Aft er a distinguished career representing Mail Handlers, Thomas J. Branch (TJ), Manager of the NPMHU Contract Administration Department, has announced his retirement to be effective on April 14, 2017. We are honored to recognize TJ’s unyielding commitment to the members of our great Union. TJ became a Mail Handler in Richmond, VA in 1973, within the jurisdiction of Local 305. After serving as chief shop steward, he was elected to the office of Administrative Vice President (now Branch President) and Virginia State Executive Board member in 1992. He also served as an arbitration advocate and in many other key functions at Local 305. Beginning in 1994, TJ moved to the National Office, first serving the membership as a National CAD representative for nineteen years, and then closing out his run as Manager of that Department since April 2013. In that role, he has been the NPMHU’s chief spokesperson on all matters of contract administration and grievance handling, as well as serving as a key participant in seven rounds of national negotiations – that is, on every single National Negotiations Team since the 1994 round of bargaining.

TJ also has served on the RI-399 National Dispute Resolution Committee, and as a primary instructor in countless National training programs. We wish TJ and his family well as he begins a new chapter in his life, and we thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the NPMHU. Please join us in congratulating TJ on this well-deserved retirement.

With TJ’s retirement, President Hogrogian has made several appointments and assignments within the National and Regional Contract Administration staff. First, Hogrogian has appointed National CAD representative Teresa Harmon to serve as Manager of Contract Administration effective April 15, 2017. Teresa has served the Contract Administration Department in several capacities since her appointment in 2012, first as the Eastern Regional Director, followed by her swift appointment to the National CAD staff. She has been a Mail Handler since 1987, and first became a steward in 1989 at the Merrifield, VA postal facility. Since then, she has served as Chief Shop Steward, Branch President, and Virginia State Executive Board Member for her
home Local 305. As an arbitration advocate, Teresa has arbitrated several hundred cases and negotiated hundreds of pre-arbitration settlements, not only in contract and discipline matters, but also for jurisdictional disputes under RI-399 and for local impasse cases under Article 30. As CAD Manager, Teresa will supervise all contractual matters at the National Office and all Regional Offices. Teresa also will sit on the Article 12 Task Force and will represent the best interests of the NPMHU membership in all forums.

President Hogrogian next appointed Regional CAD Representative Charles Manago to the National CAD staff, effective May 13, 2017. In 2012, Charles accepted an appointment to Contract Administration as Southern Region Director, a position he has held to this date. He first entered the Postal Service in 1986, and has served as a shop steward, Chief Steward, and Branch President of the Northern Virginia P&DC in Merrifield, VA for more than ten years. Manago also has served as the Vice President of Local 305, which represents Mail Handlers in four states and the District of Columbia. Throughout this time, he served as an arbitration advocate for the Mail Handlers in his Local Union. Please join us in welcoming Charles to the National CAD.

With Charles Manago’s appointment to National CAD, President Hogrogian chose to realign a Regional Director appointment to her respective Region. Thus, Regional CAD Representative Eileen Mills will shift from the Eastern Region to the Southern Region Director, also effective May 13, 2017. Eileen started as a Mail Handler in 1984. She has served as the Southern Regional RI-399 Dispute Resolution Committee Member since 2006. She also was the Recording Secretary of Local 311 (Texas) for five years. Prior to that position, Eileen served two terms as the Branch President of the North Texas P&DC. She is an experienced arbitration advocate, and is proficient in matters of OWCP, FMLA, VPP, and ERRP. Eileen holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Union Administration from the National Labor College and continues to be an asset to the NPMHU. Eileen is eager to transition to the Southern Region, home to her Texas roots.

In conjunction with TJ’s retirement and the subsequent appointments within the CAD staff, the National President has appointed Eugene Horton to the open position of Eastern Region Director. Eugene’s appointment also will be effective on May 13, 2017. At the time of this appointment, Eugene serves as Vice President of Local 305, as well as Branch President of the Charlotte, NC P&DC. He is a skilled arbitration advocate and Local Union trainer. Eugene was an elected delegate to the 2012 and 2016 NPMHU Conventions, serving the membership on the Rules Committee in 2016. In addition to studying at Texas University, Eugene participated in a plethora of training programs to include basic and advanced shop steward training, advocate training, MAPS, FMLA, MHA, Local Memorandum Negotiations, ergonomic, and OSHA Safety. Eugene will be a welcome asset to the Contract Administration team.

Please join us in wishing TJ Branch the very best in his forthcoming retirement, and in congratulating Teresa Harmon, Eileen Mills, Charles Manago, and Eugene Horton for their new positions in the NPMHU Contract Administration Department.