

SUCCESS AND FORESIGHT

Kevin P. Tabarus, National Secretary-Treasurer



We as a Union have had many instances of success. But we cannot just rest and admire our successful accomplishments. We must have the foresight to prepare ourselves for the future.

In August, we had a very successful 2024 NPMHU National Convention, with hundreds of delegates getting together to determine and pass amendments to our National Constitution and Uniform Local Union Constitution. Local Union Delegates also reviewed and passed several resolutions at the convention. These actions will determine how our Union is governed and administered. Changes to the Union's rules and administrative policy cannot be modified until the next National Convention in 2028.

We have increased and plan to maintain our communication levels with Local Unions. When our local unions have more information, they are better able to keep you the member, informed. Local Unions meet two (2) times a year with the National Office. These Semi-Annual Meetings of Local Unions (SAMLUs) are very important. All thirty-six (36) Local Unions are invited to attend. All departments from the National Office provide reports to the Local Unions. Presentations are made by the National President, National Secretary-Treasurer, Legal Report from our General Counsel, Contract Administration (Grievance Department), Legislative/Political, and Mail Handlers Health Benefit Plan (MHBP). All Local Unions are given the opportunity to provide feedback or ask questions on any issue. Our next scheduled SAMLU will occur in April of this year. In addition to SAMLUs, the National Office is in constant communication with Local Unions, providing information as it occurs.

The National Office also maintains and updates our website (www.npmhu.org) on a constant basis. We also have a smartphone application. Information can be found on page 2 of this magazine about how to download the app to your

phone. We have been providing more frequent 'push notifications' through our smartphone app. This technology allows us to communicate more effectively and efficiently with the membership when we have new news items.

The National Postal Mail Handlers Union continues its aggressive training programs. On March 4th and 5th of 2025, the NPMHU conducted its Financial Management Seminar. All Local Unions were invited to attend this comprehensive and informative seminar. The NPMHU Financial Standards and Practices were reviewed and discussed. Local Unions were trained on their obligations related to constitutional requirements, financial responsibilities, plus financial reporting for the Department of Labor and Internal Revenue Service.

Our health plan, the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan (MHBP) had a successful record-breaking Open Season for new enrollees. 18,000 new enrollees signed up with the MHBP. This is the best health plan out there, in my opinion. The MHBP

uses Aetna's large network of doctors. I have always found it easy to find the medical professionals that I need. Low-cost prescriptions with lower health plan premiums make MHBP the top plan for Postal and Federal Employees.

Being enrolled in MHBP provides access to thousands of CVS Minute Clinics. I have used these clinics in the past,

such as when I couldn't get a quick appointment with my doctor. Every time I go, I have an amazing experience. I made an appointment online, for the same day. My wait time was only a minute. I guess that is where they got the name for the CVS Minute Clinic. By the time I was done with the exam, my prescription was there waiting for me. If you did not enroll in MHBP, be sure to check us out next Open Season.

This May, the NPMHU will hold its Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. All Local Unions have been invited to attend. Many Local Unions bring numerous attendees to

We will not be held back due to budgetary constraints. We have the financial ability to go as far as needed to attain a new National Agreement we can all be proud of.



Lobby their Congressional Representatives on Capitol Hill. The timing of this Legislative Conference couldn't come at a better time. There have been many attacks on the federal workforce from the new presidential administration.

As of this writing, no specific attacks have been focused on us. There has been much speculation of an imminent attack on the Postal Service due to one newspaper article in the Washington Post on February 20th. This reported that a Presidential Executive Order would be issued. The Executive Order would dissolve the independent USPS Board Of Governors (the leadership of the U.S. Postal Service) and absorb the Postal Service into the control of the Commerce Department. No such Executive Order has been signed, yet.

On February 17th, just a few days prior to the Washington Post report about the possible Executive Order, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy wrote a letter to the USPS Board Of Governors announcing that he plans to resign soon and they should seek his successor. Some speculate that this was not a coincidence.

Thankfully, we do have the foresight to be prepared for any sort of attack on the Postal Service and the terms of our collective bargaining agreement. The legal teams from all the other postal unions are meeting together periodically to discuss all the impending and potential issues and to plan for the worst. Rest assured that we are prepared for every scenario to fight back to protect what we have attained.

Our current National Agreement will expire in September. Contract negotiations will start in June. The membership will be provided with information throughout the bargaining process. Suggested changes to the current contract were solicited. The NPMHU Field Negotiating Committee met in February to review each and every suggestion. The committee has formulated plans to prepare us for collective bargaining.

We also have the foresight to be aware of the added expenses related to collective bargaining for our new 2025 National Agreement and to respond to any attacks on the Postal Service. While we hope to reach a tentative agreement with the Postal Service, we do have the financial resources to go to mediation and, if necessary, arbitration. And while we hope there will be no attack on the Postal Service by the new administration, we have the financial resources to respond to those attacks as well. The finalized 2023 National Financial Statement on the following page shows that our assets increased from the previous year. We will not be held back due to budgetary constraints. We have the financial ability to go as far as needed to attain a new National Agreement we can all be proud of.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Tabarus', is written over a horizontal line.

Kevin P. Tabarus

National Secretary-Treasurer