



National Postal Mail Handlers Union

National Executive Board

John F. Hegarty
National President

Mark A. Gardner
Secretary-Treasurer

Jefferson C. Peppers III
Vice President Central Region

Kevin L. Fletcher
Vice President Eastern Region

Paul V. Hogrogian
Vice President Northeastern Region

Lawrence B. Sapp
Vice President Southern Region

Rudy Santos
Vice President Western Region

The Mail Handler, ISSN:1098-5689, is published quarterly by the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, 1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C. and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Mail Handler, 1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036 Copyright 2013: National Postal Mail Handlers Union. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. The Mail Handler is published for the members of our union. For additional copies please send \$2.00 to: National Postal Mail Handlers Union—National Headquarters, 1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 500 Washington, DC 20036, (202) 833-9095

National Postal Mail Handlers Union

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

THE BEAT GOES ON

Dear Members,

As the song title says, “the beat goes on.” Both the United States Congress and the Postmaster General have been marching to their own “beat” for several years now. In Congress, it’s all about the ongoing battles to enact meaningful postal reform legislation. With the Postmaster General, it’s his ongoing attempts to ruin the brand.

One would think that simple issues, like refunding the money that the Postal Service has overpaid on its pension obligations and fixing the ridiculously overaggressive funding for retiree health care, would be no-brainers. Well, maybe that’s true, as some legislators on Capitol Hill actually are acting like they don’t have a brain. We need to ramp up the pressure on our legislators to stop the partisan bickering, and to get the job done on postal reform.

In the meantime, the USPS leadership over at L’Enfant Plaza is doing its darndest to drive away customers, and to ruin service. Eliminating overnight delivery for first-class mail, closing hundreds of mail processing plants, and cutting out Saturday delivery will all cause postal customers to look elsewhere for ways of communicating with their customers. Some have already begun experimenting with private delivery companies, and others have threatened to switch to a different form of communications such as the Internet. The Postal Service should be looking to grow



JOHN F. HEGARTY, National President

the business, rather than cutting service. We are working hard with our friends on Capitol Hill to stop these ill-advised plans.

Not all of the news is bad news, however, as we now have a new 2011 National Agreement after almost two years of hard work. We were forced to resort to binding arbitration to secure a decent package, but in the end, I believe we did as well as could be expected given the circumstances. Your National Executive Board, the entire Contract Administration Department, and the NPMHU legal advisors worked diligently over a long period of time to seek the best possible outcome. They did a great job, and it shows. Please review the in-depth

**“We need to ramp up the
pressure on our legislators
to stop the partisan
bickering, and to get the job
done on postal reform.”**

The Mail Handler | 3



article in this issue for more information on the Fishgold Arbitration Award.

Going forward, we still face some significant challenges. In addition to the legislative and organizational battles referred to above, companies in the private sector are still scheming to get their hands on the profitable portions of the Postal Service, while ruining service for the remainder of the citizens of the United States. One example of this is the recent so-called “independent” study which recommends eliminating all mail handlers and clerks, and subcontracting our job duties to the private sector. Hardly “independent,” it turns out that this study was funded by Pitney Bowes, a company who would most likely profit from such an

arrangement. Rest assured, this unacceptable report will not go unchallenged.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to thank you for your membership in our great Union, and for your continued support, as we work hard to ensure not only the survival of our Union and the protection of our jobs with the Postal Service, but also to save the Postal Service from itself so that all Mail Handlers are able to continue their great service to the American people.

Fraternally

John F. Hegarty
National President

“The Postal Service should be looking to grow the business, rather than cutting service.”

* TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

Register for NPMHU Action Alerts to receive the most up-to-date information available on the US Congress, including details on important legislative initiatives that are critical to Mail Handlers, and to help facilitate contact with members of Congress. You are encouraged to also visit the NPMHU Legislative Center at www.npmhu.org. In this section of the NPMHU web site, you will find an important array of tools at your disposal so that you can easily take an active, grass-roots approach to the legislative process.

Help protect our future; take the time to get involved.