

CONVENTION UPDATE AND PUSH TO GET OUT THE VOTE

This certainly has been a busy year for the NPMHU. The early part of the year was consumed with the planning for and negotiating with the USPS over the terms of our 2016 collective bargaining agreement. As Mail Handlers know, we did not reach agreement by the May 20, 2016 deadline, with the parties agreeing to continue discussions over the course of this summer. That process likely will come to a conclusion in the coming weeks, as the parties are getting closer to an overall contract. At that point, the terms of that 2016 National Agreement will be sent out to all NPMHU members for a referendum vote on its acceptance.

The National Office staff also was consumed this year with planning for the NPMHU 2016 National Convention. This quadrennial event is the most important gathering there is for Mail Handlers, as it is the chance for our democratically elected delegates to join in solidarity to discuss and debate the important issues facing our union and its members. We met in Chicago during the week of August 22, 2016, and by all accounts this Convention was a major success. Our delegates made me proud every day of that week by demonstrating their unwavering commitment to accomplishing the work they were elected to do while maintaining the highest levels of mutual cooperation and respect. During the course of the week, I was pleased to accept the nomination for, and subsequent reelection to, my position of National Secretary-Treasurer. I want to extend my thanks to the delegates for giving me the distinct honor and privilege to continue to serve this great union. The majority of this magazine is devoted to reporting on our Convention, and on the many important issues that were discussed and debated. As you will see from the photographs, our delegates were able to strike a nice balance between serious discussion, when necessary, and many moments of fun and levity, when appropriate. In addition to reviewing the accounts in this magazine, I would encourage all Mail Handlers to visit the NPMHU website at <http://convention.npmhu.org/> and www.npmhu.org to see more photos, and to watch some of the various videos that were produced for this event.

As this publication goes to press, our country is in the home stretch of our national elections. I encourage all Mail Handlers to remain engaged in the political discussion, and to actively support the candidates who are looking out for the best interests of working-class Americans. I was extremely proud of the action by our convention delegates to formally endorse the Clinton-Kaine ticket, and I know that Hillary Rodham Clinton will make a great President of the United States. I will do everything in my power to support this political ticket, and will work to turn out the vote on November 8th.

I know that our NPMHU membership is diverse, and that we have a wide range of views when it comes to politics and the governance of our country. Donald Trump has hijacked the Republican Party by tapping into a segment of voters who are angry, and who are looking for a new direction. But I submit to you that Trump is not the answer. In his own words, he has promoted time and again his agenda of division and bigotry. He has repeatedly and publicly belittled, insulted, and demeaned women and various minority groups in our country. He talks about American jobs, yet he outsources production of nearly all of his corporation's products to foreign workers. He has repeatedly rejected union ideals, and says that American workers are overpaid. His strategy may be working with his core group of supporters, but we must not allow his agenda of hate to carry the day on November 8th. There is no doubt in my mind that a Trump-Pence win would be disastrous for American workers and especially troubling for Mail Handlers and other postal workers.

The choice this year is a simple one. We must elect a President who respects organized labor, and who truly cares about American workers. I know that our country, like our Union, works best when we pull together, when we look out for one another, when we provide everyone with the opportunity to achieve success, and when we treat everyone with dignity and respect – no matter their station in life or the balance in their bank account.



MARK A. GARDNER, National Secretary-Treasurer

"We must elect a President who respects organized labor, and who truly cares about American workers."

The choice for Mail Handlers could not be clearer in this election. Please do your part to continue moving our country forward. Please do all that you can to turn out the vote on November 8th. Please help elect Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine. Your job, your pay, your benefits, your health insurance, your pension, and your future are on the line. Please step up, take charge, and help take us forward.

In Solidarity,

Mark A. Gardner
National Secretary-Treasurer