

A FOND FAREWELL TO



MARK GARDNER



On December 8, 2016, National Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner took the podium at the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions to announce his decision to retire effective March 31, 2017. Gardner spoke passionately about this very difficult decision. After he updated SAMLU attendees on the status of many major projects pending at the National Office, Gardner said, “I thought it was important for me to stick around to see these important projects to fruition.”

We are pleased to report that Brother Gardner and the NPMHU team have enjoyed great progress in tackling Mark’s final pre-retirement to-do list. The 2016 National Agreement and related dues and wage increases are scheduled and the resulting changes are set. The NPMHU has finalized its hotel contract for the 2020 NPMHU quadrennial National Convention in Denver, CO. The National Office has finalized the long-awaited conversion from the antiquated AS400 membership database to a new server-based network system. This new membership database system functions in conjunction with significant upgrades to the accounting department’s computer system, making it much easier for the departments to seamlessly work in unison. The upgrades will also make it easier to service the needs of the Local Unions in matters of dues processing and reporting. The National Office is geared up for the annual LM-2 filing,

fully prepared to meet the statutory filing deadline of March 31, 2017. The National Office has implemented the cloud-based e-mail server system, providing secure communications at a reduced cost. And finally, the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan has secured a full 3-year accreditation from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) effective February 1, 2017.

So if you like to keep score, or you are a man of numbers (and we know that Mark is), we are batting .833. Five of the 6 projects that Mark identified during his retirement announcement

in December of last year are finalized. The last item, our filing of the annual LM-2, is getting the attention it deserves and will occur while this publication is on the presses. All six projects have been or will be completed before Mark's retirement date of March 31, 2017. So, probably by the time you are reading this magazine, that batting average of .833 will be up to 1,000. These accomplishments are a testament to Mark's guidance, leadership, and attention to detail.

In addition to the completion of many major projects, NST Gardner and Tim Dwyer also spent

significant time coordinating various transition issues with each of the departments in our National Office, including Accounting, Membership Services, Contract Administration, Mail Handler Benefit Plan, Information Technology, Local 2 and administrative support, legal and general administration. Mark has worked tirelessly to ensure that Tim Dwyer is prepared to hit the ground running on April 1, 2017.

Being a self-proclaimed geek and statistics enthusiast, Brother Gardner took a numerical approach to analyze his history with the NPMHU



when announcing his retirement. He spoke warmly about his many experiences during 7 terms and 25 years of service at the National Office, including his time with 3 National Presidents, 20 different NEB Members, and 166 Local Presidents, to include 8 rounds of national bargaining, 48 SAMLU meetings and 102 NEB meetings. Mark is a machine with incredible energy and endurance. This list does not mention the work involved in planning and conducting the countless training sessions and conferences that have occurred during his 25 years of service in Washington DC, or the innumerable trips to Capitol Hill or USPS headquarters to champion improvements in the rights and benefits of all mail handlers. Never one to shy away from work of any kind, the Union

could always count on Mark to strap on a pair of gloves and pitch in to load the truck bound for the National Convention, or to don a suit for a Union leadership gathering at Vice President Biden's home. It did not matter, A to Z, if it needed to be done, Mark was there, all in ... always.

Mark's undying commitment and dedication to this organization has enabled us to accomplish great things. The NPMHU is a distinctly different organization than it was 25 years ago, when Mark first was elected to the position of National Secretary-Treasurer in October 1992. We are a mainstay of the American labor movement and we are respected on Capitol Hill. We are fiscally sound, well-trained, and armed to fight. As a direct result of Mark's work, the members of the

NPMHU are prepared to tackle the many difficult battles we will surely face going forward. For all of this, we thank Mark Gardner!

President Hogrogian has announced that, by a unanimous vote of the NEB, National CAD Representative and Shop Steward Trainer Tim Dwyer has been selected to fill the forthcoming vacancy as National Secretary-Treasurer effective April 1, 2017. Before working for the National Office, Brother Dwyer served as both Treasurer and President of Local 301 in New England. Dwyer spoke briefly about his selection: "I am deeply honored and humbled by the Board's vote and support shown by this appointment. I have large shoes to fill. But I am looking forward to the opportunity and will work hard for you, brothers and sisters."

