



MAIL HANDLER UPDATE

NATIONAL POSTAL MAIL HANDLERS UNION

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John F. Hegarty
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NPMHU REACTS TO USPS BOARD OF GOVERNORS ANNOUNCEMENT



Mark A. Gardner
Secretary-Treasurer

On April 10, 2013, the USPS Board of Governors announced that it will comply with the Continuing Resolution recently passed by Congress, and will delay implementation of any new delivery schedule, including its proposed five-day schedule that previously was announced for implementation on August 5, 2013. That announcement presumably will maintain the traditional six-day delivery schedule unless and until legislation is passed that provides the Postal Service with the authority to alter that schedule. The NPMHU applauds this decision, which essentially was forced upon the Board of Governors by Congressional adoption of the new Continuing Resolution, and by the need to eliminate ongoing uncertainties for USPS customers.

In the same announcement, the Board of Governors also stated that other methods of dealing with its “worsening financial condition”

would be pursued. To the extent that the Board has directed management to evaluate further options to increase revenue, including an exigent rate increase to raise revenues across current Postal Service product categories and products not currently covering their costs, the NPMHU will support the Postal Service in that rate request. To the extent, however, that the Board is directing management to “reope[n] negotiations with the postal unions (and consultations with management associations) to lower total workforce costs,” the pursuit of such an alternative is unlikely to be successful. It has been less than two months since the NPMHU and the Postal Service received their arbitrated 2011 National Agreement, and the various reductions in wage and benefit costs included in the Fishgold Arbitration Award still have not been implemented. The Award makes clear, moreover, that all mail handlers represented by the NPMHU

already have contributed, and will continue to contribute, to USPS workforce savings during the four and one-half years covered by this National Agreement. Thus, while the NPMHU will always listen to management proposals, and will always give careful consideration to reasonable proposals, the reopening of contracts is unlikely to provide the Postal Service with additional financial relief.

Rather, it is now time for Congress to act, and to act quickly, so that the USPS is relieved of unwarranted payments into the Retiree Health Benefits Fund, so that USPS overpayments into the federal retirement systems are returned to the Postal Service, and so that the Postal Service is allowed to seek and obtain new business. The American public believes that the Postal Service is a unique institution that deserves to be preserved, and the Congress should act accordingly.

COMINGS AND GOINGS AT THE NATIONAL OFFICE

Bill Flynn, Manager of the NPMHU Contract Administration Department for the past twenty years, is retiring on April 19. Bill has been a mail handler since 1984, starting at the Boston General Mail Facility (GMF). He served there as a shop steward, chief steward, and arbitration advocate, and was elected Recording Secretary for Local 301 (which covers all of the New England states) in 1990. Bill first came to the National Office as a CAD Representative in 1993, and was quickly appointed to his present position as Manager of that department, which has oversight over all contractual matters at the National Office and all Regional Offices. In addition to numerous other duties, he has been the NPMHU’s chief spokesperson on the RI-399 National Dispute Resolution Committee, was an active participant in the last six rounds of collective bargaining with the Postal Service, and at all National-level arbitration proceedings. We wish Bill and his family well as he begins a new chapter in his life, and we thank him for his years of dedicated service to the NPMHU.

Taking over as the Manager of the CAD is Thomas “TJ” Branch. TJ also has served in the National CAD for almost twenty years, starting in 1994. TJ became a Mail Handler in Richmond, VA in 1973. After serving as chief shop steward, he was elected to the office of Administrative Vice President and Virginia State Executive Board member in 1992. He also served as an arbitration advocate and in many other key functions at both the Local and National levels. Please join us in congratulating TJ on this well-deserved promotion.

On May 3, National Shop Steward Trainer and CAD Representative Sam D’Ambrosio will officially retire. Sam joined the NPMHU in 1967. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, he served for six years as an Administrative Vice President at the Pittsburgh Bulk Mail Center. Later, he was elected President of

Local 322 in Pittsburgh, PA, a position that he held for nine years. In 2012 he retired from the National Executive Board as Eastern Region Vice President, after twenty years of service in that position. Sam made history in the NPMHU by running unopposed for that position at the 2000 National Convention, an accomplishment he repeated at the Boston National Convention in 2004 and in Orlando in 2008. Sam has attended all of the National Conventions since 1980, and chaired the Constitution Committee at the 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012 National Conventions. He also served as a Local and National arbitration advocate, a RI-399 advocate, and a trainer for National Casuals Training, National FMLA Training, National OSHA Training, and National Arbitration Advocacy Training. Since 1994, Sam has served as the National Shop Steward Trainer for the National Union. We wish Sam and his family all the best as he enjoys his well-deserved retirement after a long and illustrious career.

Taking over as National Shop Steward Trainer will be Paul Hogrogian, who currently serves as the President of Local 300 and on the National Executive Board as the Northeastern Region Vice President. Paul has been a union member for more than thirty-eight years, and has served as a Local 300 union representative continuously since 1984, when he first became a shop steward at the New Jersey Bulk Mail Center. His first elected position was Local 300 Recording Secretary starting in 1988, which also is when Paul began his duties as an NPMHU arbitration advocate. Paul subsequently was elected Local Vice President in 1990, at which point he assumed responsibility for directing the contract administration duties for his Local—which is the largest NPMHU Local Union. Paul was elected as President of Local 300 in 2002, and will remain in that position.

Paul’s involvement with the NPMHU National Union also is extensive. He joined the NPMHU National Executive Board as Northeastern Region Vice President in February 2005. He has served as a member of the National Training Committee since 1996, and has been a member of the Field Negotiating Committee during contract negotiations in 1998, 2000, 2006 and 2012. Paul also has served on the NPMHU Committee on the Future since 2002. His fellow Mail Handlers have elected him as a delegate to the last seven NPMHU National Conventions; during that time, he has served on various convention committees, and was Chairman of the Rules Committee at the 2004, 2008, and 2012 National Conventions. Paul also represents the NPMHU on the Article 12 Task Force. We are happy to have someone of Paul’s caliber to step right in, and hit the ground running as the National Shop Steward Trainer.



Thomas “TJ” Branch



Bill Flynn



Paul Hogrogian



Sam D’Ambrosio

Please Post!!

April 2013