## **SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

## THE POWER OF YOU!

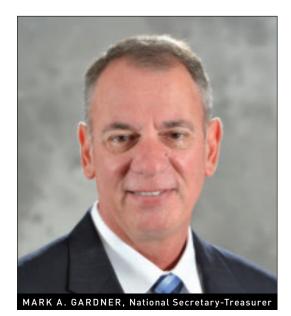
he NPMHU will be conducting its 2016 National Convention in Chicago, Illinois commencing on Monday, August 22nd. Delegates representing each and every NPMHU Local Union will be in attendance at this quadrennial event. The delegates also will work together to set our Union's agenda for the coming four years, and will discuss and debate the many issues of importance to all Mail Handlers. As set forth in our Union's National Constitution, while in Convention these elected delegates will serve as the single-highest governing body of the NPMHU.

The theme for our 2016 National Convention is "NPMHU — The Power of You." This theme reflects on the incredible value and power of each and every individual mail handler, united in our economic, political, and workplace struggles. And by harnessing the collective power of our Union membership across the country, we can be an unstoppable force when confronting our challenges, and when fighting those who seek to undermine all that our Union has achieved over its one hundred plus years of progress.

As with prior NPMHU National Conventions, I am certain that the delegates to this 2016 Convention will gather with a very positive and energetic attitude, along with a genuine desire to attend to the necessary business of the NPMHU: to refine and improve its guiding laws and documents; to discuss and debate important issues facing the United States Postal Service; to press forward to protect and defend the American labor movement, and all working people; and to

engage in what surely will be passionate discussion relative to this year's U.S. Congressional and Presidential elections.

With regard to the latter, since our quadrennial Convention always immediately precedes the U.S. Presidential election, the history and tradition of the NPMHU calls for our delegates to vote at Convention to formally endorse a Presidential candidate. I firmly believe that the NPMHU Presidential endorsement



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process — based on the vote of our delegates, who were democratically elected by their peers — represents a clear voice and opinion of the NPMHU and its members. After a lengthy, boisterous, and often times bizarre primary process to winnow the field of candidates, and to select the likely Republican

and Democratic Presidential nominees, our country and our members should now focus their attention on the crystal clear policy and philosophical differences between the candidates. The NPMHU will officially vote and declare its endorsement at this Convention, and I am confident that Mail Handlers across

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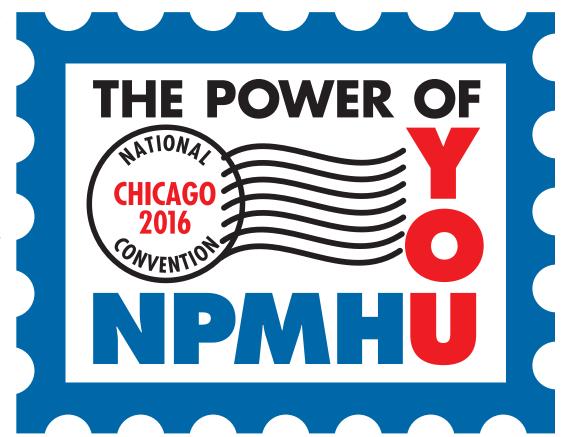
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the country will work tirelessly to support the NPMHU endorsed candidate.

To help set the stage for a productive and efficient Convention, various Convention committees, comprised of elected delegates, have been meeting and will continue to meet in Washington, DC during the weeks and months leading up to the Convention. The first committee to meet, the Credentials Committee, has done tremendous work reviewing the details and election certification for each of the delegates who is slated to participate when we gather in mid-August. This committee will ultimately present a report for consideration and adoption by the delegates at the beginning of the Convention proceedings. Once formally seated, the delegates can, and certainly will, attend to the critical business of our Union and its members.

The Election Committee will soon meet to consider the rules, processes, and materials to conduct all necessary secret ballot elections at the Convention. The Constitution Committee, the Resolutions Committee, and the Legislative and Political Committee will meet during June and July to discuss the merits of countless proposals submitted by the NPMHU membership for consideration. After full discussion and debate, these committees will each develop and adopt a series of recommendations, which will be presented for further consideration, possible amendment, and ultimately an up-or-down vote by the delegates. Once adopted by the Convention, any constitutional amendments will become part of the organic law of the NPMHU, and any adopted resolutions will effectively reflect and represent the will of nearly 45,000 Mail Handlers across the United States.

One of the most important committees, the Rules Committee, also will meet prior to the Convention, and will discuss and propose for adoption by the delegates a set of rules to govern the proceedings and to provide for an orderly exchange of views during discussion and debate relative to issues of importance to all Mail



Handlers. If recent Conventions are indicative of the tone that will be followed in Chicago, I am certain that our delegates will, once again, engage in sometimes spirited — but always respectful debate on the issues at hand.

I know that everyone involved in preparing for this Convention, along with all attendees in Chicago, will work hard to ensure that the interests of all Mail Handlers are fairly and democratically represented.

Whether at our quadrennial convention, or in the halls of Congress, or on the workroom floor in postal facilities across the country, the groundwork for our Union's continuing success has been laid. The NPMHU has an efficient and effective network of representatives and activists who are prepared to take action whether on the political and legislative fronts, through the responsible enforcement of our collective bargaining agreement, through continued commitment to quality service and representation, or in any other necessary venue. Mail Handlers are prepared to stand strong, and will work like none other to preserve our craft, and to retain and build upon the success for which our Union is known.

Thank you for all that you do to support the NPMHU. Our great Union will continue to grow and thrive on the power of our collective strength and solidarity. We will continue to rely on THE POWER OF YOU!

Fraternally,

Mark A. Gardner National Secretary-Treasurer

National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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