Dear Members,

As 2014 starts, we face many of the same problems within the Postal Service as in prior years. I need not repeat them all here, as we’ve publicized them many times before. Let me just give you an update on a few items.

Regarding the ongoing issue of postal reform, it seems that no one in Congress is willing to offer a “clean” postal bill that would assist the Postal Service, without attacking the dedicated men and women who move the mail every day. A “clean” bill would contain the following: (1) adjusting the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund and revising the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan to reduce retiree health costs and resolve the prefunding burden by properly investing the assets in the PSRHF and having our current and future retired members enroll in Medicare programs we have helped to fund with our payroll taxes; (2) recalculating the postal pension surpluses with USPS-specific assumptions to help pay down the Postal Service’s debt so that it can make desperately needed investments in its infrastructure; (3) establishing a moratorium on service standard changes to prevent continuing mail processing and delivery delays; (4) providing the USPS with limited authority to offer non-postal products through its networks to generate new revenues; and (5) adopting pricing reforms to establish a fair and more predictable, price cap system.

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs held two hearings recently to “mark-up” (or amend) its current version of postal reform legislation, known as S. 1486. All four postal unions banded together to send the key Senators a letter outlining our concerns, and showing them a way forward that preserves overnight service, eliminates the need for additional plant closings, and protects six day delivery (a complete copy of the letter can be found on our website at www.npmhu.org). Unfortunately, the Senate Committee with jurisdiction over the Postal Service did not take our advice, and passed many provisions out of Committee that, if eventually adopted into law, would further harm service and hurt postal employees. (See the related Article in this issue).

Fraternally,

John F. Hegarty
National President

JOHN F. HEGARTY, National President

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

JOHN F. HEGARTY, National President

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