

Ashland Postmaster
15 N. Main St.
Ashland, OR 97520

Dear Postmaster:

This letter is to inform you that volunteers from Peace House will be leafleting at the Ashland post office on Tax Day, Tuesday, April 15. We are giving you this advance notice because last year you or a member of your staff mistakenly ordered our volunteers to leave the property or they would be arrested.

The reason that order was a mistake was that it both violated Constitutional law and the regulations of the U.S. Postal Service. Not only are public facilities open to First Amendment exercise as long as it doesn't interfere with the primary purpose of the facilities, but also your postal regulations prohibit only the distribution of commercial literature, not political literature.

Last year our volunteers were intimidated and left after receiving the order. This year they will not. There will be no criminal case, because the District Attorney's office will not prosecute (see next paragraph). There will, however, be civil litigation.

In that regard, you will be interested to know that, some 10 years ago, authorities at the Central Point post office had one of our leafleteers arrested, but the District Attorney, Beth Heckert, refused to prosecute, knowing that the charge of trespassing was baseless. Several years later, the postmistress of the Phoenix Post Office similarly threatened one of our volunteers, but he convinced the Phoenix police to have her call your legal office in Portland, who set her straight.

Such conduct has become tiresome. You should know the law and your own regulations.

Rest assured we will be on the path leading up to your door, not inside the lobby or in the parking area. Nor will we hassle your customers. We know exactly what is permissible and what is not.

We are sending a copy of this letter to Ashland Police Chief Tighe O'Meara. We are also sending out a news release, so we expect media coverage of the event.

Sincerely,

Herbert Rothschild, chair
Prevent War Working Group