HONOR the PAST









RONNIE SANDERS LOCAL 317 PRESIDENT





Rep. Peter Defazio (D-OR) welcomes the delegates to Oregon.



Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) urged the delegates to advance and defend the dreams of laboring men and women.



Billy Hayes, Communication Workers Union of the United Kingdom, shared his insight from workers abroad.



Labor historian and professor, Dr. Greg Giebel, in the first of his four lessons this week, unearths the foundation of NPMHU's 100 year history.

Central Region and Paul Hogrogian from the Northeastern Region were also duly elected by acclamation to their respective offices, and both received equally jubilant applause from the delegates. The other three Regional Vice President positions were contested and the subject of upcoming elections. Nominations for Western Regional Vice President included the incumbent Rudy Santos and Kimberly Rojas of Local 302. In addition, because of the upcoming retirements of Sam D'Ambrosio, Eastern Region Vice President, and Bruce Z. Miller, Southern Region Vice President, there were several nominations for those positions. In the Southern Region, Brothers Lawrence Sapp of Local 318, Pervous "Andy B" Badilishamwalimu of Local 310, and John R. Macon of Local 329 were to face off in a primary election on Wednesday, August 8th, in accor-

dance with the provisions governing elections in the National Constitution, so that the field of candidates would be narrowed down to two, both of whom will then appear on a mailballot election in the fall. Likewise, in the Eastern Region, five candidates were nominated and subject to Wednesday's primary election: John Gibson of Local 308; Eugene Horton of Local 305; James Bell of Local 304; Kevin Fletcher of Local 305; and Clyde Patterson of Local 304.

Following the nominations for National Officers, the delegates had the pleasure of receiving special guest, Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ). Congressman Grijalva shared his thoughts on possible avenues toward amelioration of the Postal Service's current crisis, and he also provided the delegates with a look into his own past, explaining how his father's membership in a

labor union shaped his own convictions regarding the role of the labor movement in America. The Congressman's father told him as a young boy, "I work with my hands, a shovel and a drill. Sometimes, they work you like a dog. But with the Union, they have to treat you like a man." This resonated deeply with the Brothers and Sisters of the NPMHU, and Congressman Grijalva left the stage telling the delegates that Americans have a beautiful dream which the Union must defend.

The delegates also heard an insightful speech by Billy Hayes, who serves as both the General Secretary of the Communication Workers Union of the United Kingdom and President of UNI Global Union's Post and Logistics sector. Brother Hayes was kind enough to make the long journey from Wimbledon, England

to share his insights regarding the challenges being faced by postal workers across the globe, and to stress the need for cooperation as we confront these collective struggles. The delegates were pleased to hear Brother Hayes' message of support and solidarity during these difficult and challenging times.

It was then time for President Hegarty to deliver his National Officers' Report. The report highlighted the strength of the National Union and the progress that it has made over the last four years. As part of that speech, Hegarty promised to continue to fight for the rights and interests of all Mail Handlers across the country:

Our common goals can be simply stated: on this, the 100th anniversary of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, our Union pledges not only to Honor the Past, but also to use the lessons learned from our past to Shape our Future. We will dedicate whatever time and effort is needed; we will expend whatever resources are demanded; we will implement whatever strategies are justified; and together we will do whatever it takes to ensure our Union's continued success, and the continued success of all Mail Handlers.

Following President Hegarty's address, National Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner spoke to the delegates, informing them of the state of the National Union's internal

12 | The Mail Handler Summer 2012