

RESTARTING THE 2020 CONVENTION

Michael J. Hora, National Secretary-Treasurer



To quote Yogi Berra, *it's déjà vu all over again*. Preparations for the National Postal Mail Handlers Union's quadrennial convention are in full swing, again. After two postponements, I am optimistic that our rescheduled event will finally happen. Coronavirus cases continue to decline across the country, and most states have dropped their mask mandates or have made plans to do so in the coming weeks. Once in Denver, we will comply with all pandemic related orders that are in place.

Exactly two years ago, local election judges were in the process of certifying and posting 2020 Convention delegate election results. This certification was required by March 25, 2020. And, exactly two years ago, the United States began to shut down to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The first human trial of a vaccine to protect against pandemic COVID-19 began in the U.S. at a Kaiser Permanente research facility in Seattle, Washington. A lot has happened in two years.

delegate by mail, seeking registration information. Please remember that all delegate hotel reservations will be made by the National Office. Delegates should not make hotel reservations directly with the hotel as this will result in duplicate reservations. Neil Ryan, Assistant to the National Officers, will be the primary point of contact for Hyatt hotel reservations. Additional details will be provided in forthcoming correspondence to the delegates. The rescheduled Convention was reduced to a four-day affair, now set for August 8–11, 2022, in Denver, Colorado.

Because of the COVID pandemic, this Convention will be distinctly different than those held previously. Most notably, there will be no union officer elections and no endorsement of any U.S. Presidential candidate. Activities such as the nomination and election of election judges, nomination of union officers, and the election of such officers began in July 2020 and the final election results were certified on October

Local Union Councils have determined that collectively, 340 delegates will attend and represent the NPMHU membership at the 2020 Convention

Local Union Councils have determined that collectively, 340 delegates will attend and represent the NPMHU membership at the 2020 Convention. The process to elect these 340 delegates concluded in March of 2020. The Credentials Committee has recently reached out to each Local President to reaffirm their respective delegates. During the past two years, delegates may have transferred, changed crafts, resigned, passed away, terminated their NPMHU membership, or retired. In many cases, alternate delegates will be slotted to replace those no longer available or eligible. This is an undertaking that the Credentials Committee will address in the coming weeks.

Once the list of delegates is reconfirmed by the Credentials Committee, the National Office will be contacting each

28, 2020. These election related tasks could not be postponed, and therefore were conducted in non-traditional methods. All officer elections tasks are complete and will not occur during the rescheduled convention in August 2022.

Another task normally handled during a convention was accomplished by a special referendum vote in January 2021. As provided in Article XII, Section 1 of the National Constitution, the location of the next Mail Handler National Convention shall be determined by the delegates at each National Convention. Given the logistics and extended planning required to facilitate a successful convention, it was necessary to conduct the site selection process by mail. The delegates have spoken, and Las Vegas will be the location for the 2024 NPMHU Convention. This decision enabled the

National Office to solicit bids for hotels and off-site venues as appropriate. It is strange to say, but we already have finalized contracts with all Las Vegas properties in preparation for the 2024 quadrennial convention, but more on that later.

Back to the 2020 Convention at hand, delegates will enjoy a high-tech experience when conducting the business of the Convention. In previous years, delegates were saddled with numerous cumbersome binders that included a Convention Program, and reports from the Rules Committee, Legislative and Political Committee, Resolutions Committee, Constitution Committee, and Credentials Committee, all submitted resolutions and proposals to amend the National Union Constitution, with committee recommendations on each matter. In 2022, delegates will have access to this material by way of an Apple Air iPad tablet. Convention material will be made available in an electronic (pdf) format. Several other labor organizations recently conducted successful conventions using electronic media, including the Ironworkers and LiUNA. Both reported successful meetings. In fact, 116 Mail Handlers were delegates to LiUNA's virtual convention held in September 2021. Each delegate was gifted and used an Apple iPad Air for purposes of convention business. We will achieve a significant savings by relying on electronic reports, and delegates will have about six less pounds of reports to transport home at the conclusion of the convention.

We will achieve a significant savings by relying on electronic reports...

As we reset Convention planning, I am compelled to remind readers that any member or group of members of the NPMHU who wish to submit proposals for consideration by the delegates at the rescheduled 2020 National Convention must follow the requirements set forth in the NPMHU National Constitution.

As set forth in Article XII of the National Union Constitution, the delegates to the 2020 National Convention will consider and vote upon amendments to both the NPMHU National Constitution and the Uniform Local Union Constitution that governs all Local Unions affiliated with the NPMHU.

In addition, the current National Constitution also sets forth the governing procedure for the consideration of resolutions, whether related to legislation or other topics of interest to mail handlers.

Should you have any constitutional amendments or resolutions that you would like to propose, please be sure to follow the procedures set forth in Article XII of the

National Constitution. Because the opening of the National Convention is set for Monday, August 8, 2022, all submissions must be received by the National President, at the National Office, no later than Friday, June 10, 2022, which is sixty days prior to the opening of the rescheduled 2020 National Convention. Resolutions and proposals may be submitted to the National President by facsimile at 202-833-0008 or by mail. The mailing address for submitting any proposed amendments or resolutions is:

NPMHU 2020 National Convention
815 16th Street NW, Suite 5100
Washington, DC 20006

Together with your proposal, it would be best if you also explained the purpose of your proposal and the reasoning behind it. In this way, the Committees reviewing all submissions will understand your intent in making the proposal. Such explanations are not required; however, you must submit your proposals on or before the June 9, 2022 deadline.

Lastly, a word about the most recent cost of living allowance and dues increase. As you may know from previous postings, implementation of the most recent dues increase in concert with the third guaranteed wage increase of the 2019 National Agreement was delayed. Consistent with Article XIV, Section 3 of the NPMHU National Constitution, the National Office implemented a regular membership dues increase in the amount of one dollar (\$1.00) per pay period – of which the Local Union will receive eighty cents (\$.80) per pay period. The dues increase was effective in Pay Period 25-2021; however, it was not implemented until Pay Period 01-2022. This delay of two Pay Periods resulted in a retroactive collection of two dollars from all active Mail Handlers with an active dues deduction authorization (subject to possible reduction by any Local that waived its portion of this dues increase).

The one-time retroactive increase of \$2.00 reflects the delayed increase of one dollar per Pay Period (for Pay Periods 25 and 26-2021). This retroactive amount is scheduled be withheld from regular members' payroll during Pay Period 06-2022, reflected in paychecks issued on March 18, 2022. All affected Mail Handlers dues will be returned to normal and thus reduced by two dollars in the following Pay Period, currently scheduled for Pay Period 07-2022.

In Unity,



Michael J. Hora
National Secretary-Treasurer