



REPORT *of the* NATIONAL OFFICERS PREPARED FOR THE DELEGATES *to the* 2012 NATIONAL CONVENTION *of the* NATIONAL POSTAL MAIL HANDLERS UNION

AUGUST 6–11, 2012 ★ PORTLAND, OREGON

**NATIONAL
PRESIDENT
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**NATIONAL
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REPORT of the NATIONAL OFFICERS

The National Constitution of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union—in Article XII, Section 9—requires the National President, acting on behalf of the entire National Executive Board, to present a report to the delegates describing all of the activities and accomplishments of the National Union since the last Convention. To comply with that constitutional requirement, this written report is being distributed to all delegates attending the 2012 National Convention, and will be made available to all other Union members over the coming weeks. The entire National Executive Board sincerely hopes that all delegates and other Mail Handlers will take the time necessary to review the entire report, for the NEB strongly believes that an informed membership is crucial to the continued success of the NPMHU.

Overview

For the NPMHU, the 2012 National Convention is an extremely significant milestone in the history of our great Union. It marks the centennial

anniversary of the founding of the NPMHU, which was initially recognized by the Post Office Department exactly 100 years ago—on August 6, 1912—as the National Association of Post Office and Railway Mail Laborers representing postal laborers in the mail handler craft. Twenty-five years later, in 1937, our Union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and thus 2012 also marks our 75th anniversary in the united AFL-CIO. And finally, in 1968, our Union became an autonomous Division of the Laborers' International Union of North America, and thus next year will mark the 45th anniversary of our affiliation with the Laborers.

Four years ago, at our last Convention in August 2008, we told the delegates assembled in Orlando, Florida that the state of the National Union was excellent, that the Union and all of its officers, representatives, and members at the National, Regional, and Local levels had reason to be proud about their accomplishments over the prior four years; and that every Mail Handler had reason to be optimistic about the future. At the time, the Union and all Mail Handlers were enjoying the early stages of the wage increases

and non-economic improvements contained in the 2006 National Agreement, the nation was in the throes of an upbeat and forward looking election for a new U.S. President and a new U.S. Congress after suffering from eight years of the George W. Bush Administration's failed economic and foreign policies, and the U.S. Postal Service had only recently completed one of its best years in history, with mail volume peaking at 213 billion pieces.

Since then, the surroundings certainly have changed. The Great Recession of 2008—brought about because of greed in the banking industry and on Wall Street, an out-of-control housing market, and eight years of disastrous economic strategies—has been longer lasting than even the so-called experts could have predicted; the American voters had a crisis of confidence, and in 2010 cast their votes to put anti-worker, tea-party, right-wing Republicans in charge of the House of Representatives; the American government collapsed into a stalemate on most of the crucial economic and social issues on the domestic agenda of the United States; and the Postal Service—as a result of both the 2008 recession and ongoing