

NPMHU MEMBERS GATHER IN

DC

FOR LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The 119th Congress began with rhetoric and legislative proposals that would drastically impact Mail Handlers' jobs and benefits. In order to combat these attacks, the National Postal Mail Handlers Union met in Washington, DC, to learn more about the legislation that would impact them as well as what members can do to successfully educate and lobby their members of Congress on those issues.

The first day of the conference saw a full training program, with a host of speakers and panel discussions highlighting the issues the Postal Service and the labor movement are now facing in Congress and the needs for grassroots lobbying. National President Paul Hogrogian and Legislative & Political Director Katie Maddocks opened the program by highlighting the importance of the NPMHU's representation on Capitol Hill, noting in particular that year-round legislative and political involvement must be part of the commitment made by all NPMHU activists.

The first panel included legislative updates from Sister Maddocks, American Postal Workers Union (APWU) Legislative Director Judy Beard, National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Chief of Staff Kori Blalock Keller, and



Local 322 Members meet with Rep. Ryan Mackenzie (R-PA-07)



Local 302 Members meet with Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA-6)



Local 302 Members meet with Sen. Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA)



Local 304 Members meet with Rep. Morgan McGarvey (D-KY-03)



Local 310 Members meet with Sen. Jon Ossoff (D-GA)



Local 318 Members meet with Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL-25)



Judy Beard,
Legislative & Political
Director, APWU



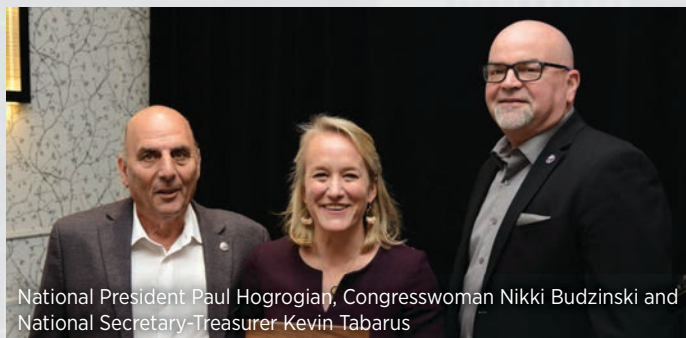
National President
Hogrogian



National President Paul Hogrogian with the Legislative Panel on Postal issues



Local 304 Members meet with Rep. James Comer (R-KY-01)



National President Paul Hogrogian, Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski and National Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Tabarus



Kori Blalock Keller,
Chief of Staff, NALC



Congressman
Stephen Lynch
(D-MA-08)



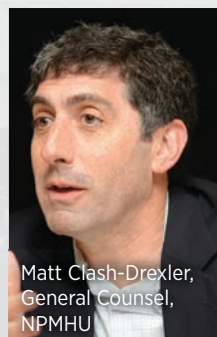
Local 311 Members meet with Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX-30)



Mike Ingrao, MAI



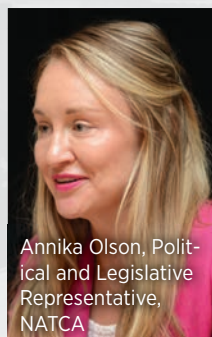
Congresswoman
Nikki Budzinski
(D-IL-13)



Matt Clash-Drexler,
General Counsel,
NPMHU



Congresswoman
Melanie Stansbury
(D-NM-01)



Annika Olson, Political and Legislative Representative, NATCA



Jody Calemme,
Director of
Advocacy, AFL-CIO

Legislative Conference Attendees



National President
Paul Hogrogian



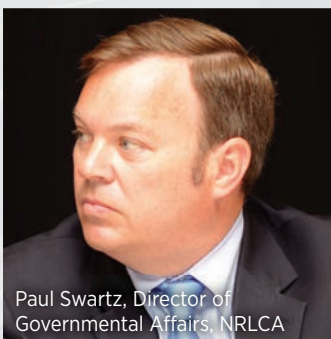
Local 302 Members meet with Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)



National President
Hogrogian and
Local 301 Members
meet with Sen. Ed
Markey (D-MA)



Katie Maddocks, Legislative &
Political Director, NPMHU



Paul Swartz, Director of
Governmental Affairs, NRLCA



National President Hogrogian, National Secretary-Treasurer Tabarus
and Local 300 Members meet with Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-05)



Local 317 Members meet with Sen. Katie Britt (R-AL)



National Secretary-
Treasurer Tabarus



Local 322 Members meet with Rep. Summer Lee (D-PA-12)



Local 304 Members meet with Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02)



Local 315 Members meet with Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01)



Local 301 Members meet with Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA-08)



Local 329 Members meet with Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)

National Rural Letter Carriers Association (NRLCA) Director of Governmental Affairs Paul Swartz. As there has been growing talk around privatization, the four unions have a collective voice on the need to protect the Postal Service. Not only would a privatized Postal Service result in the loss of jobs, but it would also jeopardize service standards across the country. This is why it is necessary for Representatives and Senators to sign onto H. Res. 70 and S. Res. 147, a non-binding resolution that expresses USPS should remain an independent federal agency and not subject to privatization. Additionally, the four discussed the talks around the budget reconciliation process and how members of Congress are seeing cuts to postal employees' earned retirement benefits as a means of reducing the federal deficit. Legislative conference attendees were tasked with talking to their elected officials on how these changes would impact their personal finances and retirement planning, and also job recruitment and retention within USPS.

The conference also heard from AFL-CIO Director of Advocacy Jody Calamine on the attacks those in the federal workforce are facing — attacks postal employees need to be aware of as they could be seen as the next target. Mail Handlers need to remain vigilant on legislative attacks on collective bargaining rights that most of the federal workforce are currently seeing.

In order for NPMHU members to effectively lobby on these issues, Mike Ingrao, a policy consultant for Republican members of Congress and Annika Olson, Political & Legislative Representative for the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, spoke on the need to work and talk with members from both parties. It's relationships with all parties that effectively move policy forward.

We were privileged to hear from Representatives Nikki Budzinski (D-IL-13), Melanie Stansbury (D-NM-01), and Stephen Lynch (D-MA-08). These members of Congress have a proven track record of supporting not only the Postal Service, but also Mail Handlers in particular and the union movement at large.

The second day of the conference allowed Mail Handlers — now trained on how to effectively lobby — to meet with Members of Congress and their professional staff. Not only were NPMHU elected leaders and Mail Handlers able to share their views on pending issues throughout their day on the Hill, but relationships forged during the conference will prove helpful throughout the rest of the 119th Congress.

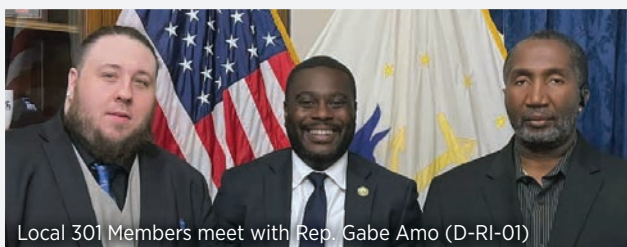
The week after the conference, the House of Representatives voted on the budget reconciliation bill. Included were provisions that would directly impact Mail Handlers' retirement benefits. The bill passed by the House included the elimination of the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) supplement for those who are eligible to retire before they qualify for Social Security benefits and, for new employees,



Local 318 Members meet with Rep. Jared Moskowitz (D-FL-23)



Local 329 Members meet with Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN-09)



Local 301 Members meet with Rep. Gabe Amo (D-RI-01)

tied one's FERS contribution rates to union membership. The bill passed mostly along party lines with a vote of 215–214. Now that it's in the Senate, the Mail Handlers will work with Senators to ensure they fully understand how detrimental these changes to retirement benefits will be for current and future postal and federal employees. We will keep all Mail Handlers informed of any changes that happen with the reconciliation process.

NPMHU HONORS THE WORK OF CONGRESSMAN GERRY CONNOLLY

After a battle with cancer, Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA-11) passed away on May 21, 2025. He served not only the people of Northern Virginia, but all postal and federal workers.

Because of his work, the Mail Handlers saw the passage of the Postal Service Reform Act in 2022; support of preserving service standards; protecting postal employees' earned health and retirement benefits; and, tending to the overall sustainability of the United States Postal Service. In a statement on his passage, NPMHU National President Hogrogian commented, "He truly wanted to improve the Postal Service not only for its employees, but also its customers. We have lost a true friend and champion."



Conference attendees with Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury



Local 315 Members meet with Rep. Maxine Dexter (D-OR-03)



Local 318 Members meet with Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-FL-10)



National President Paul Hogrogian, Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury and National Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Tabarus