

by the Postal Regulatory Commission. An appeal to the federal courts is pending. The Postal Service also is proposing to stop residential deliveries on most Saturdays, which the USPS is claiming will save \$2.5 to \$3 billion per year. This proposal also has been reviewed by the PRC, recently resulting in a split advisory opinion, and now the five-day delivery decision can only be implemented if approved by Congress. Third, the Postal Service continues in its efforts to close or consolidate existing USPS facilities, including several major plants and a host of stations and branches. These efforts undoubtedly will continue for the foreseeable future. And the Postal Service continues to adopt cost-cutting programs, including a hiring freeze on craft employees and an expected downsizing in management and supervisory ranks. The Committee analyzed each of these topics, and addressed the NPMHU's continuing efforts to deal with these issues in a consistent and thorough manner.

Impact on Mail Handlers

The NPMHU not only must deal with each of these issues directly, but also with their indirect impact on mail handlers. The Committee focuses on these issues in the legislative and regulatory arenas (see below), while related issues

arising under the National Agreement remain the primary focus of the Contract Administration Department.

In this regard, the Committee discussed recent meetings of the joint NPMHU-USPS Article 12 Task Force, focusing in particular on issues arising as a result of excessing, in the mail handler craft and in other crafts. The Committee also reviewed the workings of the NPMHU's BMC/NDC Task Force. And, the Committee also discussed the implementation of the FSS, as well as potential future changes such as more upgrades to the AFCS, more efforts by the mailing industry to reduce the use of plastic straps and plastic wrap, and more equipment upgrades such as the Automated Letter Movement System (ALMS) and the Automated Parcel Bundle Sorter (APBS).

Impact on the NPMHU and its Local Unions

Another result of USPS downsizing is its impact on all levels of the Union. On one side, constant management actions requiring implementation of Article 12 place additional stress on mail handlers and additional burdens on the stewards and officers who represent them. This forces the Union, at both the National and Local levels, to devote available resources to deal with the constant movement,

reassignment, dislocation, and inconvenience that are being imposed on the membership.

At the same time, because of the Postal Service's downsizing, the Union has been losing members, and there is virtually no USPS hiring. Thus, at precisely the time when the Union must marshal its resources, the financial resources of the Union are becoming more limited. The Committee discussed the practical impact of these trends, emphasizing the need to continue organizing new members, especially among current postal employees who are just becoming members of the mail handler craft. The Committee is in the early stages of planning a targeted organizing program, to focus on a few installations where membership rates lag behind the norm. And, of course, the Committee continued to discuss ways to convince Local Unions to spend their resources wisely, focusing on the representation of members under the National Agreement.

Legislative Efforts in the 112th Congress

Finally, the Committee discussed the many legislative issues confronting the NPMHU, as well as required planning for this year's Legislative Conference.

The following sections in this Report contain the NPMHU legislative agenda that has been adopted for

the current, 112th Congress. It establishes the issues and trends that will be the focus of the NPMHU's legislative and political efforts, and which were topics at the May 2011 Legislative Conference.

The NPMHU Legislative Agenda for the 112th Congress

Every two years, the Committee on the Future of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union adopts a comprehensive legislative agenda for the new Congress. This year is the start of the current 112th Congress, which covers the years 2011 and 2012, and once again a legislative agenda has been developed. Included on this agenda are specific legislative goals, as well as various political matters on which the NPMHU National Office will be working during the next two years.

Although President Obama remains in the White House and the Senate remains under the control of Democrats, both have been extremely cautious in dealing with the new Republican and conservative control over the House of Representatives. Indeed, the new committee chairs in the House are expected to dominate the political landscape with increasingly contentious hearings and investigations. Thus, the next two years likely will be dominated on Capitol Hill with anti-union and anti-USPS rhetoric and proposals that pose serious risks for the NPMHU