



## MAIL HANDLERS HOST 9<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL

# LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

In June 2019, more than one hundred mail handlers from across the country gathered in Washington, DC to participate in the NPMHU's biennial Legislative Conference for the 116th Congress. The two-day conference was filled with significant programs and activities.

The first day of the conference included a full training program, with a host of speakers and panel discussions highlighting both the substance of USPS issues now facing Congress and

the methods used by successful lobbyists. National President Paul Hogrogian, National Secretary-Treasurer Michael Hora, and Director of Political & Legislative Affairs Bob Losi opened the program by highlighting the importance of the NPMHU's representation on Capitol Hill, noting in particular that year-round legislative and political involvement must be part of the commitment made by all NPMHU activists.

President Hogrogian spoke about the importance of remaining politically

active, especially during difficult times. Hogrogian spoke about the NPMHU's objections to anti-union legislation that could impede our ability to collect union dues, bargain collectively, and utilize union time when defending mail handlers. He also addressed the importance of securing favorable postal reform legislation. "This is not a new fight," said Hogrogian. "Postal reform was introduced late in the 114th Congress and again in the 115th, but the parties were unable to get a consensus



National President Paul Hogrogian welcomes Legislative Conference attendees to Washington, DC



National Secretary-Treasurer Michael Hora addresses the conference attendees

bill to the floor." Any successful reform legislation must include several key components, notably including reforms to the retiree health benefits funding methodology, restoration of the recently expired exigent rate increase, and Medicare Integration for retired FEHBP postal enrollees and annuitants. "It is important for our elected officials to know where the Mail Handlers stand on this legislation," said Hogrogian.

The program also included appearances by Liz Shuler, Secretary-Treasurer,

AFL-CIO; J. David Cox, President, American Federation of Government Employees; Robert G. Taub, Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission; and Terry O'Sullivan, International President, LIUNA.

Yvette O' Sullivan, Executive Director, LIUNA and Jose Ceballos, Government Affairs Director, NATCA also joined NPMHU Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi in a panel discussion on the state of politics in 2019, including a review of 2018's key Gubernatorial,

House, and Senate races. The NPMHU also was honored to present several key representatives from other unions and associations with whom the NPMHU coordinates its legislative efforts, including Paul Swartz, Director, Governmental Affairs, NRLCA; Katie Maddocks, Legislative Representative, APWU; and Robert Levi, Legislative Director, NAPS. Katie, Paul, and Bob conducted a panel discussion on current legislative issues and postal finances, and gave suggestions for how



AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth “Liz” Shuler discusses the role of Politics in today’s Labor movement.



Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi discusses the day’s agenda



such issues could be effectively lobbied by NPMHU representatives.

In addition, Robert Levi and Bob Losi joined Robert Primus, Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragan (D-CA) for a panel discussion on how to lobby members of Congress.

The conference also heard from a host of experts on the postal issues that currently are being debated in the nation’s capital. Among the featured speakers were:

(a) **Congressman Gerald E. Connolly** (D-VA), a senior member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations. In this latter role, Connolly is responsible for shaping government-wide policy for a broad range of



Lobbying Panel



Congressman Gerald Connolly (D-11th District of Virginia)



Robert Primus, Chief of Staff, Congresswoman Nanette Barragan (D-CA)



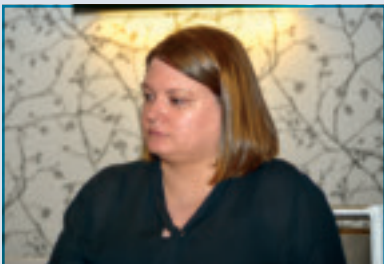
(L-R) National Secretary-Treasurer Michael Hora, Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) and National President Paul Hogrogian



Legislative Panel



Terry O'Sullivan General President LIUNA



Katie Maddocks, Legislative Representative APWU



Paul Swartz Dir, Governmental Affairs NRLCA

issues, including federal workforce and federal agency oversight, regulatory reform, and the U.S. Postal Service, to highlight a few. He also is a co-sponsor of H. Res. 33.

(b) **Senator Tom Carper** (D-DE), a senior member on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, who also served as the Committee's chairman in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress and ranking member in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. In his continued work on the committee, he focuses on protecting our country from threats to our national security, as well as ensuring federal government programs are efficient and using taxpayer dollars wisely. Senator Carper continues to champion postal reform with the goal of protecting the U.S. Postal Service

from collapse and ensuring it remains a robust American institution for generations to come.

(c) **Postal Regulatory Commission Chairman Robert G. Taub**, who is serving a second term on the Commission, having been twice confirmed by the United States Senate, following his respective nominations by the President. His current term expires on October 14, 2022. Before his designation by the President as Chairman, he was Acting Chairman from December 2014 to December 2016, and Vice Chairman for 2013. Chairman Taub has more than 30 years of experience in public service. When first appointed as a Commissioner in October 2011, Mr. Taub was the Special Assistant to Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh.



Robert Taub, Chairman,  
Postal Regulatory Commission



Jeffrey David Cox Sr. AFGE  
National President

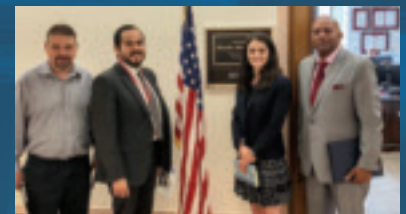
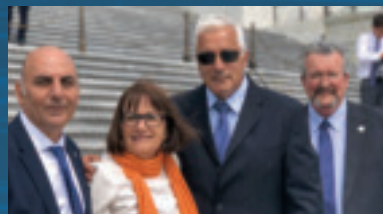


Robert Levi, Legislative Director, NAPS

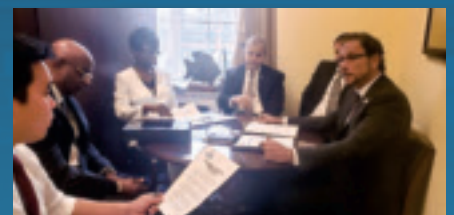
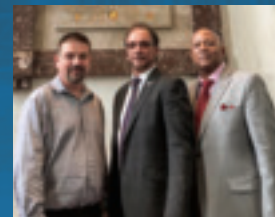
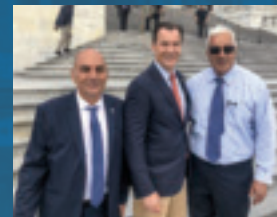
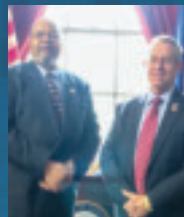
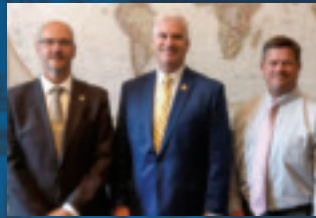
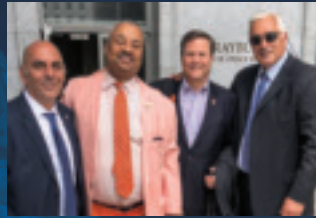
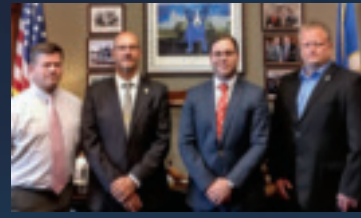
The second day of the conference allowed all of the newly-trained mail handlers to meet with Members of Congress and their professional staff. Prior to heading up to the Hill for their scheduled appointments, all conference attendees were inspired by LIUNA General President Terry O' Sullivan's message of empowerment.

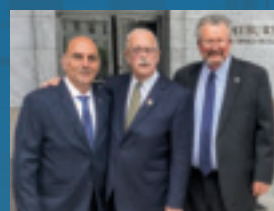
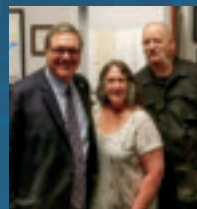
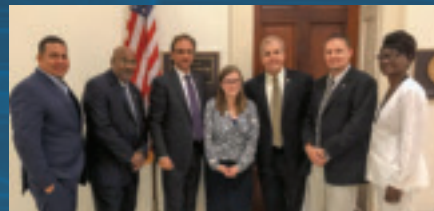
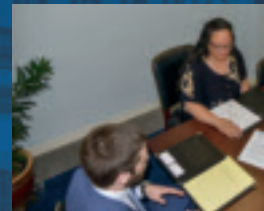
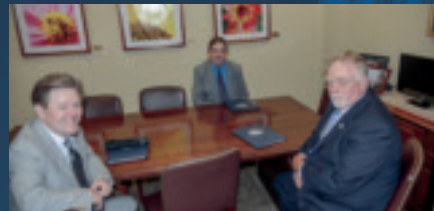
Listed below are pending resolutions that are supported by the NPMHU, and by Members of Congress on a bipartisan basis, to start the process of passing legislation that will put the U.S. Postal Service in a position to succeed.

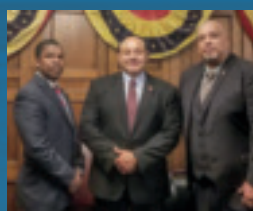
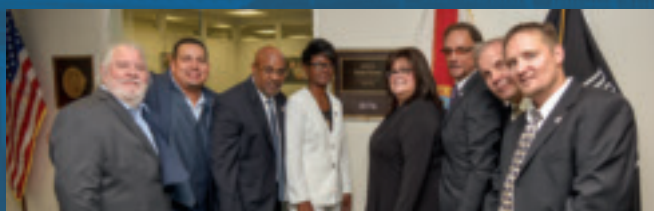
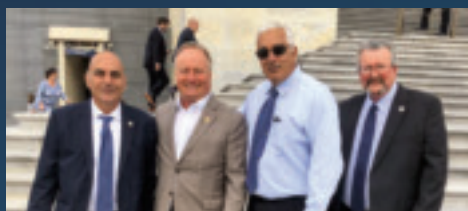
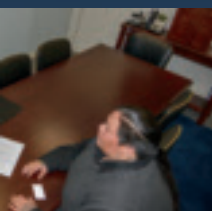
**H. Res. 33**—Expressing the sense of the House that “Congress should take



# Spotted on the Hill







Political Panel member Yvette O'Sullivan, Executive Director, LIUNA



Political Panel member Jose Caballos, Government Affairs Director, NATCA

all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization."

- **Sponsor:** Rep. Stephen F. Lynch (D-MA) (introduced 1/9/19).
- **Cosponsors:** 248, including 36 Republicans, as of 5/31/19.
- **Committee:** 1/9/19, Referred to Committee on Oversight and Reform.

**S. Res. 99**—Expressing the sense of the Senate that "Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization."

- **Sponsor:** Sen. Gary C. Peters (D-MI) (introduced 3/7/19).
- **Cosponsors:** 49, including 7 Republicans, as of 5/31/19.
- **Committee:** 3/7/19, Referred to Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.



Local 297



Local 306



Local 300



Local 307



Local 301



Local 308



Local 305



Local 311

**H. Res. 60**—Expressing the sense of the House that the “Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012.”

- **Sponsor:** Rep. David B. McKinley (R-WV) (introduced 1/17/19).
- **Cosponsors:** 161, including 22 Republicans, as of 5/31/19.
- **Committee:** 1/17/19, Referred to Committee on Oversight and Reform.

**H. Res. 23**—Expressing the sense of the House that the “Postal Service should take all appropriate measures

to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.”

- **Sponsor:** Susan A. Davis (D-CA) (introduced 1/4/19).
- **Cosponsors:** 192, including 36 Republicans, as of 5/31/19.
- **Committee:** 1/4/19, Referred to Committee on Oversight and Reform.

**H. Res. 54**—Expressing the sense of the House that the “Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.”

- **Sponsor:** Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA) (introduced 1/16/19).
- **Cosponsors:** 249, including 61 Republicans, as of 5/31/19.
- **Committee:** 1/16/19, Referred to Committee on Oversight and Reform.

The day of direct lobbying ended with a reception, held in the Rayburn House Office Building, at which various Members of Congress and professional staff stopped by to discuss issues relevant to the NPMHU and all mail handlers in a more relaxed setting. Not only were NPMHU elected leaders



Local 315



Local 322



Local 317



Local 323



Local 320



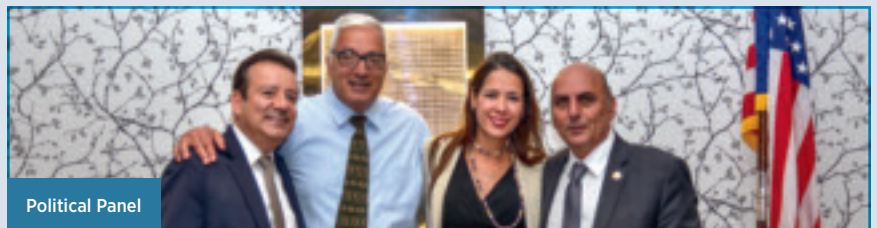
Local 334



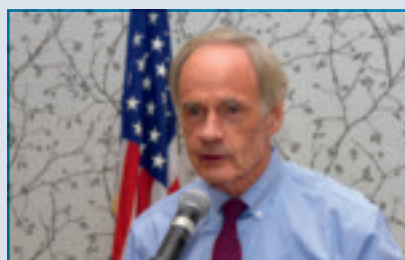
Local 321



National



Political Panel



Senator Tom Carper (D-DE)



and scores of mail handlers able to share their views on pending issues throughout the day, but relationships forged during the conference will prove helpful during the coming weeks and months as postal issues continue to occupy center stage on the legislative agenda.