



headed to interest arbitration over the terms of our collective bargaining agreement with the USPS. After failing to reach an agreement through direct negotiations and a subsequent mediation process, we will begin formal hearings soon in front of Arbitrator Herbert Fishgold, with a decision expected later this year, or early next year.

Another important topic that requires our attention is the upcoming election season. Whether voting in a primary election, or in the general election, it is critically important that Mail Handlers take an active role. This is especially important with all of the different views on “postal reform” that have been bandied about. There are those who would help us, and who deserve our support, and, there are those who would all but destroy the Postal Service, and who do not deserve our vote. It is imperative that you, your families, and your friends, are registered to vote in this critical election.

One of the important Resolutions that unanimously passed at the recent

Convention was the endorsement of Barack Obama and Joe Biden in the November election. While we would never presume to tell you who to vote for, please make sure that you educate yourselves on the issues, and vote in the elections on November 6 for those candidates who will support us as USPS employees and who support working families in general.

In conclusion, please read over this issue of *The Mail Handler* carefully, as it contains a thorough review of our Centennial Convention, and other important Articles outlining current events, and what we need to do to keep our Union strong.

Thank you for being a proud member of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union as we “Honor the Past” and “Shape the Future.”

John F. Hegarty  
National President

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