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CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Dear Members,

As this issue of the Mail Handler Magazine goes to press, we are continuing our preparation for the upcoming round of bargaining with the Postal Service. We expect formal negotiations to begin sometime around the end of August, with the current National Agreement set to expire on November 20, 2011. As reported previously, the Field Negotiating Committee met at NPMHU Headquarters for a full week in April to review over 900 contract proposals that had been sent in from the field. I want to thank all of the Local Unions, officers, shop stewards, and members who took the time to formulate those proposals. I especially want to thank the officers who made up the Field Negotiating Committee for taking the time out of their busy schedules to work with us at the National Office here in DC during that week.

Now that recommendations have been made by the Field Negotiating Committee, the National Executive Board and the Committee on the Future will be weighing in with their opinions before the formal opening of negotiations. The National Negotiating Team will be comprised of your National CAD staff, along with General Counsel Bruce Lerner, and any additional outside experts who will be hired on an as-needed basis to assist us going forward.

As in prior rounds of bargaining, we cannot negotiate on the bulletin boards, or in public, but we do want to keep you informed. Therefore, as we have done in the past, we plan to issue a series of bulletins, probably starting in September, to keep you up to date on the negotiations as they occur. They will be on dif-



JOHN F. HEGARTY, National President

ferent colored paper to differentiate them from our regular monthly bulletins, and will bear the title “CONTRACT UPDATE.”

We go into this round of bargaining knowing that negotiations will not be easy, but also knowing that we have a good team of experienced negotiators and other professionals on our side. We expect to devote a substantial amount of time and resources to this important task, and we certainly hope for a favorable result that ensures that mail handlers continue to earn the wages, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment that they deserve. Please stay involved, and stay informed as we continue on with this process that will ultimately have a major impact on all Mail Handlers nationwide.

Fraternally,

John F. Hegarty
National President