



POSTAL NEWS

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U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AND AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION REACH TENTATIVE CONTRACT EXTENSION AGREEMENT

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Postal Service and the American Postal Workers Union (APWU, AFL-CIO) have reached a tentative one-year contract extension. The agreement, if ratified by union members, will affect approximately 287,000 Postal employees represented by the APWU. The tentative contract extension covers the period from November 20, 2005 through November 20, 2006.

The tentative agreement provides for a 1.6 percent wage increase effective March 18, 2006 and includes the continuation of the cost-of-living allowance.

Since 1775, the Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits 142 million homes and businesses every day and is the only service provider delivering to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$69 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mailing and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume—some 206 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year—and serves seven million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide.

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