



MARK A. GARDNER, National Secretary-Treasurer

IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

Given the fact that the Postal Service is the second largest civilian employer in the United States and its workforce reflects the rich diversity of the American population, it's no surprise that our membership is similarly diverse in every way, including across the political spectrum. Freedom of thought and expression, combined with the democratic principle of majority rule, is a large part of what makes this Union great. The NPMHU is truly run by its members.

Americans choose their political affiliations for a wide variety of reasons. Whether Republican or Democrat, Libertarian or Independent, our Union always has made room at its table for differing political views. Lately, given the nonstop polarizing rhetoric being broadcast from every media outlet during this Republican primary election season, there's been a lot of focus on the differences between national political factions. I've been known to engage in a certain amount of vigorous debate on the social issues of the day. But the issues that really interest me, and what I believe should really interest you, are those that directly affect your pocketbook, your work

life, your future job security, and your right to a union voice at the bargaining table so that you can continue to have your say on these matters.

If you have been following the Republican Presidential nominating process, and the circus that has ensued, you likely have heard the flood of commentary from the candidates relative to joblessness, the American workforce, its labor unions, our labor laws, and what they would do to change things if they were elected President. It appears that the GOP has initiated an anti-union litmus test for its Presidential contenders. No matter your personal politics, I ask that you consider the following on-the-record comments from Presidential candidates from across the Republican field. In their own words:

FORMER SENATOR RICK SANTORUM: "I think the most important area that we have to focus in on when it comes to unions is public employee unions. That's the area of unionization that's growing the fastest and it's

costing us the most money... I do not believe that state, federal or local workers should be involved in unions. And I would actually support a bill that says that we should not have public employee unions for the purposes of wages and benefits to be negotiated."

FORMER GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY: "...if a right to work piece of legislation reached my desk at the federal level I would sign it...and the right course I believe politically at this stage is to have states carry out their own right to work legislation. "

TEXAS CONGRESSMAN RON PAUL: "With so much at stake in this fight, and considering the ever-declining state of our fragile economy, it's never been more important that the Republican nominee for president be 100 percent committed to standing up for fighting forced unionism." And on public sector unionized workers he said, "They make more than they do in the private sector. What I'd rather see is that they shrink the size of the government at all levels, than to give them clout to bid up these wages."

“As we enter 2012, and the run-up to the November Presidential and Congressional elections, I encourage all Mail Handlers to remain actively engaged in our political process.”