



MARK A. GARDNER, National Secretary-Treasurer

The NPMHU will be conducting its 2012 National Convention in Portland, Oregon commencing on Monday, August 6th. Delegates representing all thirty-seven NPMHU Local Unions will be in attendance at this quadrennial event, and will work together to set our Union's agenda for the coming four years, and also to discuss and debate the many issues of importance to all Mail Handlers. As set forth in our union's National Constitution, while in Convention these elected delegates will serve as the single-highest governing body of the NPMHU.

This Convention will actually be called to order on the centennial anniversary of the formal organization of our Union—known back in 1912 as the National Association of Post Office and Railway Mail Laborers. Given the historic significance of the timing of this Convention, the delegates and guests will take time to review and honor the many accomplishments of those who struggled for our cause over the past century. To be sure, the elected delegates also will spend considerable time sharing thoughts and ideas on the National Postal Mail Handlers Union's way forward in these difficult economic and political times. Appropriately, the slogan for

HONOR THE PAST SHAPE THE FUTURE

this year's Convention is "Honor the Past – Shape the Future."

And given the perfect financial, political, and technological storm in which the United States Postal Service currently finds itself, the leadership of the NPMHU, the delegates to this Convention, and our union's dedicated members all must work together—in coordination with our sister postal unions, and with our fellow postal stakeholders—to Shape the Future, and to protect the wages, benefits, and working conditions that generations of Mail Handlers before us have struggled to achieve and retain.

The groundwork for our Union's continuing success has been laid. The NPMHU has an efficient and effective network of representatives and activists who are prepared to take action—whether on the political and legislative fronts, through the responsible enforcement of our collective bargaining agreement, through continued commitment to quality service and representation, or in any other necessary venue. Mail Handlers are prepared to stand strong, and will

work like none other to preserve our craft, and to retain and build upon the success for which our Union is known.

As with prior NPMHU National Conventions, I am certain that the delegates to this 2012 Convention will gather with a very positive and energetic attitude, along with a genuine desire to attend to the necessary business of the NPMHU: to refine and improve its guiding laws and documents; to discuss and debate important issues facing the United States Postal Service—including the important role that is played by the dedicated NPMHU membership; to press forward to protect and defend the American labor movement, and all working people; and to engage in what likely will be passionate discussion relative to this year's U.S. Presidential and Congressional elections.

With regard to the latter, since our quadrennial Convention always immediately precedes the U.S. Presidential election, the history and tradition of the NPMHU calls for our delegates to vote at Convention to formally endorse a Presidential candi-

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