



sizing, the Postal Service is looking for ways to reduce the workforce voluntarily, if possible. We recently announced an agreement on “incentives” for most career Mail Handlers who are retirement eligible, who may qualify for an early retirement, or who may simply wish to resign from the Postal Service for whatever reason. The \$15,000 incentive will be paid in two equal installments, in December of this year and in December 2013. Please check your bulletin boards and/or our web site for more detailed information.

I know another topic on the mind of most Mail Handlers revolves around the status of the 2011 National Agreement, or more precisely, the impasse in contract negotiations. We have kept you as up-to-date as possible with the special Contract Update Bulletins, and will continue to do so. As this Article is being written, we have concluded the formal mediation process without reaching a negotiated settlement. We now find ourselves headed into the binding arbitration process, where a neutral, third party will hear evidence and testimony from both sides, and then render a decision on the terms of the new collective bargaining agreement. Please stay tuned as we strive to secure a fair contract under very difficult circumstances.

In addition to the important topics discussed above, the National Office is now in full “Convention mode,” preparing for our

quadrennial Convention which is scheduled for early August in Portland, Oregon. The NPMHU was founded exactly 100 years ago to the day of the opening of the 2012 Convention, on August 6, 1912. In addition to celebrating this significant milestone, we have the important business of the Union to conduct during the first full week of August. There will be over 270 democratically elected delegates from all thirty-seven Local Unions represented at the Convention. These delegates are tasked with debating and voting on the major policy issues facing our Union (including important resolutions and constitutional amendments). As we have done for prior Conventions, we plan to keep you updated on the proceedings with daily postings on our web site. We hope that those Mail Handlers who cannot be with us in person will enjoy keeping up with the business of the Convention through the web site.

In conclusion, I urge you to review all of the important information in this issue of *The Mail Handler*, and to take an active role in the future of your Union. Despite the many challenges facing us, and the many forces that seek to do us harm, we will never give in, and we will never give up.

In Solidarity,

John F. Hegarty
National President

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