

# NATIONAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS ENTERS FINAL STAGE

Michael J. Hora, National Secretary-Treasurer



**M**ost of the content in this magazine is specific to the twice-delayed, and twice-rescheduled 2020 National Convention. Of more importance, however, is the progress of national contract negotiations.

As this publication goes to press, we are in the final weeks of our existing contract with the United States Postal Service which is set to expire on September 20, 2022. The process of bargaining a new agreement began one year ago when President Hogrogian issued the official call for bargaining proposals. That solicitation generated more than 800 proposals from the NPMHU membership. President Hogrogian also hosted a bargaining strategy session in Washington, DC in November 2021 with all Local Presidents and SAMLU attendees. The NPMHU's Field Negotiating Committee subsequently met for a full week in February 2022 to review all submitted proposals and outline the changes in the National Agreement that should be proposed by the NPMHU.

Bargaining with the USPS formally kicked off on June 10, 2022, when President Hogrogian and Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and their respective bargaining teams met in the Ben Franklin room of USPS Headquarters at L'Enfant Plaza. There, PMG DeJoy and President Hogrogian shook hands and officially opened negotiations for our next contract.

So, we've been at it for nearly a year and are *in the home stretch* as they say, but have we made any headway? To keep the membership apprised of the status of national negotiations, the NPMHU has published eight Contract Updates prior to this publication going to press as a means by which to keep the membership aware of the details of negotiations. It is difficult to measure progress when everything is contingent on an all-inclusive package segregated by economic and

non-economic proposals. It is possible to reach an informal *tentative-agreement* (TA) on individual issues, but collectively, TAs are only a piece of the process and have been hard to come by. National negotiations include main table bargaining sessions and meetings of subcommittees. Main table sessions focus on the most important issues and subcommittees do a deep dive into specific areas such as MHA topics, Article 12, Group Leaders and 204Bs, MOUs, Article 32, and Article 11. These main table and subcommittee meetings have been ongoing for the past 3 months and have resulted in countless hours of deliberation.

Collectively, the parties have formally exchanged nearly one-hundred proposals and counter-proposals. The NPMHU does so with the goal of obtaining a favorable tentative National Agreement worthy of a ratification vote. Now, the parties are preparing for nine days of sequestration and intense bargaining in a DC hotel. This is where the rubber hits the road. We will find out if the USPS really wants to reach an agreement, or not. There will be a National meeting with all Local Presidents on September 23, 2022, to discuss the status of bargaining and national negotiations. We will continue to disseminate bargaining updates as warranted. Please watch your local bulletin boards, as well as the NPMHU website at [npmhu.org](http://npmhu.org).

In Unity,

**Michael J. Hora**  
National Secretary-Treasurer

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