



## National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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# PLANT CLOSURES BACK ON THE TABLE

## Dear Members,

As the fall mailing season creeps up on us, the Postal Service is at it again with implementing some idiotic ideas to save money. I reported in the last issue that the closings and consolidations had been put on hold. But guess what? They're baaaack. Why on earth would an organization announce 82 closings and consolidations right before the busiest time of the year? Does the Postal Service really believe that reducing service and delaying mail are long-term answers to its financial problems? Is the Postal Service deliberately trying to drive customers away? It sure seems like it..

We have requested detailed information from the Postal Service about the potential impact on our members in the affected facilities, and will be sharing that information with all of the Local Unions when it is received. Article 12 of our National Agreement requires management to share specific details regarding the numbers of mail handlers affected, where the loss of jobs will be, and where the affected employees can expect to be working after the closings and consolidations. We will be working closely with the Local Unions in the field to ensure that all affected mail handlers receive all of the contractual protections to which they are entitled.

In the meantime, we are not going to allow the Postal Service to do this without a fight. We are planning to attack this draconian plan on several possible fronts, with concerted actions along with our Brothers and Sisters in the other major Postal Unions. We are looking into possible legal action against the Postal Service; we are working with Members of Congress to force the Postal Service to put the brakes on these closings and consolidations; and we also are evaluating

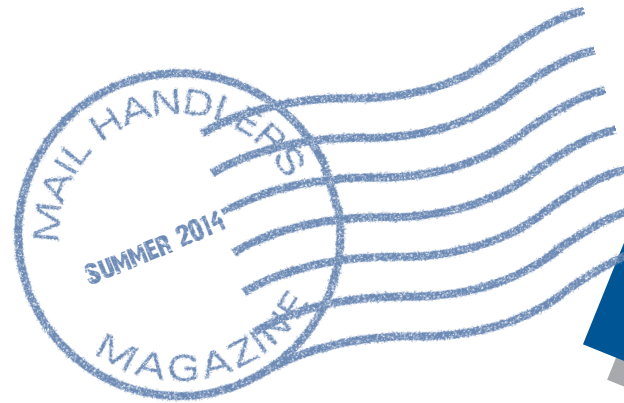


JOHN F. HEGARTY, National President

the options for filing a National-level grievance (or grievances); and lastly, we want to engage the Local Unions in a grass-roots campaign to gather community support to put pressure on the USPS to back off these foolhardy actions. I outlined these actions in great detail in my report to the Local Union Presidents at our recent meeting here in Washington, DC. It will be imperative that you assist us in the fight when the call to do so goes out. Please check your bulletin boards and our web site for the latest information. The web address is: [www.npmhu.org](http://www.npmhu.org).

On another note, we have been successful in getting many of our recently appointed Mail Handler Assistants hired as career Mail Handlers over the past several months. It varies by location, but as of today, approximately 800 MHAs have now been converted to full-time career Mail Handler. Nationwide, there are over 5,500 MHA's on the rolls, and one of the primary goals of the Union is to see that each and

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every MHA has a path to a career appointment. To that end, we will continue to work with the Local Unions to find ways to get MHAs converted whenever possible. One way that MHAs get converted is through attrition. As full-time career Mail Handlers retire, or otherwise leave the Postal Service, management many times is already at its contractual cap on MHAs, and management therefore has no choice but to convert MHAs to full-time career positions.

One problem area that has arisen is the need to plan for the closings and consolidations of another 82 of our processing plants, as outlined above. The closings and consolidations could result in career employees being transferred to other USPS plants, and the possibility that MHAs in the affected plants might lose their jobs or some of their hours. This is another big reason why we are fighting the closing and consolidation plan.

As you can see, the struggle against these closings and consolidations will not be easy and

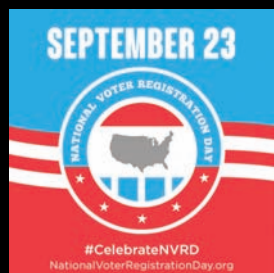
will not be quick. But the NPMHU has been through tough times before, and the NPMHU will continue to do what's right for our members. Stay tuned.

Yours in Solidarity,  
John F. Hegarty  
National President

“... the NPMHU has been through tough times before, and the NPMHU will continue to do what's right for our members.”

## September is National Voters Registration Month

The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) has announced its support for the establishment of an annual National Voter Registration Day. In view of the fact that forty-nine states plus the District of Columbia have voter registration deadlines in October, NASS has designated September as National Voter's Registration Month with the mission being to encourage voter participation and increase awareness of state requirements and deadlines for voting.



As part of this effort, the NPMHU is taking steps to make eligible voters aware of registration deadlines and requirements, as well as promoting state resources to aid with the registration process. A state-by-state list of voter registration deadlines, with contact information, polling place hours, and links to each state's voter information website, is posted and available for your use under the Legislative and Political tab at [www.npmhu.org](http://www.npmhu.org). In addition, each state's voter helpline and toll-free numbers are provided as a resource for the 2014 general elections. Voters who wish to report problems, suspicious activity, or

irregularities related to the voting process are urged to contact their local election office.

Every Mail Handler is encouraged to register and vote. Please take the time to review these resources, register to vote, and most importantly, vote!

For more on voter registration options and deadlines in your state, you can visit the association's non-partisan voting information website, [www.CanIVote.org](http://www.CanIVote.org).

For more on National Voter Registration Day and becoming a partner, check out

[www.NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org](http://www.NationalVoterRegistrationDay.org)