

## THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION: NIGHTMARE OR REALITY?

**A**s the nation works its way through the first hundred days of the Trump Presidency and the 115th Congress, there are still too many questions and not enough answers. This uncertainty has stymied not only the NPMHU and all Mail Handlers, but also most so-called pundits, lobbyists, and experts. Even native Washingtonians have seen nothing like it!

The NPMHU is often waiting to see the latest proposals, whether they appear in draft legislation, in executive orders, or in recent messages on Twitter or Facebook. And even after those proposals are disseminated, it often is unclear what impact such proposals might have on the NPMHU membership or other postal or federal employees.

President Trump's favorability ratings are at historically low levels, but his supporters continue to believe confidently that he will deliver on his campaign promises. Only time will tell if the first year of the Trump Administration is a fantasy nightmare or the new reality.

### LEGISLATION

On January 31, 2017, Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) – chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee – introduced H.R. 756, the Postal Reform Act of 2017. This bi-partisan legislation was co-sponsored by Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Congressman Stephen Lynch (D-MA), Congressman Mark Meadows (R-NC), Congressman Gerald Connolly (D-VA), and Congressman Dennis Ross (R-FL).

This bill certainly is not perfect, but if adopted it would accomplish much in righting the disastrous effects of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, which continues to inflict much pain upon the USPS.

### SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF H.R. 756

- Establishes separate postal health plan within FEHB
- Integrates postal retirees into Medicare Part B
- Addresses unfair prefunding schedule now required for retiree health benefits
- Reforms the governance of the Postal Service
- Increases the scope of non-postal services that can be performed by the USPS

- Increases postal rates, including the reinstatement of one-half of the exigent rate surcharge that was terminated in 2016

### RESOLUTIONS

As was true during last year's 114th Congress, the National Postal Mail Handlers Union will be joining with other postal union representatives at the APWU, the NALC, and the NRLCA to support three Congressional resolutions that are supportive of all four craft unions.

H. Res. 31, Introduced by Congressman David McKinley (R-WV), joined by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Congressman David Joyce (R-OH), Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-CA), Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R-CA), and Congressman Don Young (R-AK). The resolution requests that the United States Postal Service take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012.

H. Res. 28, Introduced by Congresswoman Susan Davis (D-CA). This resolution aims to protect door-to-door delivery. Republican members David Joyce (R-OH) and Peter King (R-NY) joined in supporting this bi-partisan resolution. It states that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery.

H. Res., Introduced by Congressman Sam Graves (R-MO) and Congressman Gerald Connolly (D-VA). This resolution states that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of 6-day delivery.

### WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?

Besides the legislation and resolutions listed above, the NPMHU Legislative Department will again be playing defense when it comes to benefits and other employee gains that have been achieved over the past few decades. Some of our concerns about the 115th Congress will be repeats of battles that have been fought in previous Congresses, such as pension reform that would force mail handlers to pay more into their pensions without receiving any improved benefits; privatization of postal jobs; so-called reform of



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OWCP or the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs; hiring freezes; changes in dues deduction procedures; attacks on union or official time to impair the way that the NPMHU represents its members; and much more. The NPMHU must and will stay diligent and remain aware that not every Member of the House and the Senate supports a prosperous and strong U.S. Postal Service.

### LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

On May 8 and 9, 2017, Mail Handler leaders will meet in the nation's capital to discuss legislative issues that affect the everyday lives of our active and retired members at the NPMHU's biennial Legislative Conference. These activists will be trained by Legislative Department and Capitol Hill experts. On the second day of the conference, scores of mail handlers will then lobby Members of Congress and their staffers, both in the House of Representatives and the Senate, not just on our legislative priorities, but also to educate Capitol Hill representatives about the key role that the Postal Service plays in the American economy and in the everyday lives of their constituents.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Sign up as an e-activist through our website, at [www.npmhu.org](http://www.npmhu.org). You also can participate in our NPMHU Political Action Committee, which provides financial support directly to the campaigns run by Members of the House and Senate – regardless of party affiliation – if those Members support NPMHU positions on these key issues.

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