

Jumping Off The Plank

BY OMAR M. GONZALEZ, Regional Coordinator

"Thank you for listening and for the great job you are doing every day- now get off" The PMG's announced network change mandatory stand up talk ends with a big thank you. In fact what he is doing is actually telling you another two word phrase that ends with the word "you"!

One Eyed Captain At The Helm

Are we on a sinking ship? NO ! But we are on a distressed vessel that mismanagement and Congress have torpedoed. No one has to tell postal workers about our management. You live everyday! From stupid instructions, to wayward evil whip cracking hacks, to corporate suits that base decisions on data, while knowing the data is flawed.

Our management has taken a financial mess and is capitalizing (no pun intended) and manipulating the so called crisis to **BLAME YOU** the ship mates. **HE WANTS YOU TO PAY** for their mismanagement: He is working at:

- Taking you away from our federal retirement system and create a management run (imagine that) retirement program.
- Taking you out of the federal health plan program and force you into a management run medical health plan (heaven help us!)
- Voiding the brand new contract he just signed to kill Article 6 anti-lay off protections and lay-off prohibition coverage so that management can impose a Reduction In Force not necessarily based on seniority.
- Gutting mail processing operations to reduce the 151,000 employees working at these facilities.
- Closing community post offices forcing employees to be relocated and Americans to turn bitter at us.

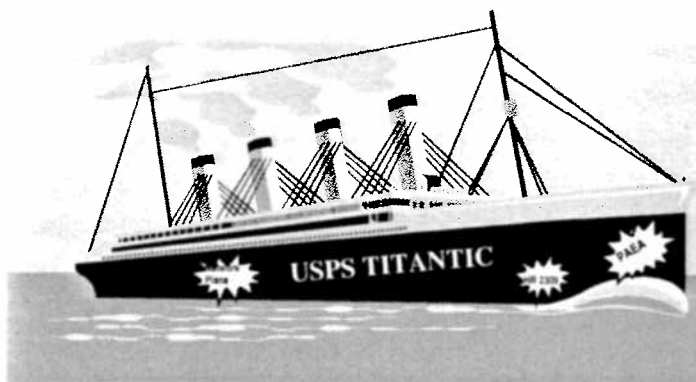
The things the PMG is doing now has been planned for years since management's Transformation Plans. Before there was a recession and before the full impact of electronic diversion of mail.

The PMG is now crying about the Congress imposed mandate to pre-fund future (75 years worth) retiree health benefits in a short ten years at \$5.5 billion a year. But this typical postal manager and his then boss , Potter were the ones who supported so called postal reform in 2006. **Our boss SOLD US OUT ! !** Now he cries about what the 2006 law , he backed, is doing to us.

The House On The Hill

Congress is the culprit that imposed the financial mess on the Postal Service. The PMG was for the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (Postal Reform), Democrats & Republican politicians were for it , and former President Bush signed it into law in 2006.

We have been going down the "Hill" (pun intended) ever since. That law mandates that USPS pay for retirement medical health benefits for postal workers who are not even born yet. That law also mandates management to submit to Congress their network restructure plans. And so here we are today !



Since 2006 management plotted to downsize operations. The END (Evolutionary Network Development) was not good enough. NRP (National Reassessment Program) only caused compensation costs to increase. In 2008 management submitted to Congress their Network plan as the recession hit.

In 2010 Congress changed hands , economic recovery slowed, Management started crying about the ability to make their imposed payments and **We** all worked together to try to convince our elected politicians to change the law- then our PMG turned on us!

Now those who control Congress, that floated the dangerous icebergs into postal waters in the first place, are playing with the USPS Titanic steering it into an even bigger iceberg- H.R. 2309.

H.R. 2309 created by Rep. Issa will destroy the postal service and create more bureaucracy yet do nothing to ensure it remains solvent. It will throw workers overboard with no life jackets or even a log to cling to. Those who sit on Capitol Hill would rather see us drown.

A life raft that is available— H.R. 1351 (a proposed law that will recalculate payments into our federal retirement systems and give USPS credit for over payments) is not being allowed to be lowered into the waters by Issa. **Issa wants the postal service to be destroyed and our management is helping him by taking the service out of the Postal Service.**

Ramming The Public

Our management is blaming our wages/benefits for the holes in the Titanic despite the fact it was our management that supported postal reform. They are closing post offices and facilities while they lie to America saying it's 80% labor costs doing it.

Our management is selling the idea that because of our greed they must revise service standards of 2 to 3 days and 2-9 days.

Management is ramming the USPS Titanic into the American public blaming it on workers so that no life rafts are thrown to save postal workers. **American postal workers want to provide service**, but Congress and Management don't want us to. They want us to sink!

So what is the Union doing about it? Indeed- what are you going to do about it? You are the Union! Contact your local today and see how you can help. You either sink or swim! **Don't let them push you and your family off the plank. Fight back -take action now!**