on the union’s website, [www.apwu.org](http://www.apwu.org).

The agreement between the USPS and Staples established postal counters in 82 Staples stores – staffed

**Save the Date!**

**NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION**

Sign the petition at [StopStaples.com](http://StopStaples.com) For updates, text **POSTAL** to 91990

**STOP STAPLES**

**Thursday, April 24, 2014**

with low-wage, non-union Staples employees rather than postal workers. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe and Staples CEO Ron Sargent plan to expand the program to Staples’ 1,500 stores nationwide.

“This program is a direct threat to our jobs and to the *public* Postal Service,” Dimondstein said.

The Postmaster General has repeatedly denied that the program is part of an effort to privatize USPS retail operations, but documents management was forced to provide the APWU reveal the truth. A December 2012 internal USPS memo says:

*“The pilot will be used to determine if lower costs can be realized with retail partner labor instead of the labor traditionally associated with retail windows at Post Offices... Transferring USPS product and service transactions to retail partner locations should allow USPS to cut costs associated with window labor time and credit card transaction fees.”*

“The true aim of the program couldn’t be clearer,” Dimondstein said.