



National Postal Mail
Handlers Union

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National Postal Mail Handlers Union

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FACING DIFFICULT AND CHALLENGING TIMES

Dear Members,

I want to reiterate what an honor and privilege it is to be selected as your National President. I again want to thank John Hegarty for his long and illustrious career and for all that he did for our great organization during that career; my gratitude also to the members of the National Executive Board for having confidence in my leadership over the coming years.

As I take office we are facing difficult and challenging times. The Postal Service has been implementing its ill-conceived plan to close and consolidate dozens of mail processing installations; although as this magazine is being prepared for publication, I am pleased to report that the new Postmaster General has announced significant changes to Phase II of the USPS Network Rationalization project. With the exception of the Houston, TX P&DC and the Queens, NY P&DC, the Postal Service has suspended all remaining closures and consolidations to a future date to be determined. The National Union has requested a meeting to discuss the implications of this decision, and additional information will be disseminated as it becomes available.

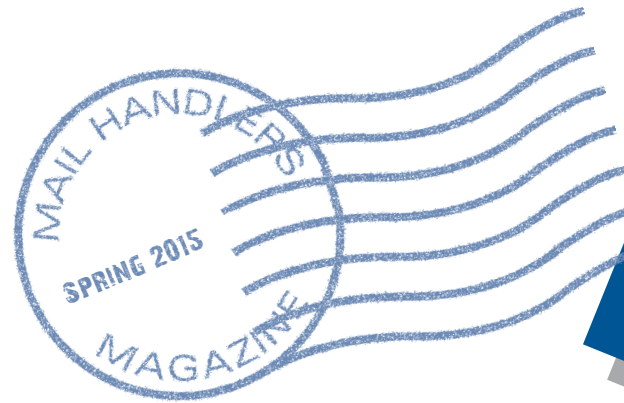
While management makes at least temporary changes in its so-called Network Rationalization plans, it continues to look into subcontracting out more of our work to private profiteers. The Republican controlled Congress not only supports these privatization efforts, but also looks to cut our retirement and health benefits instead of enacting meaningful postal reform legislation. We are also facing what appears will be a difficult round of collective bargaining over the terms of our next National Agreement.



PAUL V. HOGROGIAN, National President

“...the new Postmaster General has announced significant changes to Phase II of the USPS Network Rationalization project.”

Notwithstanding these challenges, I am confident that through the work of your representatives and with the support of the membership, we can successfully meet any and all challenges that lie before us. The NPMHU continues to address closing and consolidation issues through its Contract Administration Department and through the Article 12 Task Force. Through these efforts, some of the excessing events have been canceled in their entirety, and in others we have been successful in keeping the inconvenience and dislocation of impacted Mail Handlers to an absolute minimum. We simultaneously press ahead on the closing and consolidation issues in the political and legislative arena, where many Members of Congress have been putting pressure on the new PMG to change course. The restoration of service standards back to their 2012 levels



was a priority of our recently held Legislative Conference, as scores of Mail Handlers personally lobbied their elected representatives on Capitol Hill on this issue. Should the old service standards be restored, it would be more difficult for the Postal Service to close or consolidate any more mail processing centers. We are working with the other postal unions to accomplish these goals in a legislative format, even as the Postal Service announces a temporary hold on these actions.

The subcontracting issue is being addressed through the Article 32 Subcontracting Committee. This committee is currently discussing the possibility of returning Mail Handler work from many of the Surface Transportation Centers (STC), from the Mail Transport Equipment Service Centers (MTEC), and from the consolidation/deconsolidation bedloading project. It is vitally important that this work be rightfully returned to the Mail Handler craft.

We also continue to lobby Congress for meaningful postal reform through our Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi and the Political and Legislative Department. We need reform legislation and we need it now! The NPMHU advocates for postal reform legislation that:

1. Reforms the Postal Service's retiree health benefits system by relieving the Postal Service of the unreasonable and unrealistic burden of prefunding future retiree health benefits;
2. Returns the Postal Service's overpayment into the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS);
3. Protects the health and retirements benefits of postal employees at their current levels without increasing employee contributions;
4. Gives the Postal Service the flexibility to modernize the pricing system for market-dominant postal products;
5. Preserves the Postal Service's delivery network by restoring service standards to their 2012 levels; and
6. Allows the Postal Service to innovate and grow by offering new products and services (such as postal banking and the delivery of wine and beer).

We have already begun preparations for our next round of National negotiations. A bargaining strategy session will be held during the next Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU) scheduled for August in Boston, MA. During that session National Officers, CAD representatives, and Local Presidents and representative from all Local Unions from around the country will discuss what issues should be prioritized during negotiations. Shortly thereafter, a notice will be sent to all Local Unions soliciting specific contract proposals. The Field Negotiating Committee comprised of NEB, CAD, and Local Union representatives will carefully review, discuss, and sometimes debate the various proposals received from the field. The membership will be kept informed during this entire process through updates and bulletins. You can be assured that through the hard work of your representatives and with the support of the membership, we can achieve a fair contract that will improve the terms and conditions of our employment.

I look forward to facing the challenges that lie ahead. I again want to thank you for your kind wishes and continued support.

Fraternally,

Paul V. Hogrogian
National President

“we can successfully meet any and all challenges that lie before us”