

# \*\*\* LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, MAY 2013

In May 2013, 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 113th Congress. The two-day conference was filled with significant programs and activities.

The first day included a full training program, with a host of speakers highlighting both the substance of USPS issues now facing Congress and the methods used by successful lobbyists. National President John Hegarty, 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 political involvement must be part of the commitment made by all NPMHU activists.

The program also included appearances by AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka and Terry O'Sullivan, President of the NPMHU's international parent body, the Laborers International Union of North America, both of whom criticized the do-nothingness of the current Congress, while simultaneously noting that no action by Congress during 2013 may, in fact, be preferable to any affirmative action that Congress might adopt.

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 Congressman Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA), a key member of the House Oversight & Government Reform Committee; Congressman Michael Grimm (R-NY), a crucial supporter of mail handlers and other postal employees living and working on Staten Island, NY; and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), the author and sponsor of one of the postal reform bills (S. 316) fully supported by the NPMHU. Important presentations also were made by Bevin Power-Albertani and Dave Hickey, political specialists with LIUNA, and by several key representatives from other unions with whom the NPMHU coordinates its legislative efforts, including Paul Swartz from the NRLCA and Myke Reid from the APWU.

The second day of the Conference allowed mail handlers to meet with Members of Congress and their professional staff. During those meetings, mail handlers expressed their support for the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013, S. 316 and H.R. 630. These identical bills are described in more detail below.

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 the NPMHU leadership 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.



**I** National Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner and recently retired MHBP Executive Director Ken Nickels **I**



**I** From the LIUNA Political Department, David Hickey and Bevin Power-Albertani presented to the NPMHU attendees **I**



**I** NPMHU Political Advisor Roger Blacklow **I**



**I** Local 308 Treasurer Michael Mohan **I**



Eastern Region Vice President  
and Local 305 President Kevin Fletcher



Local 315 President David Jarvis



Myke Reid APWU Legislative  
and Political Director



Paul Swartz NRLCA Legislative  
and Political Director



National Legislative  
and Political Director Bob Losi



## NPMHU SUPPORTS SEVERAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

The NPMHU has been urging Members of Congress to cosponsor and otherwise support legislation that would assist and support the Postal Service and postal employees in their efforts to work through the current economic decline.

Of most importance, the NPMHU supports the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013, introduced by Senator Sanders and Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR)—which, as of August 7, 2013 has 29 co-sponsors in the Senate and 168 bi-partisan co-sponsors in the House. If adopted, these bills would:

- end the pre-funding mandate of the Retiree Health Benefit Fund, which now requires the USPS to make 75 years of retiree health-care benefit payments over a 10-year period, a burden no other government agency or private company is forced to bear.
- allow the Postal Service to recover over-payments it previously has made to the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS).
- re-establish overnight delivery standards for first-class mail, which would ensure timely delivery schedules and help keep mail processing facilities open.
- protect six-day delivery.
- permit the USPS to develop innovative products and services that would generate new sources of revenue, such as issuing licenses, ending the prohibition on beer and wine shipments, and providing notary services.
- ensure security for rural post offices by giving the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) binding authority to prevent post offices from being closed based on the effect such closures would have on their rural communities.
- establish the position of the Chief Innovation Officer and a Postal Innovation Advisory Commission, to develop a comprehensive strategy for maximizing USPS revenue through innovative postal and non-postal products and services.

In addition, the NPMHU has been supporting H.R. 961, introduced by Representative Stephen F. Lynch (D-MA) and co-sponsored by 141 other Representatives. This legislation would provide a new formula for calculating postal employee pension contributions using USPS-specific numbers—that is, the normal-cost percentage method multiplied by the aggregate amount of basic pay payable to postal employees. It also would allow for the use of excess FERS contributions by the Postal Service.

Local 297 President Beverly Henderson and Vice  
President Chris Bentley participate in group discussion





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## HOUSE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO POSTAL REFORM

With the recent flurry of activity before the House Committee, the NPMHU is carefully monitoring several pieces of legislation that only recently have been proposed in the House.

First, Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) has introduced his own version of postal reform legislation, H.R. 2748, which was considered by the full committee on July 24, 2013. Prior to that consideration, all postal stakeholders were asked to submit their views, and National President Hegarty responded with a lengthy letter, which is reprinted here:

*Dear Chairman Issa:*

*As National President of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union (“NPMHU”), I am writing on behalf of more than 40,000 mail handlers employed by the U.S. Postal Service to express the NPMHU’s views on the discussion draft that you circulated for the Postal Reform Act of 2013. The NPMHU appreciates the opportunity to comment on this discussion draft, and notwithstanding our substantial misgivings with that draft, appreciates the attention that the Committee is paying to these important issues.*

*Before setting forth the NPMHU position on specific issues addressed in the discussion draft, it would be helpful to outline the fundamental principles from which those positions emanate. First, the NPMHU believes that the Postal Service, as the most trusted federal agency and an essential component of the nation’s communications system, must be preserved. Second, preserving the Postal Service means that the Postal Service should take all necessary steps to maintain its service standards and universal service, and should be not be reducing service to the American public unless and until it is the last available alternative. Third, the Postal Service should have access to its own monies, through the return of its overpayments into the federal pension systems, and primary control of its major financial decisions, most notably through the repeal or substantial readjustment of the pre-funding requirement for the Retiree Health Benefits Fund. Fourth, Congress needs to allow the collective bargaining process to continue, without legislative interference, as it has operated well for the past 43 years, without any labor strife or disruption of service to the American public. And fifth, the Postal Service should be allowed to expand the scope of its postal services, and provide non-postal services, that are consistent with its overall mission and its service to the American people.*

*Applying these principles to the proposals contained in the discussion draft leads the NPMHU to the following positions:*

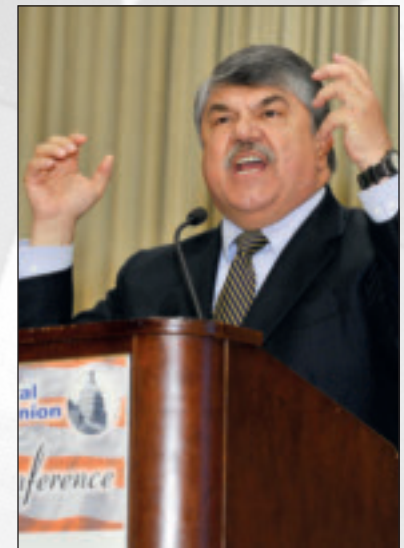
- 1 *The Postal Service’s overfunding of the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) and Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) should be returned to the Postal Service. You indicated during the July 17, 2013 hearing that your revised bill would provide for the return of FERS overpayments, calculating those monies using USPS-specific*



Representative Michael Grimm (R-NY)



Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)



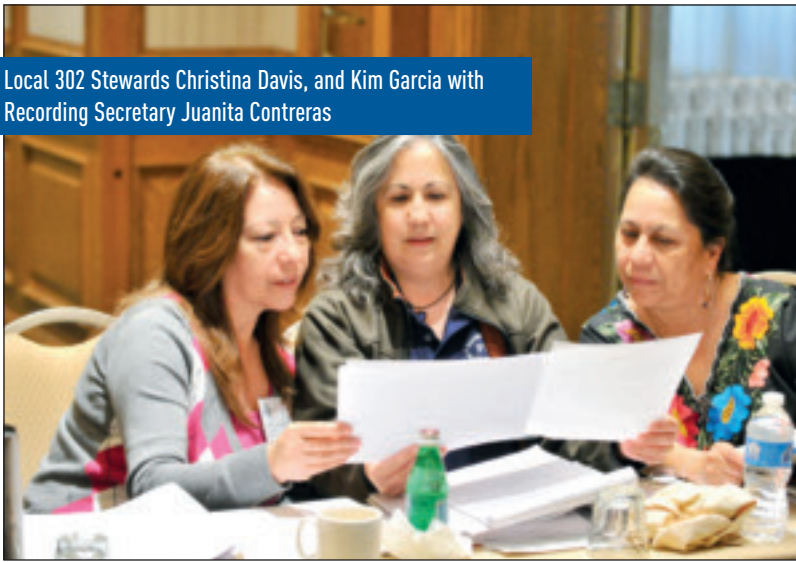
AFL-CIO President Richard L. Trumka



Local 304 President Clyde Patterson



Local 302 Stewards Christina Davis, and Kim Garcia with Recording Secretary Juanita Contreras



Attendees prepare for trip to Capitol Hill



NPMHU activists discuss Postal Legislation



Local 306 Recording Secretary Belinda Jackson (l) and Vice President June Harris (r)

## Letter to Congressman Issa (continued)

actuarial data, and that certainly is a step in the right direction. The NPMHU also believes that the use of these monies should be managed by the Postal Service, and not dictated by any legislation.

- 2 The requirement that the Retiree Health Benefits Fund should be pre-funded needs to be repealed. The RHBF already contains almost \$50 billion, and no public agency or private corporation is required to pre-fund 100% of its retiree health obligations. In this regard, even last year's Senate-passed bill and the draft released by Congressman Elijah Cummings—both of which amortize the pre-funding over 40 years at 80%—are insufficient, as they would provide relatively small savings to the Postal Service over the next ten years. The NPMHU suggests a total repeal of the pre-funding requirement, or at minimum a suspension of any payments required for the next few years with a 40-year, 80% amortization beginning at the end of that suspension period.
- 3 Any postal reform legislation needs to maintain service standards and preserve the mail processing network, with continued support for six-day delivery and smaller post offices. With regard to the mail processing network, the Postal Service is currently planning and implementing a series of plant closings and consolidations that are doing great harm to the network maintained by the Postal Service, and could require adverse changes in service standards for USPS customers. Such changes to the mail processing network are short-sighted, and reduce the future ability of the Postal Service to respond to increased demand. These changes would not be necessary if Congress would provide the financial relief discussed above.
- 4 All proposals in the discussion draft that seek to revise or eliminate collective bargaining should be removed. Legislative interference in a negotiations process that has successfully served the Postal Service, its employees, and the American public for the past 43 years is wholly unjustified. The NPMHU's strenuous opposition to these proposals applies to all attempts to limit or prohibit negotiated no-layoff clauses (even if applied only to future agreements), to change workers' compensation provisions, to repeal Section 1005(f) of the Postal Reorganization Act, to adjust the comparability standard, to compel equality between postal and federal benefit contributions, or to amend the governing arbitration procedures. Postal management and the postal unions have amply demonstrated that they are capable of negotiating and/or arbitrating fair and equitable collective bargaining agreements, appropriate changes to employee benefits, early retirement incentives, and additional workforce flexibility when such measures are justified by economic or operational conditions. Given the recent successes in this area, Congressional attempts to revise decades-old and well-accepted procedures or to dictate outcomes in negotiations are unavoidably viewed as politically motivated attacks on collective bargaining. All of these provisions in the discussion draft should be eliminated.





National President John Hegarty and Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi on Capitol Hill



Local 320 Chief Steward Bernie Gonzales and Western Region Vice President and Local 320 President Rudy Santos (r)



Local 304 Steward Darvis Wanton (l), and SEBM Andrea Maliszewski

### Letter to Congressman Issa (continued)

5 The NPMHU objects to legislative proposals that would change the governance structure of the Postal Service. To be sure, the NPMHU has not hesitated to criticize either the Board of Governors or USPS management when such criticism is deserved, and the Congress has done the same. But to believe that a temporary governance structure granting outsiders extraordinary power over the Postal Service might be beneficial is to ignore reality: it takes years, not weeks, to understand and appreciate the Postal Service, its business, and its various complications, and no outside governance could hope to solve its problems simply because it comes from the outside. The NPMHU believes that, with the proper financial relief as described above, the Postal Service will have the ability to thrive over the coming years, as standard and package mail increases and losses of first-class mail slow down.

6 The NPMHU fully supports proposals that would allow the Postal Service to offer additional postal services or various types of non-postal services. Similarly, the NPMHU has no objection to efforts to encourage innovation in the Postal Service.

Thank you for the attention and consideration of these matters.



Representative Gerry Connolly (D-VA 11th) addresses NPMHU's activists



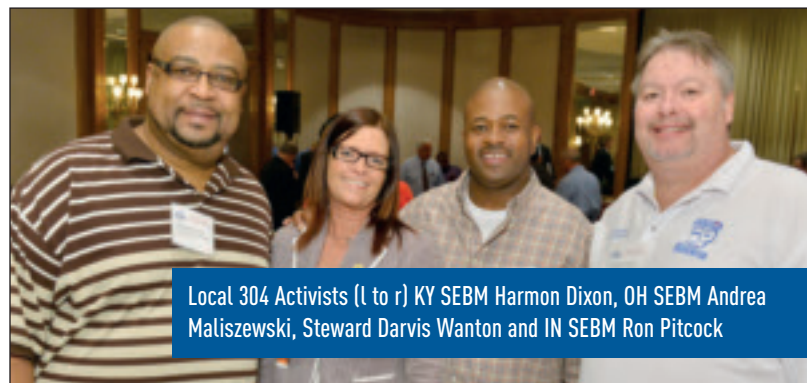




Local 306 activists (l to r) Vice President June Harris, Central Region Vice President and Local President Jefferson C Peppers III, Recording Secretary Belinda Jackson, WI SEBM Timothy McKenna, Linda Coleman and IL SEBM Richard Coleman Sr.



Local 297 President Beverly Henderson and Representative Hakeem Jeffries (NY-D 8<sup>th</sup>)



Local 304 Activists (l to r) KY SEBM Harmon Dixon, OH SEBM Andrea Maliszewski, Steward Darvis Wanton and IN SEBM Ron Pitcock



Local 311 advocates (l to r) Vice President Byron Bennett, Treasurer Darren Atterbury, Recording Secretary Harry Kimbrough, President Larry Gibson, SEBM Linda Lewis, and Eastern Region Director Eileen Mills

# The NPMHU Legislative Agenda FOR THE 113th CONGRESS

Every two years, the Committee on the Future of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union adopts a compre-

hensive legislative agenda for the new Congress. This year is the start of the current 113th Congress, which covers the years 2013 and 2014, and once again a legislative agenda has been developed. Included on this agenda are specific legislative goals, as well as various political matters on which the NPMHU National Office will be working during the next two years.

Republicans. If anything, the differences between the chambers have increased, as the majorities have become more polarized and combative. The next two years, therefore, are likely to be dominated, at least in the House, with a continuation of anti-worker, anti-union, and anti-USPS rhetoric and proposals that pose serious risks for the NPMHU and all mail handlers.

After the 2012 national elections, President Obama remains in the White House and the Senate remains under the control of Democrats, while the House of Representatives is still controlled by the

As always, the NPMHU will continue its fight to protect the legislative interests of all mail handlers and promote deeper involvement of its members in the legislative and political arenas.

**FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS regarding the NPMHU Legislative Agenda, please read each segment printed in this magazine:**

- Restoring the Postal Service's Financial Stability .....13
- Working to Prevent Harmful Legislation ... .14
- Working to Enact New Legislation .....16
- Preparing for the 2013 State and 2014 Federal Elections.....18



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## Restoring the Postal Service's Financial Stability by Eliminating or Delaying Payments to the Retiree Health Benefits Fund and Correcting Pension Mistakes in both the CSRS and FERS Retirement Systems

The NPMHU will monitor and strongly support legislation and/or administrative action to restore the financial stability of the U.S. Postal Service.

In particular, the NPMHU is strongly supporting legislation that would amend the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, which still requires pre-funding of the Retiree Health Benefits Fund at the rate of approximately \$5.6 billion per year. Although the fund is being used to accumulate funds to pay for current employees' estimated health benefits when they retire, the fund already contains \$46 billion, and future payments can easily be slowed. Under these proposals, no current retiree would be affected, nor would any future retiree lose any benefit.

The NPMHU also is seeking changes, either by legislation or by administrative action, to reimburse the Postal Service for excessive contributions it has made to the CSRS and the FERS.

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### ABOUT THE ISSA BILL...

On July 24, 2013, the full House Committee adopted some minor amendments to the Issa Bill (H.R. 2748), and then passed the bill on a straight party-line vote, with 22 Republicans voting in favor of the bill and all 17 Democrats voting against. As passed, the bill is wholly unacceptable, as it contains wholesale changes to collective bargaining and deep cuts in service. For example, the Issa Bill contains each of the following measures:

- Prohibits future collective bargaining agreements from restricting reductions in force.
- Requires that postal employee contributions for health insurance and life insurance be equal to the higher contributions paid by federal employees, essentially dictating the results of future negotiations.
- Repeals section 1005(f) of Title 39, which currently states as follows: "No variation, addition, or substitution with respect to fringe benefits shall result in a program of fringe benefits which on the whole is less favorable to the officers and employees than fringe benefits in effect on the effective date of this section [in July 1971], and as to officers and employees for whom there is a collective-bargaining representative, no such variation, addition, or substitution shall be made except by agreement between the collective-bargaining representative and the Postal Service."



Southern Region Vice President and Local 318 SEBM Lawrence Sapp discussing Postal Legislation with Representative Bilirakis' staffer (FL-R 12<sup>th</sup>).



Local 302 Branch President Fernando Matta and Western Region Director Richard Siu sign into Representative George Miller's office (CA-D 11<sup>th</sup>).



Local 302 meets with Congressman George Miller's staff, (l to r) Press Secretary and Legislative Assistant for Rep. George Miller—Peter N. Whippy, Shop Steward George Ramos, SEBM Fernando Matta, Western Region Director Richard Siu, and San Jose Branch President Lenin Brito



## Working to Prevent Harmful Legislation

The NPMHU will work, together with similarly interested parties, to prevent legislation harmful to mail handlers and other postal employees, including the following:

- Potential changes to the workers' compensation system that is now part of the Federal Employees Compensation Act and its governing regulations. Last Congress, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) was able to get the substance of her bill included in the compromise on postal reform adopted by the full Senate; that bill is premised on her view that retirement-eligible federal or postal employees still receiving compensation for on-the-job injuries are wasting taxpayer dollars and should get retirement benefits instead.
- Efforts in Congress to grant the Postal Service with authority to reduce guaranteed six-day delivery to all residential addresses.
- Proposals to amend the PAEA to require interest arbitrators to take account of the Postal Service's financial condition before issue final and binding contract terms.
- Proposals to raise health insurance premiums for postal employees or to weaken the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program.
- Proposals to reduce retirement security for current and future retirees, including potential cuts in Social Security or in the CSRS and FERS programs
- Efforts in various state legislatures to enact "do not mail" or anti-"junk mail" bills that allow individuals to remove their names and addresses from mailing lists used for commercial mail purposes.



L320 activists (l to r) Chief Steward Bernie Gonzales, Recording Secretary Susanna Paniagua, and Western Region Vice President and Local 320 President Rudy Santos



Western Region Vice President and Local 320 President Rudy Santos, Local 320 Recording Secretary Susanna Paniagua, and Chief Steward Bernie Gonzales meet with member of Representative Ann Kirkpatrick's staff. (AZ-D 1<sup>st</sup>)



(l to r) Local 303 activists Treasurer Van Cunningham, President Eddie Cowan and Branch President Ron Williams



(l to r) Brooklyn Branch President and NY SEBM Marcenia Johnson, Stamford Branch President and CT SEBM Donald Utz Jr., Eastern Region Director Tom Ruther, Northeast Region Vice President and Local 300 President Paul Hogrogian, National Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner, Local 300 Treasurer Kevin Tabarus, National President John Hegarty and Local 300 Vice President Robert Blum



NPMHU President Hegarty addresses those in attendance at the evening reception on Capitol Hill



Local 318 Activist Gary Jones, Local 318 President Nick Mosezar, National Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi, Representative Joe Garcia (FL-D 26<sup>th</sup>), Southern Region Vice President and Local 318 SEBM Lawrence Sapp, and Local 318 Treasurer Joyce Weber



Representative Joe Garcia (FL-D 26<sup>th</sup>) discusses Postal issues with National Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi, Local 318 President Nick Mosezar and National President John Hegarty



National Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner, Patty Gardner, and Representative Joe Garcia (FL-D 26<sup>th</sup>)

Summer 2013





Southern Region Vice President and Local 318 SEBM Lawrence Sapp and Senator Bill Nelson (FL-D)



Representative Timothy H. Bishop (NY-D 1st) and Local 300 Treasurer Kevin Tabarus

### About the Issa Bill (continued)

- Changes the definition of “comparability” with the private-sector under the employment policy sections of the PRA.
- Alters the binding interest arbitration provisions for resolving bargaining disputes by requiring last-best-final offers to a panel of arbitrators, none of whom are direct appointments by the parties and all of whom must be satisfied that the final award takes account of the current and future financial condition of the Postal Service.
- Creates a new workers’ compensation system that would reduce benefits for injured workers.
- Requires annual reporting of all postal time used by employees for union representational activities.
- Allows five-day delivery, except for packages or when a holiday would cause three consecutive days without delivery.
- Requires that more than 30 million delivery points be converted from door-to-door delivery to cluster-box delivery.
- Creates a separate bureaucracy to replace the USPS Board of Governors, with the power to set budget and financial priorities until the Postal Service runs two consecutive years of surplus.
- Fails to provide a permanent solution to the burdens imposed by the Retiree Health Benefits Fund.
- Fails to allow the Postal Service to utilize its acknowledged overpayments into the FERS fund.

Also during the July 24, 2013 markup session, the House Committee—by the same vote totals—rejected an alternative bill introduced by Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD). Although by no means perfect, this version of postal reform legislation, derived from H.R. 2690, is far and away preferable to the Issa bill.



Central Region Vice President and Local 306 President Jefferson C Peppers III, IL SEBM Richard Coleman Sr., Linda Coleman, and WI SEBM Timothy McKenna meet with Senator Richard Durbin's staff (IL-D)



Terry O'Sullivan, LIUNA General President makes an important point



## Working to Enact New Legislation

The NPMHU will continue to urge Congress to adopt legislation necessary to the improvement of the lives and working conditions of mail handlers and other postal and federal employees. These efforts will focus on the following pieces of legislation:

- Legislation to eliminate or curtail the Government Pension Offset.
- Legislation to eliminate or curtail the Windfall Elimination Provision.
- Legislation that will limit USPS closings and consolidations and/or limit proposed changes to USPS service standards
- Legislation to provide pre-tax health care premiums for postal and federal retirees (premium conversion).
- Legislation, at the state and local level, to provide a guaranteed living wage, in excess of the federal minimum wage, to workers and their families.
- Legislation, primarily at the state and local level, to encourage democratic participation through “vote by mail” initiatives
- Legislation to eliminate the open shop and to provide for union-security clauses or the agency shop in the Postal Service.
- Legislation or other Congressional action to eliminate or discourage the subcontracting or outsourcing of career postal jobs.
- Legislation to reform U.S. labor laws—through the enactment of the Employee Free Choice Act or similar proposals—to eliminate delays, provide for effective remedies for violation of the law, and to return to the original purposes of the National Labor Relations Act.
- Legislation to ensure the future viability of Social Security.



National President John Hegarty



Representative Gerry Connolly (D-VA 11th)



Central Region Vice President and Local 306 President Jefferson C Peppers III



Local 300 Vice President Robert Blum



### NEXT STEPS

As usual, Congress has a lengthy recess during the month of August, and the earliest possible votes on the House floor therefore will not occur until September. Meanwhile, Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) is planning on introducing his own version of postal reform in the Senate, presumably though not necessarily based on last year’s bill (S. 1789) that actually was adopted by a bi-partisan majority of the full Senate. That bill only protected universal service for two years, and inappropriately amended OWCP protections for injured mail handlers and other federal and postal employees, so the NPMHU is still working to improve whatever Senate bill eventually is introduced by the Committee Chairman this year. Of course, we are urging Senator Carper and his staff to adopt the provisions of Senator Sanders’ bill, S. 316, as his own.

To generate support from the entire membership during the crucial August recess, the NPMHU has joined with the American Postal Workers Union to announce plans to conduct a nationwide joint lobbying effort over the Congressional recess from August 5 to September 6, at which time our legislative activists will urge Senators and Representatives to co-sponsor the Postal Service Protection Act (H.R. 630 in the House/S. 316 in the Senate), the Protect Overnight Delivery Act (H.R. 2459), and the United States Postal Service Stabilization Act (H.R. 961).

This joint effort is intended to build support for the unions’ demand that Congress take action now to save the Postal Service and protect postal jobs. Currently, there are 29 co-sponsors for S. 316, 165 co-sponsors for H.R. 630, 73 co-sponsors for H.R. 2459, and 132 co-sponsors for H.R. 961, but many more are needed. (Any mail handler can check the list of co-sponsors at <http://capwiz.com/npmhu/issues/bills/> to see if your Members of Congress have signed on.)

In a letter to Local Presidents during July 2013, President Hegarty wrote, “Whether or not your facility is affected by consolidation, the





Southern Region Vice President and Local 318 SEBM Lawrence Sapp and Representative Corrine Brown(FL-D 5th)



Local 307 SEBM/Branch President Rita Tripp and Local President James Haggarty



Local 334 Vice President Anthony Shell and SC SEBM Sheldon Adams



Local 304's SEBM Andrea Maliszewski, Local President Clyde Patterson and KY SEBM Harmon Dixon

National President John Hegarty presents Congressman Richard E. Neal (D-MA 1<sup>st</sup>) with a summary of the Union's position on pending Postal legislation



Postal Service's plans to cut service will affect your job, and your livelihood. The Postal Service needs to grow the business, not cut services to the American people." Hegarty urged locals to contact their Congressional representatives' and senators' state offices to schedule an appointment as soon as possible, to explain the urgency of the House and Senate adopting meaningful postal reform before the end of USPS fiscal year on September 30, 2013.

In addition to supporting the listed bills, the NPMHU and its Local leaders need to oppose the Issa bill described earlier. It is plainly unacceptable, as it would interfere with collective bargaining, degrade service to the American public, and not provide any long-term fixes to the Postal Service's current financial situation.

In the past, our union officers and grass-roots activists have done a great job educating both the public and Congress on the issues surrounding postal reform, but much more is needed. Congress needs to act before it's too late, and it's up to us to get that message to them; indeed, some of the worst outcomes for the Postal Service and mail handlers might occur if the Congress does nothing, as the Postal Service will continue to use the specter of financial insolvency as an excuse for cutting service, closing mail processing facilities, and reducing the number of career employees. At the same time, Congress also has to act in the right way, and not in the way outlined by the Issa bill.

To help any mail handler who wants to communicate with his or her elected Members of Congress, the NPMHU has set forth our key principles for meaningful postal reform that would deserve our full support:

National Postal Mail Handlers Union



(l to r) Local 300 Treasurer Kevin Tabarus, Northeast Region Vice President and Local 300 President Paul Hogrogian, Representative Carolyn Maloney (NY-D 12<sup>th</sup>), Vice President Robert Blum, NY SEBM Marcenia Johnson



NJ SEBM Nick Campellone, Local 308 President John Gibson and Local 308 Treasurer Michael Mohan



## Preparing for the 2013 State Elections and the 2014 Federal Elections

Campaigns no longer occur between Labor Day and Election Day. Both Democratic and Republican candidates seeking office are running longer and more expensive campaigns. Beginning almost immediately, and continuing into next year, the NPMHU will join with others in the American labor movement to prepare for the 2014 Congressional elections and state and local elections (a few of which will be held in 2013). The NPMHU will take all reasonable steps to ensure that mail handlers and their families are actively involved in these upcoming elections, through voter registration, education and turn-out. It is critical that all mail handlers and their families not only are registered to vote, but that they go to the polls to have their voices heard. We must continue to work to ensure that pro-union, pro-worker candidates are elected to represent our interests.



Local 301 Branch President William Creamer, President Robert Broxton, and Vice President Daniel St. Marie take Union's message to Capitol Hill



Local 308 SEBM/Branch President Michael Rembelinsky and Local 322 President Michael McIntyre

### REFORMS NEEDED TO SAVE THE SERVICE:

- Stop cuts to service, closures and consolidation of processing facilities. The USPS must not be forced to destroy its vast network, which is needed to ensure timely mail processing.
- Repeal the mandate to refund future retiree health benefits. The 2006 PAEA requires an unsustainable annual \$5.6 billion payment to pre-fund 75 years of benefits for future retirees—a burden no other government agency or private entity is forced to bear.
- Return CSRS and FERS over-payments. USPS has overfunded its federal pension obligations. Unless this money is refunded, USPS will have insufficient funds to make necessary capital investments.
- Preserve the collective-bargaining process. Collective-bargaining has been in effect since the creation of the Postal Service and ensures good, middle-class jobs that support thousands of American workers and their families.
- Allow USPS to expand into new service lines. By expanding into needed services such as lockboxes, digital products or internet services, the Postal Service can attract new customers and meet community needs, especially in rural areas.
- Allow postal rates to be set by market principles. And allow USPS to set rates necessary to cover its costs and continue to provide universal service.



### BECOME A LEGISLATIVE ACTIVIST NOW!

What can you do to help? With so many crucial issues pending before Congress, all mail handlers are encouraged to increase their involvement in legislative issues. The first step in doing so is to register as a legislative activist on the NPMHU website at [www.npmhu.org](http://www.npmhu.org). Then, join with your Local Union activists and communicate directly with your Members of Congress. The job or facility you help to save may be your own.

Southern Region Vice President and Local 318 SEBM Lawrence Sapp and Senator Bill Nelson's Legislative Assistant (FL-D)



Terry O'Sullivan, LIUNA General President delivers inspiring remarks to the Union's 2013 Legislative Conference attendees

