



# Congress Debates Financial and Structural Future of Postal Service

## THE NPMHU LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 113th CONGRESS



National President John Hegarty and Congressman Stephen F. Lynch (D-MA 8<sup>th</sup>) discuss **The United States Postal Service Stabilization Act** (H.R. 961) and competing Bills



National President John Hegarty, Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi and Congressman Richard E. Neal (D-MA 1<sup>st</sup>) discuss pending Postal Legislation

As this magazine is going to press, in the summer of 2013, Congress—and more particularly, the Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives—apparently has awakened from its long slumber and started to consider postal reform legislation in a serious way.

Remember that the House in this 113th Congress is generally understood to be the least productive legislative body in modern American history (just last week, the House Republicans voted for the 39th time to repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, even though those votes are entirely meaningless and the repeal has no chance of passing the Senate; and at the same time this House voted to remove the food-stamp program from the farm bill). So the mere fact that attention is finally being paid to the Postal Service probably says more about the importance of the Postal Service to the nation's economic and communications systems than it does about the wisdom of the House of Representatives.

This legislative awakening, however, means that the NPMHU, its legislative activists, and indeed the entire membership need to focus their immediate attention on the House and its Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, where there are both real and threatened attacks on the Postal Service and its unions, on the wages and benefits of postal employees, and on the collective bargaining process that governs the way in which the Postal Service and postal unions seek equitable resolution on these issues.

Fortunately, the NPMHU only recently held its Biennial Legislative Conference for the 113th Congress in May 2013, so the union leadership, at both the National and Local levels, is extremely familiar with the various issues pending before the House. At the time of that conference, only a few bills had been introduced; since then, additional bills including proposals from both the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the House Committee have been submitted for consideration. Together with S. 1769, (the Senate bill passed in April 2012), these House bills will form the starting points for debate about the postal reform legislation.