

WASHINGTON UPDATE

Robert Losi, Legislative and Political Director



As the 115th Congress comes to an end in December 2018, we are again dealing with another **Do Nothing Congress**. The 115th Congress will go down as one of the least productive in the last three decades according to the Pew Research Center, which is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, and non-advocacy think tank.

The NPMHU is currently dealing with legislation in both the Senate and the House, a series of Executive Orders issued by President Trump (e.g., the Presidential Task Force on the Postal System) and, if that's not enough, the Office of Management and Budget's recent attack on the Postal Service through a sham report called "Delivering Government Solutions in the 21st Century."

LEGISLATION

The Postal Reform Act of 2018, H.R. 6076, was passed by unanimous voice vote of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on June 12, 2018, and was then referred to both the Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees.

A companion bill, S. 2629, was introduced by Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE), read twice, and placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.

These two bipartisan bills represent the major postal reform legislation that, in general terms, is being supported by the NPMHU.

The NPMHU also has been working on three resolutions since the beginning of the 115th Congress, and each of these continue to gain additional co-sponsors. All three are supported by an actual majority of the House's 435 members.

- **H. Res. 15** would express the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service. It now has 258 co-sponsors, representing an actual majority of the House's 435 members.
- **H. Res. 28** would express the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the

continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers. It now has 247 co-sponsors.

- **H. Res. 31** would express the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012. This resolution now has 230 co-sponsors.

In other resolutions, H. Res. 993 has been introduced by Congressman Stephen Lynch (D-MA). It would express the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization. It currently has 223 co-sponsors, which is several votes more than a majority in the House. Both sides of the aisle believe that this resolution is a priority, making this another bipartisan resolution ready for passage.

On September 18, 2018, Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) introduced a resolution similar to H. Res. 993 in the Senate, S. Res. 633. This resolution also states that the Postal Service should remain an independent establishment within the Federal Government. As of early October 2018, it already has 42 co-sponsors in the Senate.

Both resolutions are meant to send a clear message to the White House and the Office of Management and Budget that the way to fix the USPS does not include privatization.

USPS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Senate confirmed both David Williams and Robert Duncan as Governors for the U.S. Postal Service on August 28, 2018. The Board of Governors has not had a congressionally approved member since 2016.

David Williams served in many posts in the federal government, including stops at the Secret Service, the Department of Justice, and the General Accounting Office. He then served as the Inspector General for many agencies, including the Department of the Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. For the last thirteen years, from 2003 till his retirement in 2016, Williams served as the Inspector General of the Postal Service.

Robert Duncan formerly served on the Board of the Tennessee Valley Authority; he also was past Chairman of the Republican National Committee. He currently serves as the point person for President Trump's Commission on Fellows, and is CEO and Chairman of Inez Deposit Bank in Kentucky.

Since the approval of these two Governors – giving the BOG a total of four members, to include the PMG and the Deputy PMG—President Trump has also announced that he is proposing to the Senate an additional two nominees for the Board. First is Roman Martinez, a former investment banker who also has served on a number of boards and been involved in many Senate and Republican presidential elections. The second nominee is Ron Bloom, well known within the DC beltway as President Obama's guru regarding manufacturing policy, who helped to save the auto industry in 2009. He currently serves as Vice-Chairman at Brookfield Asset Management, and previously worked as an advisor to the United Steelworkers union.

With these nominated BOG members, it is imperative that the Senate moves quickly to research, analyze, and approve these two additional nominees, so that the BOG at least has a quorum with which to operate.

THE MID-TERM ELECTIONS ON NOVEMBER 6, 2018

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

When America heads to the polls on November 6, 2018, it will be President Trump's first mid-term election, and if history repeats itself members of the Republican Party could be in

trouble. The average setback for the President's party if his/her job approval rating is below 50% is a loss of 37 seats, and the Democrats in 2018 need only 24 seats to take control of the House of Representatives. President Franklin Roosevelt lost a total of 126 seats in mid-term elections held in 1938 and 1942; President Obama lost 76 seats in his two mid-terms held in 2010 and 2014.

To add to Republican's heartburn this year, over 50 current members of their party have decided not to run for reelection in their current seats; some are running for higher office, but most are retiring.

SENATE

The Senate has 33 seats up for reelection this cycle, including 24 Democrats, 2 Independents that caucus with the Democrats, and only 9 Republicans. The current breakdown is 51 Republicans and 49 Democrats, so a net gain of only 2 seats could change the majority in the Senate.

It is a much bigger lift to think the Democrats could take over the Senate in this cycle, however, given that most seats up for grabs already belong to the Democratic Party. But with such an unpopular President, anything is possible this November.

It would be advantageous for the NPMHU and the other postal unions if Congress was split from the White House, with Democrats controlling both Houses or with the Republicans and Democrats each controlling one part of the legislative branch. It is expected that such a split in the Federal Government would help to move our legislation.

10th Annual PACkie Awards

PACkie awards are accolades of recognition highlighting a Local's commitment to the success of the NPMHU Political Action Committee. *The winners exemplify excellence amongst our NPMHU locals.*



LOCALS WITH 1-499 MEMBERS
(l-r) Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi presents PACkie award to Local 299 President Deanna (Keala) Parker



LOCALS WITH 500-1499 MEMBERS
(l-r) Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi presents PACkie award to Local 333 President Randy Krueger



LOCALS WITH 1500 OR MORE MEMBERS AND PACKIE AMBASSADOR AWARD
(l-r) Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi presents PACkie award to Local 301 President Dan St. Marie



MOST IMPROVED LOCAL
(l-r) Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi presents PACkie award to Local 328 Todd Larson