

and all mail handlers.

As always, the NPMHU will continue its fight to protect the legislative interests of all mail handlers and promote deeper involvement of its members in the legislative and political arenas.

### **Restoring the Postal Service's Financial Stability**

The NPMHU will monitor and strongly support legislation and/or administrative action to restore the financial stability of the U.S. Postal Service.

In particular, the NPMHU is strongly supporting legislation that would amend the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, which now requires pre-funding of the Retiree Health Benefits Fund at the rate of \$5.5 billion per year. Although the fund is being used to accumulate funds to pay for current employees' estimated health benefits when they retire, the fund already contains \$42 billion, and future payments can easily be slowed. Under these proposals, no current retiree would be affected, nor would any future retiree lose any benefit.

The NPMHU also is seeking changes, either by legislation or by administrative action, to reimburse the Postal Service for excessive contributions it has made to the CSRS and the FERS.

### **Working to Prevent Harmful Legislation**

The NPMHU will work, together with similarly interested parties, to prevent legislation harmful to mail handlers and other postal employees, including the following:

- Potential changes to the workers' compensation system that is now part of the Federal Employees Compensation Act and its governing regulations. The Obama Administration has been discussing certain changes, and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) has proposed a bill, S. 261, premised on her view that retirement-eligible federal or postal employees still receiving compensation for on-the-job injuries are wasting taxpayer dollars and should get retirement benefits instead.
- Efforts in Congress to grant the Postal Service with authority to reduce guaranteed six-day delivery to all residential addresses.
- Proposals to amend the PAEA to require interest arbitrators to take account of the Postal Service's financial condition before issue final and binding contract terms.
- Proposals to raise health insurance premiums for postal employees or to weaken the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program.
- Proposals to reduce retirement security for current and future retirees, includ-

ing potential cuts in Social Security or in the CSRS and FERS programs

- Efforts in various state legislatures to enact "do not mail" or anti-"junk mail" bills that allow individuals to remove their names and addresses from mailing lists used for commercial mail purposes.

### **Working to Enact New Legislation**

The NPMHU will continue to urge Congress to adopt legislation necessary to the improvement of the lives and working conditions of mail handlers and other postal and federal employees. These efforts will focus on the following pieces of legislation:

- Legislation to eliminate or curtail the Government Pension Offset.
- Legislation to eliminate or curtail the Windfall Elimination Provision.
- Legislation to provide pre-tax health care premiums for postal and federal retirees (premium conversion).
- Legislation, at the state and local level, to provide a guaranteed living wage, in excess of the federal minimum wage, to workers and their families.
- Legislation to eliminate the open shop and to provide for union-security clauses or the agency shop in the Postal Service.
- Legislation or other Congressional action to

eliminate or discourage the subcontracting or outsourcing of career postal jobs.

- Legislation to reform U.S. labor laws—through the enactment of the Employee Free Choice Act—to eliminate delays, provide for effective remedies for violation of the law, and to return to the original purposes of the National Labor Relations Act.
- Legislation to ensure the future viability of Social Security.

### **Preparing for the 2012 Federal Elections**

Campaigns no longer occur between Labor Day and Election Day. Both Democratic and Republican candidates seeking office are running longer and more expensive campaigns. Beginning almost immediately, and continuing into next year, the NPMHU will join with others in the American labor movement to prepare for the 2012 Presidential and Congressional elections and state and local elections. State leaders holding office in 2011 also will have the opportunity to re-draw the nation's Congressional Districts. The NPMHU will take all reasonable steps to ensure that mail handlers and their families are actively involved in these upcoming elections, through voter registration, education and turn-out.