



## National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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# FIGHTING FOR OUR FUTURE

## Dear Members,

**A**s this issue goes to press, the mid-term elections are over, and voters have had their say. What this means for Mail Handlers, and the U.S. Postal Service remains to be seen. What we need to do at the National level is to continue to press for meaningful postal reform that does not degrade service. We intend to do just that, and we will need your help. Please stay informed by visiting the NPMHU web site at [www.npmhu.org](http://www.npmhu.org), and take action on the important issues that are highlighted.

Another item that is unclear as I write this Article is the proposal to close and/or consolidate another eighty-two mail processing facilities starting in January 2015. We have been fighting this ill-conceived plan since it was first announced this past June, and will continue to fight in the hopes of stopping the Postal Service from making a fatal mistake.

First, let's look at the impact on Mail Handlers and other dedicated postal employees. Depending on the distance to the "gaining facilities," many postal employees may be faced with the choice of moving their entire household just to keep their job with the USPS. For some, it's not an option. Other employees have put up with changes of hours, and even tours, sometimes several times, as management tries to "manage the mail." That is no way to treat a trusted employee, who has been working hard for his or her entire career to "get the mail out."

Next, how about the impact on service and on our customers? This next round of closings and consolidations will eliminate all overnight service standards for first-class mail, and further degrade standards for other classes of mail. That does not sound like good customer service



JOHN F. HEGARTY, National President

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to me. Why doesn't the Postal Service realize that we should be growing the business, and not driving customers away?

The stakes are high, and we intend to do everything in our power to derail this misguided plan. There simply is no basis for degrading service when mail volume is growing and the Postal Service is operating at a surplus.

While working hard to stop the closings and consolidations, the National Office also realizes that some movement of employees is going to happen sooner or later. To ensure that your representatives in the field have all of the most up-to-date information they need to protect



your contractual rights, we conducted a special “Article 12 Training Program” in Washington, DC on October 30, 2014. I want to thank our Article 12 experts, T.J. Branch, Paul Hogrogian, and Tim Dwyer for their expertise, and for preparing the Local Union representatives who will have to deal with the myriad issues surrounding Article 12. The entire Regional and National Contract Administration Department now stands ready to ensure that management follows all of the rules governing the movement of employees, both within and, if necessary, between facilities. You can read a more detailed description of this important training session later in this issue.

In closing, as we approach the end of the year, I wish you and your loved ones a safe, happy, and

healthy holiday season. Despite management’s best efforts to ruin it for some, we are hoping for the best.

In Solidarity,

John F. Hegarty  
National President

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## JDRF Seeks to Raise Awareness for T1D This November

**J**uvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) was founded by parents of children with type 1 diabetes (T1D) more than 40 years ago. For much of that time, JDRF has been the official charity sponsored by the National Postal Mail Handlers Union. November marks the start of a month-long series of activities aimed at raising diabetes awareness and calling for urgent action to tackle the diabetes epidemic.

The largest type 1 diabetes (T1D) fundraising event for life-changing research is taking a step in a new direction. This spring, your local JDRF Walk will become a JDRF One Walk with a brand new look and a renewed emphasis on progress toward our goal to create a world without T1D. JDRF has changed the name of their flagship fundraising event to communicate the focus on a single goal: creating a world without type 1 diabetes (T1D). The new name, bold look, and enhanced fundraising support at this year’s JDRF One Walk reflect the powerful impact you can make by joining the global leader in T1D research. We believe that with your support we can turn Type One into Type None! Please visit the JDRF website at [www.JDRF.org](http://www.JDRF.org) to see all the news and updates, and watch for updated walk and sponsorship information in upcoming Union publications.

