



MAILHANDLER UPDATE

NATIONAL POSTAL MAIL HANDLERS UNION

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: 1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. • Suite 500 • Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 833-9095



John F. Hegarty
National President

LIUNA AND NPMHU URGE CONGRESS TO REJECT MISGUIDED PLAN



Mark A. Gardner
Secretary-Treasurer

Once again, Republican leaders in the House of Representatives have unveiled a proposal that displays their overt hostility to the U.S. Postal Service, its customers (more commonly known as the American public), and all postal employees. This latest, misguided proposal would make monies available to the highway construction trust fund by cutting postal services.

To be sure, Congress needs to fund the Highway Trust Fund before the end of August, in order to ensure continued funding for thousands of crucial projects aimed at repairing and improving our nation's infrastructure. But the Postal Service also is a vital component of the American economy, and taking money from one need to fund another is simply an accounting gimmick that has no place when trying to make rational legislative decisions.

Our international parent body, the Laborers' International Union of North America, and its entire membership, have a deep and longstanding interest in the financial health of the Highway Trust Fund. But LIUNA was not fooled by this Republican shell game, and released the following statement from General President Terry O'Sullivan:

The idea of robbing the U.S. Postal Service to provide another duct-tape fix to our nation's critical transportation infrastructure would damage both Americans who rely on the mail service and those who want safe roads and bridges.

Gimmicks will not address the dire situation of our roads and bridges.

Congress has several responsible, viable options before it. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has passed a bipartisan Highway Bill that would stabilize the Highway Trust Fund for six years. The U.S. Transportation Department has pro-

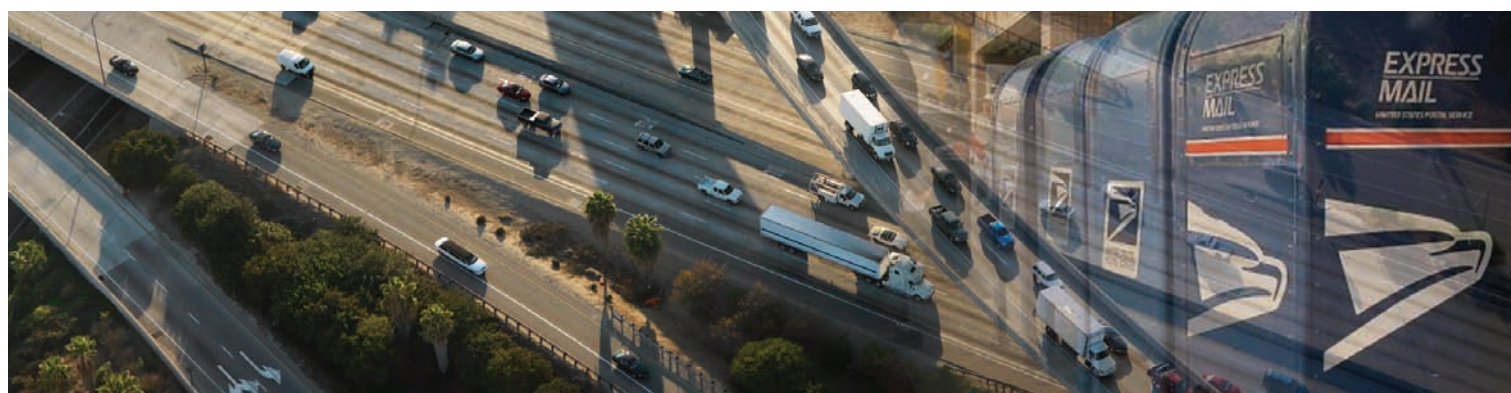
posed a four-year plan. And Oregon Rep. Earl Blumenauer has filed a bill which would stabilize the fund for 10 years through an incremental 15-cent gas tax increase. Each proposal would not only be a step toward making our roads and bridges safer, they would create and protect hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Robbing the Postal Service to provide inadequate transportation investment would not only threaten nearly 100,000 Postal jobs – the uncertainty it would create in the construction industry would forego the creation of hundreds of thousands of good construction jobs.

The American people want responsible action. They understand that we must invest in fixing crumbling roads and aging bridges. Opinion survey after opinion survey show that the American public will support paying for safe roads and bridges, including through a modest gas-tax increase. Kicking the can down our pothole-filled roads is a recipe for further decline.

National President John Hegarty added that it was time for Congress to understand that the Postal Service is funded by rates paid by its customers, not by general taxes, and the Postal Service is not a bank from which Congress can just grab money. "The Republican proposal," said Hegarty, "is unworthy of support, and should not be allowed to delay responsible action on postal reform."

Members should watch their bulletin boards and the NPMHU website for the latest information.



NATIONAL ARBITRATION PENDING ON BLOOD PLATELET LEAVE

On March 10, 2014, the National parties held an arbitration hearing over the following question: whether the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Postal Service and the NPMHU on Administrative Leave for Bone Marrow, Stem Cell, Blood Platelet, and Organ Donations guarantees full-time employees administrative leave in eight-hour increments when a request for administrative leave to donate blood platelets is approved?

"The referenced MOU has appeared in the National Agreement since 2006, when the maximum number of days of leave for blood platelet donations was increased from three to seven. Before that time, the issue of leave for blood platelet and the other specified donations was covered by Section 519.52 of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual, but the parties agreed to add these

leave commitments, and to increase the amount of leave, during negotiations over the 2006 National Agreement.

The Postal Service position in the pending arbitration is that the reference in this MOU to days – "up to 7 days" – always was intended to mean up to 56 hours. Indeed, during the hearing, the Postal Service conceded that "up to 7 days" really means up to 56 hours: "If anything is implicit in the MOU, it is that up to seven days means up to 56 hours." Thus, according to the Postal Service, a full-time mail handler could be granted 4 hours of leave on up to 14 days, and still fall within the leave authorized by the MOU.

Notwithstanding the importance of this concession, the NPMHU is continuing to argue that "up to 7 days" means that each instance of blood platelet leave is meant to be a full 8-hour day, as is true for the bone marrow,

stem cell, and organ donations that also are covered by the same MOU. Among other factors, had the parties intended to allow blood platelet leave for less than a full day, such leave easily could have been included within the blood donation provisions of the ELM, which allow for more-typical blood donations in hourly increments, rather than including blood platelet donations in this MOU, which provides for paid administrative leave in daily increments.

Post-hearing briefs have been submitted by the NPMHU and the Postal Service in early June, and a decision from National Arbitrator Shyam Das is expected during the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, any mail handler who decides to donate blood platelets is, at a minimum, entitled to the administrative leave reasonably needed to make and recover from such donations, up to a total of 56 hours in any year.



2014 WALK TO
**CURE
DIABETES**

On Sunday, June 1, 2014, more than 3,500 walkers representing local businesses, families, schools, Unions and other organizations gathered on the National Mall in Washington D.C. to participate in the JDRF Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Chapter's annual JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes. The NPMHU Team made an impressive contribution towards this year's fundraising goal. The NPMHU would like to thank all those that did make a donation to our team and this year's JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes.

The good news – it is not too late to make a donation to help the NPMHU hit our team goal. You can donate via

the JDRF team link at www.npmhu.org or you may mail a check, made payable to JDRF to the NPMHU Team Captain, Martha Ring at our headquarters office. JDRF donations are tax deductible.

Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is an autoimmune disease that impacts millions of people around the world. The disease occurs when the body's immune system attacks and destroys the beta cells in the pancreas that produce insulin, a hormone essential to turning food into energy. With T1D there are no days off, and there is no cure. Support the JDRF Walk, and together, we will create a world without T1D. Please consider supporting this important research.



Please Post!!

June 2014