



Now more than ever: Save our Postal Service

Dozens of union members and supporters showed up May 8 with signs and balloons outside the Portland Mail Processing Center to show support for postal workers who streamed in and out during afternoon shift change.

It's estimated that at least 2,000 postal workers nationwide have contracted the COVID-19 virus, and at least 50 have died. Across the country, postal facilities are experiencing loss of personnel due to infection and quarantine.

Meanwhile, the economic collapse brought on by the epidemic has caused a 30% drop in mail volume, and postal revenues are falling precipitously. The Postmaster General predicts that the USPS will run out of money by September. The Postal Board of Governors, the postal service's governing body, has called on Congress to appro-

priate \$25 billion immediately and additional funds over time to sustain the service. But President Donald Trump said April 24 that he would not approve any bailout for the U.S. Postal Service unless it dramatically increases its prices for package delivery. Trump has called on USPS to double or even quadruple

what it charges for packages, but postal officials say that would backfire given competition from UPS and FedEx. Instead, USPS supporters in Congress are calling for an end to an unusual requirement to pre-fund retiree health care, which has been the biggest reason for USPS losses in recent years.



Machinists settle grievance at Mondelēz for \$33,492.56

Machinists Lodge 63 won a \$33,492.56 grievance settlement at the Mondelēz-Nabisco bakery in Portland last month, ending a two-year battle over subcontracting work on production line 15, which makes Ritz crackers.

Thirty-two Machinists at the plant will each get checks for \$1,046.64.

Lodge 63 filed the grievance in April 2018 after the company used sub-contractors to perform demolition work on production Line 15. According to Business Rep Bob Petroff, the union has battled the company repeatedly about subcontracting work without the union signing off on the scope of the work.

Petroff said the contractor, who has done work at Mondelēz's Portland plant on other occasions, was informed that the in-house Machinists would do the demo work on the bakery line. However, the work was pulled from the Machinists and awarded

to the contractor during a time when chief shop steward Jeff Obermiller was away on union business.

The Machinists grieved the action to get their members paid for the loss of work.

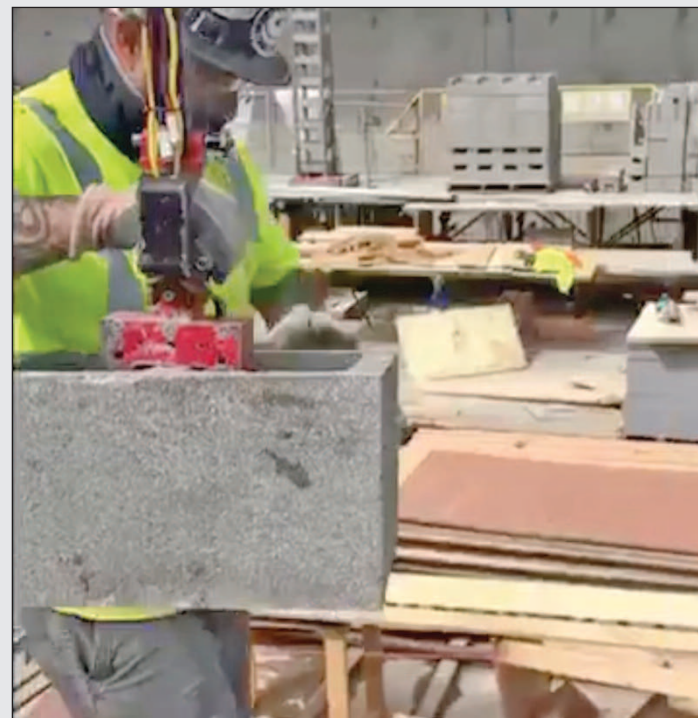
On April 28, 2020, two days before an arbitration hearing was to take place, Mondelēz settled for \$33,492.56.

They reached that amount after union attorney Noah Warman subpoenaed documents from the contractor showing the number of hours worked to demolish the production line. Warman is an associated at the Tedesco Law Group.

A second grievance filed by the Machinists a few months later in 2018 involving subcontracting demolition work on production line 14 is still pending.

Mondelēz was created in 2012 as an independent spinoff of Kraft-Nabisco's global snack division.

WORKING COVID SAFE



It's not a robot arm, but maybe the closest thing to it: Members of Bricklayers and Allied Crafts Local 1 Oregon/Washington/Idaho/Montana at Bratton Masonry are using a device called a MULE (Material Unit Lift Enhancer) to lift heavy concrete blocks into place. That's a job that would normally require two workers, but they'd need to work right next to each other, and the COVID-19 epidemic makes that unsafe. Local 1 member Simon Scoles submitted a video featuring the use of the MULE as part of a BAC Local 1 contest to see who could make the best video showing how masonry workers are finding ways to work safely during the pandemic. Scoles took first place and won a \$100 Fred Meyer gift card, union T-shirt, and a 48" Crick level. Second place finisher Scott Fromm of J&S Masonry won a \$50 Fred Meyer gift card, T-Shirt and a 24" Crick level. Third place contestant Rick Salchenberg of Davidsons Masonry won BAC hooded sweatshirt and T-shirt. See the winning video at <https://bit.ly/2zAf5nC> or watch all the videos at facebook.com/bac1or

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