

# The Delray Democrat

## **Palm Beach Postal Union Chief Urges Confidence in Mail-In Balloting<sup>1</sup>**

*June Sandra Neal*

Despite Trump's attempts to cripple the US Postal Service, Kevin Young, President of the Palm Beach Postal Union Local 749, says area voters can have confidence in their mail delivery system. "As long as your ballot is mailed 4-7 days before the deadline—and preferably as soon as it's received—you can be assured we'll get it there on time."

Of course, we are still urging all VBM voters to fill out and return their ballots immediately if they are mailing them or, preferably, to bring them to the Supervisor of Elections or deposit them in the lock boxes outside the SOE and the early voting sites if possible.

But it's not going to be easy. Trump hopes to choke mail balloting wherever he thinks it will hurt his re-election (note he says it's OK in Florida...Florida!) and to privatize the postal service, leaving Americans at the mercy of whatever corporate profits dictate. Young says that's not the mission. "We are not the postal business; we are the postal service."

On September 10, Young gave members of the Delray Beach Democratic Club an inside look at what their area postal workers are facing right now. "In his first month as Postmaster General, DeJoy ordered reductions in retail hours, removal of processing equipment, overall reductions in work hours and changes to transportation.

"On August 13, Trump admitted to wanting to starve the Postal Service by withholding additional funding so mail-in voting will become difficult, just when tens of millions are expected to vote by mail during the pandemic. 'Additional funding' was a lie. The Postal Service couldn't get any additional funding, since it gets no funding at all. When the \$550 billion Stimulus Care program rolled out, we received nothing but an offer of a \$10 billion treasury loan...we don't need any more debt."

The Postal Service has been criticized for funding problems, but those problems were created by Congress. "The truth is, we've received no money since 1970," Young said. "And we've struggled financially since 2006 when Congress required us to pre-fund retirement health care costs at \$5.5 billion per year for employees— 75 years into the future! Most of those people haven't been born yet. No other federal agency or independent corporation was required to do this. And it forced us into a deficit."

Many people aren't aware that the US Postal Service receives no funding from taxpayers. "The postal employees carry out their mission, delivering to over 160 million addresses each day without any taxpayer dollars, just postage and postal service revenues," Young explained.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, October 2020, p. 7

The Postal Service has always been proud to deliver through snow or rain, but now it faces a political perfect storm. “Since 2006, the service has been reduced by about 200,000 workers nationwide, and packages are piling up because DeJoy won’t allow replacements of employees lost to the covid-19 virus, retirements and re-assignments,” Young reported. “Carriers must be out by 10:00 a.m. and back by 4:30 p.m., whether they’ve finished their route or not.”

And it’s hit home. Young said, “Public outrage forced DeJoy to tell Congress he’d suspend his draconian orders until after the election (with the exception of the trucks leaving on time, whether they had any mail in them or not). Another lie. Within a month and a half, DeJoy removed four of our high-speed Delivery Bar Code Sorters which scan about 20,000-31,000 pieces of mail an hour. “But Young wants customers to be assured that, despite Trump’s assaults, the Postal Service will get the job done. “It’s in the DNA of the postal worker to get the mail and packages to our valued customers promptly.”