

# RETIREMENTS, APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS AT THE NPMHU

**T**he National Postal Mail Handlers Union will experience a flurry of transitions in the coming months starting with the Contract Administration Department (CAD) in the National Office. Representatives Kevin Fletcher and Bobby Blum have announced their retirements. Brother Fletcher will retire effective on February 26, 2021. Bobby Blum's retirement will be effective in June 2021.

Kevin Fletcher began his career as a Mail Handler in 1988 at the Charleston, WV P&DC. Brother Fletcher served the local membership in many roles including Branch President, Arbitration Advocate, State Executive Board Member, Vice President, and Local 305 President. Kevin also served as Eastern Region Vice President on the National Executive Board. In 2015 he joined the HQ team as a National CAD Representative. During his time at the National Office, he served as the NPMHU's RI-399 NDRC and Article 12 Task Force representative. He served on the National Negotiations Teams for bargaining over our last two National Contracts and has been instrumental in the success of the CAD.

Bobby Blum started as a Mail Handler in 1981 at the New Jersey International/Bulk Mail Center. He served as Branch President of the Monmouth (NJ) Branch from 1990 to 2012. He was elected Recording Secretary of Local 300 in 1999, a position he held until 2002, when he started to serve as Local 300 Vice President. In August 2014, Bobby was appointed to the National CAD in Washington D.C., where he serves as the Assistant to the National President. Brother Blum also has served the union in many additional roles over the years.

With Kevin's impending retirement, President Hogrogian has made several appointments within the Regional and National Contract Administration staff. The National President has appointed Northeastern Regional Director Tom Ruther to serve as a National CAD Representative effective February 27, 2021.

Tom has been a Mail Handler for over 25 years, and has served the NPMHU at the Local, Regional, and National levels in numerous positions. Tom has served as the CT State Executive Board Member in Local 300. He was also the Branch President of the Stamford, CT Branch for three years. He has been a delegate to both NPMHU and LIUNA Conventions and is a seasoned arbitration advocate. At the

National level, Tom has served on the RI-399 Swat Team since 2004. Most recently, Tom served as the Northeast Regional Representative since 2012, with a jurisdiction that includes Locals 300, 301, 308 (Southern NJ), 309 (Upstate NY), and 313. Brother Ruther's transition to National CAD will help to maintain the strength of the Department.

With Brother Ruther leaving his Regional position, President Hogrogian next appointed Patrick Donovan to CAD as Northeastern Regional Director. Brother Donovan started his career as a Mail Handler at the Southern ME P&DC in 2006. Since 2008 he has served Local 301 as a Shop Steward, Branch President, (Southern Maine P&DC), and Recording Secretary. Patrick was a Delegate to the 2016 NPMHU National Convention. He is a skilled arbitration advocate with extensive experience in Article 12, FMLA, LMOU, RI-399 and OWCP matters. He has also completed Labor Studies courses through The Labor Guild of Boston. Brother Donovan is a Veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

National President Paul Hogrogian also made four appointments to the NPMHU's Committee on the Future (COTF). Kevin Tabarus, President of Local 300 (Metro New York, Northern New Jersey, and Southern Connecticut); Dan St. Marie, President of Local 301 (New England region including MA, NH, VT, RI, & most of CT); Anthony Coleman, President of Local 302 (Northern California and Reno, Nevada); and James (JC) Morris, President of Local 317 (Alabama) will be joining the Committee. These appointments continue to ensure that the COTF accurately reflects the NPMHU Local Union structure, and its membership alike. "It is imperative that the make-up of the Committee represents all of our membership and will encompass a diverse line-up of representatives from all walks of life, including locals large and small," said President Hogrogian.

The National Postal Mail Handlers Union must be prepared to challenge the never-ending threats to our work and the services that we provide. The challenges facing the United States Postal Service and all bargaining unit employees are vast, but not insurmountable, and these challenges include political forces from within and external to the organization. The most recent ten months were like no other in recent memory. With the help of Mail Handlers, the USPS successfully handled a

## CAD RETIREMENTS



**KEVIN FLETCHER**



**BOBBY BLUM**

## CAD APPOINTMENTS



**TOM RUTHER**



**PATRICK DONOVAN**

## STAFF RETIREMENTS



**MITZI MONTEMORE**



**DEB MEYERS**

critical election in the grip of a pandemic. We implemented a new National Agreement that eliminated non-union casual employment as parcel volume surged. We must continue to look forward, adapt, and prepare for what the future holds. This is the challenge of the Committee on the Future.

Kevin Tabarus started as a Mail Handler in 1987. He became a shop steward in 1990 in Hicksville, on Long Island, NY, and was later certified as the Chief Steward of the Mid Island P&DC. In 2001, Brother Tabarus was appointed as Branch President of the NY PMPC/NY L&DC (now Bethpage P&DC) Branch and was elected to that position in 2002 & 2005. He was Branch President at Bethpage until 2007, when Kevin joined the Local 300 Executive Board as Treasurer. He was elected to that position in 2008, and re-elected in 2011 and 2014. Brother Tabarus began his tenure as Local 300 President in 2015, a position he continues to hold today.

Dan St. Marie began his career as a Mail Handler in 1994 at the Springfield BMC-GMF. Since 2004, Brother St. Marie has served Local 301 as a Shop Steward, Branch President, Vice President, and currently serves as Local 301 President. Brother St. Marie has attended numerous trainings at both the National and Local level. He served on the Field Negotiating Committee for the 2019 National Agreement. He has served as an Arbitration Advocate and has experience in Article 12, LMOU Negotiations, MAP, and RI 399. Brother St. Marie holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Tony Coleman has been a Union representative for 23 years. He has been serving the membership as President of Local 302 for 4 years. Prior to that he served as Local 302 Treasurer and Sacramento Branch President since 2011. Tony was selected as a delegate to the 2012, 2016, and 2020 NPMHU National Conventions, and supported the conventions by serving on the Credentials, Resolutions, and Constitution committees. Brother Coleman is a proud Air Force veteran. He received his associate degree from the Community College of the Air Force in Intelligence Collection, and went on to earn his Bachelor of Science in Computer Management Information Systems from University of Maryland University College.

James (JC) Morris entered the United States Postal Service as a Mail Handler in the Birmingham P & DC in 1988 where he quickly aspired to be a Shop Steward. JC's desire to aide and represent Alabama's Mail Handlers put him on a course to the Local 317 Executive Board. Brother Morris acquired and held the position of State Executive Board Member for three consecutive terms. In 2014, James was elected as Local 317 President, a position he has held since. James was selected as a delegate for the 2016 and 2020 Conventions and has served on the Rules Committee. Brother Morris is a skilled representative and advocate.

Brothers Tabarus, St. Marie, Coleman, and Morris bring an array of diversified experiences to the table and we are

## COTF APPOINTMENTS



**KEVIN TABARUS**



**DAN ST. MARIE**

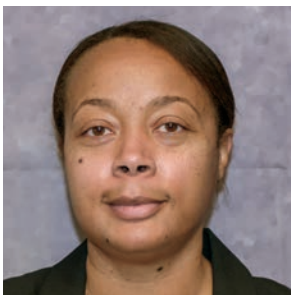


**ANTHONY COLEMAN**



**JAMES MORRIS**

## STAFF APPOINTMENTS



**KEANNA WHITLOCK**



**RACHELLE CLARK**



**WILMA BREEDEN**

honored to have them join the Committee. The COTF will next meet in June of 2021. “I am confident that the addition of Kevin, Danny, Tony and JC will serve to sustain the expertise and forward-thinking capabilities of the group into the future” said Hogrogian.

In addition to the CAD and COTF changes, there are several staff position changes occurring within our headquarters office. Comptroller Mitzi Montemore and Membership Service Director Deb Meyers are leaving us in 2021. Mitzi will retire on March 31, 2021, and Deb will retire on June 30, 2021. Between them, they have nearly 45 years of time with the NPMHU. Mitzi’s first stint with the Mail Handlers began in 1992. After a brief spell with the Teamsters, she returned to the NPMHU in 2013. As Comptroller, she was instrumental in ensuring our compliance in all matters financial. Deb’s career with the Mail Handlers Union began in 1995; she recently surpassed her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the organization. Deb started as a clerk in our accounting department before transitioning to the Manager of Membership Services. Deb has guided the department through a myriad of technological upgrades and data management challenges since transitioning to the MS department. Both Mitzi and Deb wore many hats and always answered the call of duty. Whether complex, like working on the Convention planning team’s massive financial reports, or mundane like assembling books for the Legislative Conference, they always gave one hundred percent. Both worked for at least three National Presidents and did time in each of our last three locations in Washington, DC. Some might say they know where the bodies are buried. Both Deb and Mitzi are looking forward to spending more time with their grandchildren. Deb will retire in North Carolina and Mitzi will remain local and looks forward to traveling more.

These staff retirements have enabled some opportunities within the NPMHU accounting department. Keanna Whitlock will transition to NPMHU Comptroller, and Rachelle Clark will head up the Membership Services Department. Both Keanna and Rachelle bring extensive experience to their new positions. Rachelle started with the Mail Handlers in 2002 and Keanna joined the organization in 2006. Finally, the NPMHU is pleased to announce the newest addition to the NPMHU team, Wilma Breeden. Wilma began fulltime employment with the Mail Handlers Union in July 2020 as a staff accountant and is a great addition.

Please join us in wishing Kevin Fletcher, Bobby Blum, Mitzi Montemore and Deb Meyers the very best in their forthcoming retirements, and please congratulate Patrick Donovan and Tom Ruther on their new positions in the CAD, Local Presidents Kevin Tabarus, Dan St. Marie, Tony Coleman, and JC Morris on their appointment to the COTF, and to Keanna Whitlock, Rachelle Clark and Wilma Breeden on their new positions in our National Office.