



MARK A. GARDNER, National Secretary-Treasurer

This edition of *The Mail Handler* magazine is chock full of updates and reporting on the myriad subjects that have consumed this past summer and early fall. From the normal, important issues that our Union attends to every day to the major, intractable battles that are more infrequent—like planning for the presentation of our Union’s best case in the upcoming interest arbitration proceedings—we’ve been busy.

Our recent Convention, celebrating the one hundred years we’ve been in existence as a Union, was a highlight of the season. Our delegates made me proud every day of that week by demonstrating their unwavering commitment to accomplishing the work they were elected to do while maintaining the highest levels of mutual cooperation and respect. During the course of the week, I was pleased to accept the nomination for, and subsequent reelection to, my position of National Secretary-Treasurer. I want to extend my thanks to the delegates for giving me the distinct honor and privilege to serve you for the next four years.

Held on the heels of our own Convention, the Democratic National Convention also

HONOR THE PAST SHAPE THE FUTURE

was a stunning success that spelled out the many worker-friendly policies and major accomplishments of the Obama Administration, like signing the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law in 2009, providing an avenue for health insurance coverage for those who have fallen through our country’s social safety net, restoring America’s auto industry and the hundreds of thousands of jobs that rely on that work to feed their families, and reinforcing the Democratic Party’s commitment to advancing the causes vital to all workers.

Speaker after speaker at this Convention inspired me beyond words. As with many of you, their messages resonated deeply and served to validate my core beliefs. I know that our country, like our Union, works best when we pull together, when we look out for one another, when we provide everyone with the opportunity to achieve success, and when we treat everyone with dignity and respect—no matter their station in life or the balance in their bank account.

When compared to the stunted platform that the Republican National Committee put forward during their own Convention the week before, there is no question that a Romney-Ryan win would be disastrous for American workers and especially disastrous for Mail Handlers and other postal workers.

As is the case at this point in our national election process, especially during Presidential election years, the political pundits and campaign gurus have reached hyper-drive—and the airwaves and news programs have become consumed with voter polling analysis, campaign commercials, and partisan maneuvering. While it can be interesting to watch, I know that many Americans have neither the time nor the interest in absorbing the minutiae of this evolving social experiment.

It would be easy to simply check out of the whole process, but that would be a mistake. There has never been a more important election for workers, including Mail Handlers, than this election. We literally cannot afford to sit back and let those on the side of millionaires and billionaires

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