

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LOCAL UNIONS MILWAUKEE, WI



National President John Hegarty brings the SAMLU to order



National Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner presenting the Financial Report



(l-r) Local 300 Treasurer Kevin Tabarus, Local 322 President Michael McIntyre



(l-r) Southern Region Director Charles Reynolds, Central Region Director Dianne Williams, and Local 306 Vice President June Harris



(l-r) Northeastern Regional Director Terry Donahue, Local 305 SEBM Kevin Fletcher



Local leaders in deep discussion

As called for in the NPMHU National Constitution, a national meeting of the NPMHU Local Unions was convened in August of this year in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In attendance at this meeting were members of the National Executive Board, General Counsel for the National Union, all NPMHU National Office department heads, personnel from the National and Regional Contract Administration Department (CAD), the RI-399 RDRC Regional Coordinators, and various officers and representatives from the NPMHU Local Unions.

Central Region Vice President and Local 306 (Illinois/Wisconsin) President Jefferson Peppers kicked off the event by welcoming all attendees to the beautiful state of Wisconsin, and to offer information and any assistance to the attendees from the Milwaukee representatives in attendance at this meeting.

Following a roll call of the Local Unions, National President John Hegarty introduced the other members of the NPMHU National Executive Board and key staff members from the Union's National and Regional Offices.

President Hegarty then offered his congratulations to Local 334 (South Carolina) President Arthur Perry, Local 297 (Missouri/Kansas) President Beverly Henderson, Local 311 (Texas) President Larry Gibson, Local 321 (Colorado) President Don Gonzales, and Local 330 (Idaho) President Bob Griffith, each of whom was recently installed as Local President. Congratulations also were extended to Don Sneesby, who will soon be assuming the position

of Local 316 (Washington/Alaska) President following the retirement of current Local 316 President Pat McClear.

President Hegarty then took the opportunity to publicly express, on behalf of the entire assembly, his appreciation to Local 316 President Pat McClear, who has announced his pending retirement from the USPS, and the end of his many years of active service to the NPMHU.

President Hegarty also extended congratulations to Local 300 (NY Metro) President Paul Hogrogian, and Local 323 (Minnesota/North Dakota) President Jeff Larsen, who both were recently re-elected as President of their respective Local Unions. Brother Hegarty also congratulated other recently elected and reelected Local Union officers who were in attendance at this meeting.

During the opening session of the meeting, attendees were very pleased to hear remarks from Wisconsin State Senator Chris Larson, who earlier this year took a principled stand, along with his fellow Democratic State Senators (who will forever be known as the "Wisconsin Fourteen"), against the anti-worker, union-busting initiatives of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. The actions of these honest and principled elected leaders triggered a flashpoint for organized labor. Their actions served to galvanize the strength and solidarity of union members and working class people—not just in Wisconsin, but also across our country, and with the support and backing of the entire international labor movement. Senator Larson shared his perspectives and insight with the

NPMHU group, and implored that we all remain vigilant in the face of continued attacks against organized labor.

Following these opening activities, President Hegarty turned to his comprehensive report to the assembly, and entertained numerous questions and comments on a variety of topics, including:

- a review and discussion of the recently-released USPS craft determination relative to the Advanced Parcel and Bundle Sorter (APBS);
- a comprehensive review and analysis of the current USPS financial situation, including a review of various legislative and regulatory efforts which could impact postal finances going forward;
- a discussion on, and NPMHU response to, recently-announced plans by the Postal Service to close some 3,700 small post offices, to initiate Area Mail Processing Studies (AMPs) on nearly fifty percent of its mail processing plants, to move forward with its plan to move from six to five day delivery, to seek Congressional authority to both abrogate the no-layoff provisions previously agreed to in its collective bargaining agreements, and to allow for the creation of separate USPS-managed health and pension programs—and then mandating the movement of all current postal workers and retirees from