

## **Former APWU President Pled Guilty to Theft of Mail**

On November 2, 2007, a former Sales and Service Associate (SSA), who was a local American Postal Workers Union president, pled guilty to 1 count of Theft of Mail by Postal Employee and 1 count of Delay of Destruction of Mail by a Postal Employee. The guilty plea stemmed from a United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigation into an allegation that postal management suspected the SSA of rifling mailpieces and parcels destined as Return-to-Sender or endorsed as undeliverable.

During a March 2007 OIG surveillance, OIG special agents observed the SSA opening mail and removing the contents from several mail packages. Special agents observed the SSA destroying packaging and placing them in the garbage after he placed items from the rifled packages into his pocket. When confronted by OIG special agents, the SSA admitted he had opened mail packages and removed articles from the packages for his personal use.

In June 2007, postal management removed the SSA from duty. In September 2007 the former SSA, who was on probation for firearm charges, was indicted and arrested at his home.