 LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan administers the oath of office to National President Paul Hogrogian and Northeastern Region Vice President and Local 309 President David Wilkin

THE NPMHU BIENNIAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

In May 2015, more than one hundred mail handlers from across the country gathered in Washington, DC to participate in the NPMHU's biennial Legislative Conference for the 114th Congress. The two-day conference was filled with significant programs and activities.

Prior to the start of the Legislative Conference, Paul V. Hogrogian and David E. Wilkin took their oaths of office as administered by LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan, and thus were publicly sworn into their new positions as National President and Vice President Eastern Region, respectfully.

The first day of the conference included a full training program, with a host of speakers and panel discussions highlighting both the substance of USPS issues now facing Congress and the methods used by successful lobbyists. National President Paul Hogrogian, National Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner, and Director of Political & Legislative Affairs Bob Losi opened the program by highlighting the importance of the NPMHU's representation on Capitol Hill, noting in particular that year-round legislative and polit-

ical involvement must be part of the commitment made by all NPMHU activists.

President Hogrogian spoke about the Union's collective goal of returning service standards to where they were in 2012, thereby making it extremely difficult for the Postal Service to implement future plant closings and consolidations. Paul also highlighted the importance of achieving positive postal reform. "We need worker-friendly representatives in Congress. It does not matter if they are a Democrat, a Republican, or an Independent. We need to support those who support us," said Hogrogian.

The program also included appearances by AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka and the aforementioned Terry O'Sullivan, General President of the NPMHU's international parent body, the Laborers' International Union of North America. Both of these charismatic leaders of



the American labor movement criticized the do-nothingness of the current Congress, and urged mail handlers to remain active in the legislative and political process.

The conference also heard from a host of experts on the postal issues that currently are being debated in the nation's capital. Among the featured speakers were (a) Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), author of H.R. 784 — the Protect Overnight Delivery Act, co-chair of the Steering and Policy Committee, and the ranking member on the Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, (b) Congressman Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA), a key member of the House Oversight & Government Reform Committee; (c) Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), an outspoken voice for rural America, a member of five Senate Committees including Appropriations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Indian Affairs, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and (d) Congressman José Serrano (D-NY), who sits on the House Appropriations Committee and serves

1. LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan delivers inspiring remarks to conference attendees
2. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (MA-D) delivers the key-note address
3. (l-r) LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan, National President Paul Hogrogian, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, and National Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner
4. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT-D 3rd) delivers a passionate message to mail handler conference attendees
5. National President Paul Hogrogian welcomes all conference attendees

6. Rep. Gerald Connolly (VA-D 11th) National President Paul Hogrogian welcomes all conference attendees
7. (l-r) Sen. Jon Tester (MT-D) and Bob Losi, Legislative and Political Director-NPMHU
8. (l-r) National President Paul Hogrogian, Rep. Jose Serrano (NY-D 15th) and Bob Losi, Legislative and Political Director-NPMHU
9. Bob Losi, Legislative and Political Director
10. AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka encourages attendees to deliver unified message to Capitol Hill

as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government.

In addition, Sarah Chamberlain, who serves as the Executive Director for the Main Street Partnership, spoke about her organization's solutions-oriented and fiscally responsible agenda and mission to advance positive policies. Although largely a Republican-dominated group of congressional leaders, they often join with labor unions to command bipartisan support for legislation while remaining supportive of a conservative, pragmatic government.

The next speakers were Bevin Power-Albertani and Dave Hickey, political specialists with LIUNA, and Jim Sauber, chief of staff for the NALC, who were joined by several key representatives from

other unions with whom the NPMHU coordinates its legislative efforts, including Paul Swartz from the NRLCA and Kori Blalock-Keller from the NALC. Each of these trainers conducted panel discussions on current legislative issues, and gave suggestions for how such issues could be effectively lobbied on Capitol Hill. Finally, Jennifer Warburton, chief of staff for Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) and former legislative director for the NALC, gave an informative presentation on how to lobby on Capitol Hill.

The second day of the conference allowed all of the newly-trained mail handlers to meet with Members of Congress and their professional staff. Prior to heading for the Hill for their scheduled appointments, all conference attendees were inspired by a message of fortitude and persever-

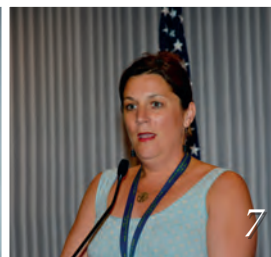


ance, delivered by keynote speaker Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). Warren sits on the Senate Special Committee on Aging; the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee; and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. She is a supporter of postal banking legislation and is almost single-handedly responsible for the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Sen. Warren is a fearless consumer advocate who has made the fight for middle class families a key component of her life's work; she is a true friend of the NPMHU and all postal labor organizations.

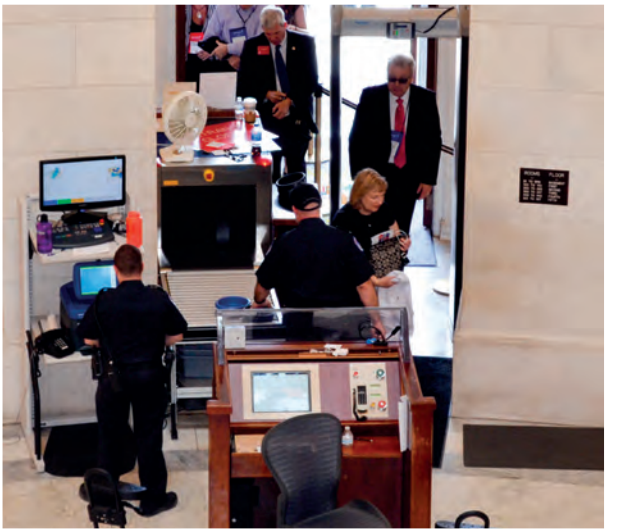
Throughout these meetings, mail handlers expressed their support for H.R. 784, the Protect Overnight Delivery Act and three House Resolutions, including

H. Res. 54, H. Res. 12 and H. Res. 28. These bills and resolutions are described in more detail in the accompanying sidebar.

The day of direct lobbying ended with a reception, held in the Rayburn House Office Building, at which various Members of Congress and staff members stopped by to discuss issues relevant to the NPMHU and all mail handlers in a more relaxed setting. Not only were NPMHU elected leaders and scores of mail handlers able to share their views on pending issues throughout the day, but relationships forged during the conference will prove helpful during the coming weeks and months as postal issues continue to occupy center stage on the legislative agenda.



1. Dave Hickey – National Field Mobilization Coordinator, LiUNA
2. Bevin Power-Albertani - Political Director, LiUNA
3. Jim Sauber - Chief of Staff, NALC
4. Paul Swartz, Director of Governmental Affairs- NRLCA
5. Kori Blalock-Keller, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs- NALC
6. (l-r) National President Paul Hogrogian, Sarah Chamberlain-COO/CFO Main Street Partnership and Bob Losi, Legislative and Political Director-NPMHU
7. Jennifer Warburton, Chief of Staff for Rep. Loretta Sanchez (CA-D 46th)
8. Monica Marshall, Local 333 Recording Secretary
9. Deborah Lehmer, San Bernardino BP
10. Ernie Grijalva, Local 302 President and Melinda Simental, BP Fresno
11. Bob Losi, Legislative and Political Director and Chris Bentley Local 297 President
12. (l-r) Ralph Wheeler, Branch President Dulles VA PDC, and Jose Pena, Vice President Local 305
13. Mike Mohan, Treasurer Local 308



1. Alex Cervantes, Local 320 President
2. Local 302 representatives (l-r): Thomas Mayes, San Francisco BP, Juanita Contreras Vice President, Dean Deluna, Oakland BP, Kim Garcia, Recording Secretary, Joel Gonzales and Joaquin Aranda
3. Conference attendees carry Union's message to Capitol Hill
4. Local 311 climbs the Hill to make the Union's case
5. Attendees embark on the Capitol
6. Local 320 attendees (l-r): Susanna Paniagua, Recording Secretary, John Zinnikas, Legislative Director, and Alex Cervantes, President
7. Local 324 Officers (l-r): Daniel Riemann, Local President and Carmalita Reynolds, Recording Secretary
8. Local 303 leaders take Union's message to Capitol Hill
9. (l-r) Bryan Easley, President Local 315 and Laurie Harms, Recording Secretary
10. Kelly Dickey, Local 322 President
11. Conference attendees storm Capitol Hill
12. (l-r) Joaquin Aranda, Chief Steward Oakland, Ernie Grijalva, Local 302 President and Ed Lenzer, Chief Steward Sacramento
13. (l-r) James Bell, Local 304 President, William (Bip) McLemore II, Vice President and Stanley Thomas, BP Akron OH.
14. (l-r) Hiram Velez, Vice President Local 301, Rene Morissette, President Local 301, and Randy Oliver, CT SEBM
15. Kevin Tabarus, President Local 300 prepares for his next meeting

