## Local 305 Eastern Region — MHBP Outstanding Performance









## MHBP OPEN SEASON SEMINAR

ctober 10–11, 2025, the National Mail Handlers Union co-hosted its annual Open Season Seminar to educate Union Mail Handlers on its Union-sponsored health plan, MHBP, so that Union Mail Handlers may pass on that information to eligible enrollees during Open Season Health Fairs. This year's seminar was held in Phoenix, Arizona and kicked off with appreciation for the tremendous success of last year's Open Season. Local Union Mail Handler attendance at Open Season contributed to MHBP's incredible gain of 50,000 new members to the plan in 2025!

Next National President Paul Hogrogian shared opening remarks about MHBP, its value to those enrolled in it, and its value to each Local Union through Regular and Associate Membership in NPMHU. The Seminar continued with review of MHBP's participation in both the Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) program and the Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program that makes the program available to all postal and federal active employees, annuitants, dependents, and survivor annuitants.

The beginning of the Seminar also included recognition of those Local Union attendees who participated in the Open Season Seminar for the first time this year. A medal was awarded to each new attendee to acknowledge their ability to step out of their comfort zone, learn new things and pass that education onto others, all while supporting their Local Union!

Mail Handlers learned important information about the changes to MHBP for 2026 for each of its three program options, Standard Option, Value Plan, and Consumer Option. Changes for 2026 are minimal, reflecting MHBP's focus on offering its same great plan options in both FEHB and PSHB. Likewise, premium increases are low and MHBP continues to offer great benefits at an outstanding price!

Informative breakout sessions covered many detailed topics regarding plan features and benefits. Sessions focused on each of the three plan options, understanding that each plan offers in- and out- of network benefits, utilizes Aetna's nationwide provider network of over 2 million providers, offers a 24 hour nurse line, and has amazing customer service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A session detailed the Consumer Option, MHBP's high deductible health plan that utilizes a Health Savings Account (when applicable), so that members can keep their unused HSA amounts when they leave the plan. Another session covered MHBP's Dental and Vision supplemental benefits. A dedicated breakout session detailed the PSHB enrollment change options and offerings for active Postal employees, future retirees and current retirees.

General sessions concluded with a review of the Partial Reimbursement Program, that allows participating Local Unions to offset some of the costs of sending Local Union representatives to Open Season Health Fairs to educate potential members about MHBP. An important aspect of the program that continues in 2025, is the ability to for Local Unions to send and receive reimbursement for up to 2 representatives for in-person USPS health fairs.

National Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Tabarus reinforced President Hogrogian's opening message of the value of MHBP and every Local Union's opportunity to add to their membership by educating potential enrollees of the features and benefits of MHBP. NST Tabarus reminded attendees that Postal Service associate employees may utilize SF1187 to easily collect their Associate Members dues from their paycheck.

The Open Season Seminar concluded with an award ceremony that recognizes Local Unions who made significant contributions to their MHBP enrollment numbers through participating in Open Season Health Fairs, participating in Nonopen Season New Hire Orientations, enrollment of Full Time Regular Mail Handler conversions, and additional support of the plan. Nominations reflect the outstanding efforts Local Unions are putting into MHBP education and support, with particular appreciation for those winning Local Unions by region. Special congratulations to those regional Local Union award winners and National overall Local Union award winner! MHBP appreciates all your efforts.





Deb Watson, Paul Hogrogian

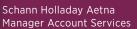






MHBP Director







Paul Hogrogian



National Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Tabarus



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