



National Postal Mail
Handlers Union

National Executive Board

Paul V. Hogrogian
National President

Mark A. Gardner
Secretary-Treasurer


Jefferson C. Peppers III
Vice President Central Region

John A. Gibson
Vice President Eastern Region

David E. Wilkin
Vice President Northeastern Region

Lawrence B. Sapp
Vice President Southern Region

Rudy Santos
Vice President Western Region

The Mail Handler, ISSN:1098-5689, is published quarterly by the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, 1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C. and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Mail Handler, 1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036 Copyright 2015: National Postal Mail Handlers Union. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. The Mail Handler is published for the members of our union. For additional copies please send \$2.00 to: National Postal Mail Handlers Union—National Headquarters, 1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 500 Washington, DC 20036, (202) 833-9095 

National Postal Mail Handlers Union

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MY FIRST 100 DAYS — EVENTFUL AND CHALLENGING

Dear Members,

I again want to congratulate former National President John Hegarty on his retirement and again thank him for his decades of service to our organization and to our membership. The National Executive Board at its August meetings unanimously voted to bestow John with the title of National President Emeritus. It is an honor that is well deserved.

The Postal Service has stated that it still plans to implement its ill-conceived plan to close and consolidate dozens of additional mail processing installations. At the same time, as I have previously reported, the Postmaster General has announced that the Postal Service has suspended all pending closures and consolidations until at least April 2016. Discussions are being conducted concerning the possibility of extending this moratorium. Additional information will be disseminated as it becomes available. The NPMHU continues to address closing and consolidation issues through its Contract Administration Department and through the Article 12 Task Force. We are also continuing to address the closing and consolidation issues in the political and legislative arena. The House Appropriations Committee recently voted to restore service standards back to their July 2012 levels (with 6 Republicans voting in favor). 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.



PAUL V. HOGROGIAN, National President

“The NPMHU continues to address closing and consolidation issues through its Contract Administration Department and through the Article 12 Task Force.”

The subcontracting issue continues to be 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. While no agreements are imminent, I feel confident that some subcontracted work will be returned to the Mail Handler craft.

Through Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi and his staff, we are continuing to



lobby Congress for meaningful postal reform. In addition the four National Presidents have been meeting with the Postmaster General and her senior staff and with representatives of the mailing industry on a possible consensus postal reform bill. Any such bill would include a solution to the ill-conceived requirement for the Postal Service to pre-fund future retirees' health benefits.

Preparations for National negotiations have already begun. A bargaining strategy session was held during the recent Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU) in Boston, MA. During that session National Officers, CAD representatives, and Local Presidents and representatives from all Local Unions around the country discussed various issues, proposals, and priorities that will arise during negotiations. A notice has been sent to all Local Unions soliciting specific contract proposals (copies of the forms to submit contract proposals are available on www.npmhu.org). The Field Negotiating Committee comprised of NEB, CAD, and Local Union representatives will meet in October to review, discuss, and debate the submitted proposals received from the field. The kick off for negotiations is scheduled for February. The membership will be kept informed during this entire process through updates and bulletins.

The NPMHU has negotiated a "Vacancy MOU" with the USPS concerning the filling of residual vacancies. The MOU applies only to those installations that are not under Article 12 withholding. The MOU provides for a pecking order for filling residual vacancies that would include the return of those with active retreat rights, the conversion of PTF and PTR Mail Handlers, transfers through e-Reassign and the conversion of MHAs to career status. This MOU should provide greater opportunities for our MHAs to achieve career status. I want to thank the entire Contract Administration Department for all the hard work and long hours that was involved in negotiating this important MOU.

The Small Parcel Sorter System (SPSS) is currently deployed in five pilot sites and will be deployed in approximately twenty-six other facilities around the country. With the rapid increase

of parcel mail, we expect even more of this equipment to be deployed in the future.

On June 1, 2015 the USPS announced that the primary craft for all duties associated with the operation of the SPSS is the Mail Handler craft.

In a stunning and totally unacceptable move, the Postal Service notified the NPMHU on August 7, 2015 that it was reversing this craft determination to staff the SPSS in a manner similar to the way the APBS is staffed. Clerk craft employees were awarded the facing functions with rotation to the sweeping function of the SPSS. This reversal defies all principles of good faith bargaining. The NPMHU will do everything within its power through any available forum to challenge this reversal. The NPMHU already has filed an appeal to the RI-399 NDRC, filed charges with the NLRB, and filed suit in U.S. District Court. A National-level grievance under Articles 7 and 15 will be filed, and affected Local Unions are encouraged to file similar grievances at the Local level. No options are off the table.

I am confident that, through the work of our Contract Administration Department and our legal representatives, we can successfully meet any and all challenges that lie before us. The continuing support of all Mail Handlers is very much appreciated.

Fraternally,

Paul V. Hogrogian
National President

"The NPMHU has negotiated a 'Vacancy MOU' with the USPS concerning the filling of residual vacancies."