

...USPS seizes president's postal ID

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taken along the route to time-certify package deliveries was instead left in the office; a shop steward told Hansen that Hattig scans deliveries before leaving the office, violating USPS commitment to accurately record time of delivery.

Hattig was supposed to pick up the mail at 10 a.m., but instead arrived at 10:45 to 11:45 on the days Hansen was waiting. A male companion rode with Hattig while she did her deliveries, and Hattig would stay out what seemed to Hansen like a long time for such a short route. On May 31, Hansen watched Hattig pull up at the post office, and then drove to Arbor Parc, expecting to watch how Hattig did her work. Hansen says she waited two-and-a-half hours, and Hattig didn't show up.

Letter carriers, including contractors, are supposed return to the post office at the end of their routes to turn in the key that opens their secure mailboxes, but Hattig only infrequently returned the key, Hansen learned — a serious violation of postal security.

On June 4, the camera crew waited outside Beaverton's Evergreen post office for Hattig to arrive. Unaware she was being filmed, Hattig picked up the mail and drove with her male companion to a Shari's restaurant in Tanasbourne Mall. They ate pancakes while the mail sat undelivered in Hattig's Jeep outside.

Hansen and the camera crew followed Hattig to Arbor Parc. Hansen, wearing a wire, approached her as she placed mail in a cluster box.

"My idea was to simply engage her about when the mail came, as if I was a resident," Hansen said.

Hattig told her she picks up the mail between 10 and 10:30 and gets to Arbor Parc between 11 and 12. [It is a five minute drive from the post office, and it's Hattig's only delivery.]

Then Hansen identified herself as a union officer. How's the contract going, Hansen asked her.

"I think this is a solid deal for me, and for the post office," Hattig replied.

Hansen asked Hattig if she'd be willing to be interviewed on film about her job. She said okay. Hansen waved her arm, and a van-load of people with cameras hopped out.

"At that point, there was like that moment where you know you've been filmed," Hansen recalls. "She wasn't happy about it."

Hattig left, saying she was going to tell her supervisor about what had happened.

Cameras in tow, Hansen knocked on doors and spoke to Arbor Parc residents. Several told her they thought they weren't getting their mail every day, and that it didn't come at the same time. They hadn't been notified they'd have contracted-out mail delivery service when they bought the condos.

The next day, when Hansen arrived at the main Portland post office for a meeting with the postmaster, she discovered her electronic access had been

cancelled without notice. She waved her postal ID through the card scanner, but the door wouldn't unlock. For 45



L.C. Hansen, a 34-year letter carrier and longtime president of National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 82, had her postal ID seized by postal service inspectors — two days after she and a film crew embarrassed postal service management by documenting problems with a contracted-out postal route. The incident had a happy ending, for Hansen anyway: The post office returned her badge after the union complained. And the errant contractor was let go. But the national battle the union is waging against piecemeal privatization continues.

minutes, she tried without success to get a USPS manager to re-activate it.

Then mid-morning June 6, two armed postal inspectors showed up unannounced at the union hall, instructed to seize Hansen's postal identification.

As a union officer, Hansen has a contractual right to access post offices for representational activity. She was floored, and demanded an explanation from management.

HR manager Corrinne Loprinzi told her the badge had been taken because Hansen is no longer a USPS employee. Hansen, who'd been on leave the previous six years to work full-time at the union, had decided to formally retire at the beginning of May after 34 years at USPS, though she plans to serve out the remainder of her term as union president. But she knows of three other union officials who had done the same and USPS had always extended them the professional courtesy of keeping their postal ID to allow them to access post offices on union business.

It looked like retaliation.

The national union stepped in and threatened to fight the case. Management relented. Hansen got her ID back.

Meanwhile, Hansen had composed a letter to management detailing her findings about Hattig. Apparently it got through; USPS terminated her contract.

The union's larger battle against privatization continues.

Local Motion

May 2008

Union activity in Oregon and Southwest Washington, according to the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board

Election results

Employer	Date	Union	Location	Results:	
				Union	No Union
Marquez Brothers	5/1	Laborers Local 483	Portland	6	11



Representation petitions

Employer	Union	Location	# of employees
Weyerhaeuser, dba SpaceKraft		Salem	16
Association of Western Pulp & Paper Workers			
Emmert's Buxton Meats		Sandy	9
United Food & Commercial Workers Local 555			
Providence St. Vincent (RNs in cath lab)		Portland	7
Oregon Nurses Association			
HFS North America		Portland	32
Teamsters Local 305			

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