



Northeast Region Director Ray Sokolowski announced his retirement at the SAMLU.



National President John Hegarty presents Northeast Region Director Ray Sokolowski with a gift during the retirement announcement.



Standing with newly retired Northeast Region Director Ray Sokolowski (center) are (l-r) Northeast Region Vice President and Local 300 President Paul Hogrogian, Eastern Region Vice President Sam D'Ambrosio, National President John Hegarty, Western Region Vice President Rudy Santos, Northeast Region Director Ray Sokolowski, Central Region Vice President and Local 306 President Jefferson Peppers III, Southern Region Vice President Bruce Z. Miller, National Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner, and Northeast Region Representative Terry Donahue.



Northeast Region Representative Terry Donahue, Northeast Region Director Ray Sokolowski



(l-r) Local 320 Branch President Phoenix David Cano, Local 320 Recording Secretary Susanna Paniagua, Local 320 Treasurer Laurie Hernandez, Western Region Vice President and Local 320 President Rudy Santos, Local 320 SEBM Madelyn Puricelli, Local 320 Vice President Ace Balderrama



(l-r) Local 306 Vice President Joseph Boston, Local 303 Member Juliet Schnyder



NPMHU SAMLU in progress



(l-r) Local 330 President Ernest Barnett, Central Region Vice President and Local 306 President Jefferson Peppers III



(l-r) Central Region Vice President and Local 306 President Jefferson Peppers III, Northeast Vice President and Local 300 President Paul Hogrogian discussing a point.



National President John Hegarty announced to the SAMLU that Local 321 SEBM John Meding was retiring.

has been implemented in Local 301. This process was designed to both expedite the adjudication of cases pending arbitration, and to maximize the cost efficiency of the overall process. The early results of the MAP pilot in Local 301 have proven quite effective, and additional sites are now being considered for further participation.

Northeastern Regional Vice President and Local 300 (NY, NJ, CT) President Paul Hogrogian gave a report, and led a discussion, on his investigation of a March 18th accident at the New Jersey Network Distribution Center (NDC) which seriously injured a Mail Handler who was working on the Flats Sequencing System (FSS) machine. The worker sustained three broken ribs and several lacerated or bruised internal organs when the machinery was unexpectedly engaged while she was clearing a jam within the internal components of the equipment (specifically, she was within the Verticalizer/Indexer unit of the machine).

The injured Mail Handler spent several days in ICU, was moved to a hospital room for another week, and was subsequently transferred to a rehabilitation center for several additional weeks of intensive care. The investigation revealed a series of safety flaws

in the machine's stop/lockout mechanisms, as well as insufficient safety training protocols. Following his investigation, a series of recommendations were developed to address this very unfortunate situation, including: that only trained maintenance personnel shall be allowed to enter the machinery to clear jams; that large, sufficiently sized signage be placed at all entry points to the moving components of the machinery; that adequate and ongoing safety training be provided to all workers assigned to this equipment; that the "groomer" position be filled at all times the machinery is in operation; that foolproof and sufficient lockout mechanisms be utilized; and that a Job Safety Analysis (JSA) be developed and sufficiently distributed to all workers employed in the vicinity of the machinery. Brother Hogrogian implored all representatives in facilities using the FSS machinery to meet with mail handlers, facility management, and all safety representatives in their respective facilities, and to take proactive steps to ensure that this type of accident and severe injuries never happen again.

As with each of these Meetings of the Local Unions, a solicitation for agenda items was distributed to all Local Union Presidents in advance of this meeting. Agenda items that were sent

to the National Office were distributed to all Local Presidents prior to the meeting and, to the extent possible, the submitted agenda items were addressed in the appropriate reports and through other discussion before the assembly. Several other topics were raised and discussed during the round-robin segment of the meeting.

Over the course of the meeting, numerous Local Presidents also took the floor to introduce their fellow Local officers and other representatives who were in attendance at this meeting of the Local Unions, and to express their thanks and appreciation to members of the National Executive Board and representatives of the National and Regional Contract Administration Department, and for the support that they have received from their fellow Local Union officers.

By all accounts, this semi-annual Meeting of the Local Unions was a tremendous success, providing a wealth of information on issues of importance to all NPMHU officers and representatives. The next semi-annual meeting is scheduled to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, just prior to the August opening of contract negotiations between the NPMHU and USPS.



Local 313 Treasurer Jose Santiago



Local 310 President Pervous "Andy B." Badilishamwalimu



Local 317 President Jessie Leonard



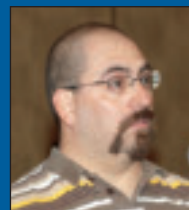
Local 324 President Dan Riemann



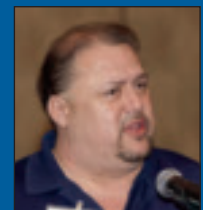
Local 299 President Barry Edmonds



Eastern Region Vice President Sam D'Ambrosio



Local 331 President Ezequiel Moreno



Local 321 Vice President Don Gonzales