

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

I have had the great privilege of serving as National Secretary-Treasurer of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union for the past quarter-century, and will remain forever grateful for the opportunity, faith, and confidence that our membership has afforded me over these many years. After much soul-searching, I have decided to take my retirement from this great Union effective on March 31, 2017.

I leave our Union in experienced and very competent hands. President Paul Hogrogian is a strong and dedicated leader, and I know that he will channel his many skills to guide this Union through the difficult times ahead. We have an experienced National Executive Board, and I know that they will effectively govern our Union, and will steer its goals and agenda for the betterment of all Mail Handlers.

I offer my congratulations to Brother Timothy Dwyer on his appointment by the Board to assume the position of National Secretary-Treasurer. Tim is a seasoned union veteran who has served in numerous officer and representative positions at both the Local and National Union level. Brother Dwyer is well known to NPMHU officers and shop stewards across the country, and has well earned the respect of his peers over decades of skillful service to this Union. I am certain that President Hogrogian and Secretary-Treasurer Dwyer, along with the other members of the National Executive Board,

will lead the NPMHU to even greater heights in the months and years ahead.

I also have every confidence that our Union's leadership, at every level, is well situated and is fully prepared to advance the important agenda of bettering the lives of the Mail Handlers that we are all so privileged to represent. Please also know that our talented and dedicated National and Regional office staff work hard for our members every single day. I could not be more proud of these colleagues and friends, who have become my second family over this journey of my career. I am lucky to have known these fine people.

This is a rather bittersweet time for me. I very much look forward to a slower pace of life, to dealing with far fewer details, deadlines and commitments, and to pursuing interests for which I have not previously made sufficient time. On the other hand, I know that I will miss the thrill of being in this exciting game. I will undoubtedly miss the opportunity to help shape the policy, direction, and agenda of this great Union. But most importantly, I know that I will sorely miss the countless officers, shop stewards, friends, and personalities across the country who have all enriched my life over these many years.

And finally, I give this nod to my wife, Patty, who has been at my side every step of this wonderful journey, and who has been the guiding and calming presence throughout my career. Patty has served as my loudest cheerleader,



MARK A. GARDNER, National Secretary-Treasurer

my biggest critic, and my most faithful and honest sounding board. While I was "off saving the world," she raised our four terrific kids, who have each now grown into kind, caring, and successful adults. Among countless other roles, she has long been my personal counselor, my fashion advisor, my travel companion, my researcher of stuff, and on and on. But through it all, through the ups and downs, and through the good and bad, Patty has remained my lover and my very best friend. I very much look forward to writing the next chapter of our love story together.

I have loved every moment of my career with the NPMHU. Thanks for the memories.

Solidarity Forever!

Mark A. Gardner
National Secretary-Treasurer

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