



A REPORT ON CURRENT AFFAIRS

NPMHU LAUNCHES MOBILE APP

Michael J. Hora, National Secretary-Treasurer

A recurring question that is raised in union meetings relates to the distribution of RI-399 settlement funds. *I did not get the correct settlement amount, what should I do?* The USPS made payment on this settlement in the final pay period of the 2019 fiscal year, with the payment being included in the October 4, 2019 regular paycheck.

Mail Handlers who did not receive a monetary payment on October 4, 2019 but believe that they should have been eligible or eligible Mail Handlers who received a payment on October 4, 2019 but believe they did not receive the proper number of shares may file an appeal claim. A copy of the appeal form is included at page 31 of this Fall edition. As we go to press, I can report that nearly 400 mail handlers have filed appeals. Appeals must be filed by January 17, 2020. Please remember to include any applicable supporting documentation. Each appeal will be reviewed and processed by a committee at the National Office. The decisions made by the committee will be final and binding.

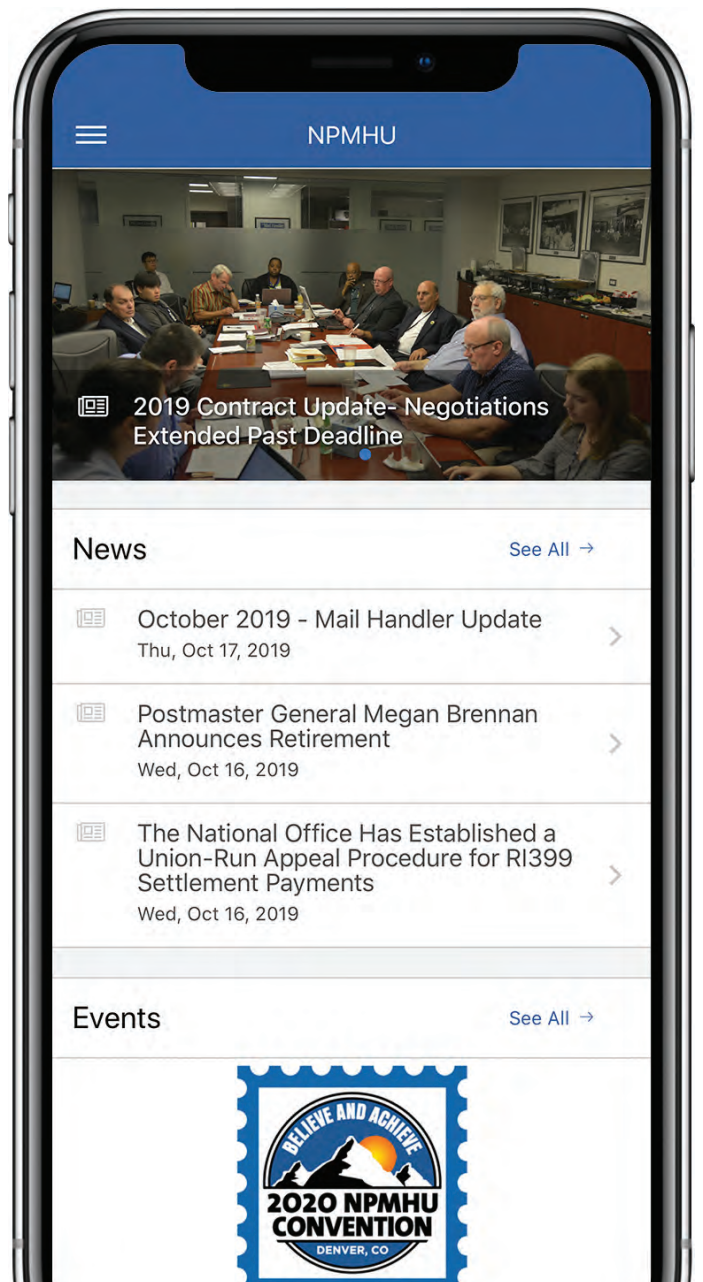
In the Summer edition of Mail Handler magazine, I eluded to a forthcoming mobile App; well the time has arrived. On October 28, 2019, the National Office launched our official NPMHU mobile App. We've heard from more and more members that use smartphones to stay connected. They would like to have an NPMHU App to get their information; we are pleased to provide this communication tool. You can access the latest news, updates, events, and information of organizational importance. In addition, the App will access photos and videos that are posted on the website. The App will also have significant value when it comes to the 2020 Convention. A component of the App will be specific to Convention updates, reports, and activities, but more on this in the coming months. The platform supports iPhone and Android devices. You can now download the App from Apple App Store or Google Play store—simply search for NPMHU and get connected. You can also use your smartphone to scan the QR Code shown on this page to acquire a direct link to the NPMHU mobile App in the App store.



Convention preparations are continuing, but many remaining tasks are directly related to the number of Delegates that

will attend. As of today, this is unknown. How many e-Readers/tablets should we order? Then there is the plethora of Convention swag to consider, including shirts, hats, bags, flags, pens, and the like. This begs the question, who will attend as Delegates?

The maximum number of Delegates that each Local Union may send to the 2020 National Convention is determined by

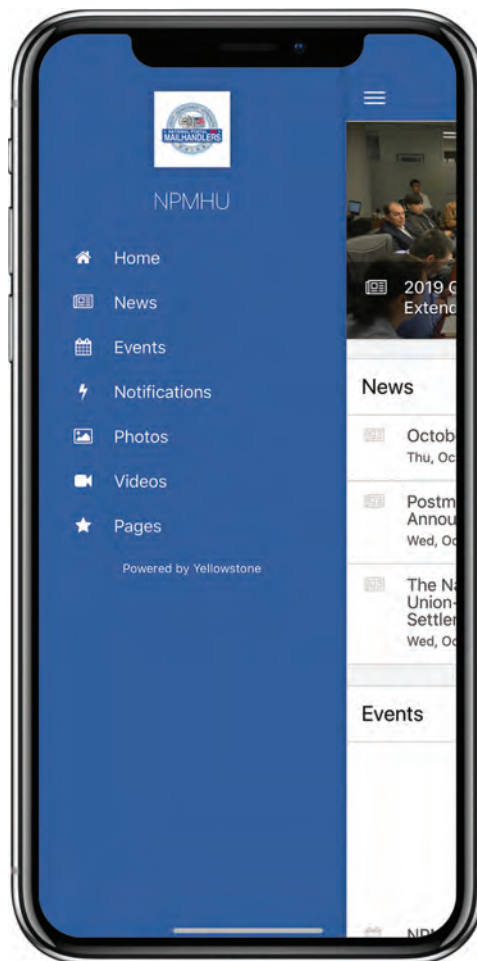


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a mathematical formula that takes into account the average monthly number of regular members in the Local Union during calendar year 2019. Each Local Union is entitled to a maximum of 1 Delegate for each 25 members or major fraction (13/25) thereof. Obviously, a precise calculation under this formula is not possible until the end of 2019. In the meantime, each Local Union can estimate its maximum number of Delegates by dividing its current membership by 25. In 2016, there were 287 Delegates in attendance, in 2012 there were 280, and in 2008, the NPMHU seated 362 Delegates.

It is the Local Union Council that decides how many Delegates to send to the Convention within the parameters described above, and the Local Executive Board determines the approved expenditures that the Local Union will pay for the Delegates elected to represent the Local Union at each National Convention. Delegate elections are conducted locally, consistent with the Rules for Delegate Elections as adopted by the National Executive Board on June 26, 2019. For reference, the Delegate Election rules were posted in the Summer edition of the Mail Handler magazine and describe Delegate election tasks and deadlines in precise detail.

Finally, I will wrap up on politics and bargaining. To say we are in tumultuous times may be the understatement of the century. President Hogrogian described the state of negotiations during his September 30th briefing with Local Presidents as *productive despite an unfriendly bargaining environment*. The White House seems to be out of control and relations are fractured at best on Capitol Hill. Despite this, we have managed to hold it together with the USPS. We have agreed to extend



bargaining and continue discussions if talks are productive. Notably, about four weeks after agreeing to extend bargaining talks, Postmaster General Megan Brennan announced her retirement, to be effective January 31, 2020. It is difficult to predict how the PMG's retirement might impact Postal Service and the current round of collective bargaining. Prior to 1970, vacancies of the Postmaster General were filled by the President of the United States. I am thankful that this is not the case today. In 1970, the Postal Reorganization Act established the USPS Board of Governors; their initial appointments were for nine-year terms. The BOG was then responsible for PMG appointments. In 2006, President George W. Bush signed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, which changed the terms of subsequently appointed governors from nine to seven years. Seven years is still a long time, not as powerful as a harmful lifetime Supreme Court appointment, but still very bad. This forthcoming PMG appointment is critical and will affect

Postal Unions and postal employees for years to come. If this is troublesome to you at all, I'd ask you to register and vote. The only way out of this situation is to take back control of the Senate and the White House.

In Unity,

Michael J. Hora
National Secretary-Treasurer