

date. I firmly believe that the NPMHU Presidential endorsement process—based on the vote of our delegates, who were democratically elected by their peers—represents a clear voice and opinion of the NPMHU and its members. After a lengthy and illuminating primary process to select the presumptive Republican nominee, our country and our members can now focus their attention on the crystal clear policy and philosophical differences between candidates Barack Obama and Mitt Romney. The NPMHU will officially vote and declare its endorsement at this Convention, and I know that Mail Handlers across the country will work tirelessly to support the NPMHU candidate.

To help set the stage for a productive and efficient Convention, various Convention committees—comprised of elected delegates, and appointed by National President Hegarty—have met in Washington, DC during the weeks and months leading up to the Convention. The first committee to meet, the Credentials Committee, has done tremendous work reviewing the details and election certification for each of the 280 delegates who is slated to participate when we gather in early August. This committee will ultimately present a report for consideration and adoption by the delegates at the beginning of the Convention proceedings. Once formally seated, the delegates can, and certainly will, attend to the critical business of our union and its members.

The Election Committee has now met to develop the rules, processes, and materials to conduct all necessary secret ballot elections at the Convention. The Constitution Committee, the Resolutions Committee, and the Legislative and Political Committee also have now met to discuss the merits

of countless proposals submitted by the NPMHU membership for consideration. After full discussion and debate, these committees will each develop and adopt a series of recommendations, which will be presented for further consideration, possible amendment, and ultimately an up-or-down vote by the delegates. Once adopted by the Convention, any constitutional amendments will become part of the organic law of the NPMHU, and any adopted resolutions will effectively reflect and represent the will of more than 45,000 Mail Handlers across the United States.

One of the most important committees, the Rules Committee, also will meet prior to the Convention, and will discuss and propose for adoption by the delegates a set of rules to govern the proceedings and to provide for an orderly exchange of views during discussion and debate relative to issues of importance to all Mail Handlers. If recent Conventions are indicative of the tone that will be followed in Portland, I am certain that our delegates will, once again, engage in sometimes spirited—but always respectful—debate on the issues at hand.

I know that everyone involved in preparing for this Convention, along with all attendees in Portland, will work hard to ensure that the interests of all Mail Handlers are fairly and democratically represented. Please take a moment to join us, in your own way, as the National Postal Mail Handlers Union celebrates 100 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY!

Fraternally,



Mark A. Gardner

National Secretary-Treasurer

“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.”