



# MAIL HANDLER UPDATE

**NATIONAL POSTAL MAIL HANDLERS UNION**

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**Paul V. Hogrogian**  
National President

## NEIL RYAN APPOINTED TO DUAL POSITION IN NATIONAL OFFICE



**Michael J. Hora**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**E**ffective July 3, 2021, Neil Ryan will join the staff at the NPMHU's National Office as a member of the Contract Administration Department (CAD) and Assistant to the National Officers. Brother Ryan is currently serving as the Treasurer of Local 301, in the New England region.

"I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Neil Ryan," said National President Paul Hogrogian. "Neil's background and experience are a good fit for the position." Brother Ryan will work closely with both the National President and the National Secretary-Treasurer, in addition to supporting the Contract Administration Department as a National Representative. "It is a testament to Neil that, from the robust talent pool of dedicated Local Union officers and representatives from around the country, he was selected to serve in this position," said President Hogrogian.

President Hogrogian continued, "This appointment comes at a critical time for the NPMHU as we begin preparations for the next round of collective bargaining and work to mitigate the impact of the Postmaster General's recently released 10-Year Plan entitled Delivering for America. Neil's addition to the National CAD will give us additional resources and insight as we face the challenges going forward."

Brother Ryan began his career as a Mail Handler in 1990 at the Boston GMF. Since 1996, Brother Ryan has served Local 301 as a Shop Steward and Branch President at the Brockton P&DC, Massachusetts State Executive Board Member, and Treasurer. He has been elected as a Delegate to the 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016 NPMHU National Conventions, serving on the Legislative/Political and Constitution Committees. He has also served as a Delegate to the 2006, 2011 and 2016 LIUNA Conventions, and is a past Executive Board Member of the Greater Boston Labor Council.

Brother Ryan has attended and conducted numerous trainings at both the National and Local level, including his service as National Trainer for the 2015 and 2018 NPMHU Financial Management Seminar. He has been an arbitration advocate, and has extensive experience in Article 12, LMOU negotiations, MAP, OWCP, and RI 399. Brother Ryan will be an excellent addition to the NPMHU National Team. Please join us in offering our congratulations to Neil.



## PRESIDENT HOGROGIAN ENDORSES STROMAN, MCREYNOLDS AND HAJJAR TO USPS BOG

**P**resident Hogrogian recently contacted Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Senator Gary Peters and Ranking Member Senator Rob Portman regarding nominations to the USPS Board of Governors. President Hogrogian stressed the union's support of a balanced BOG writing:

On behalf of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, I write to endorse the nominations of Ron Stroman, Amber McReynolds, and Anton Hajjar to the United States Postal Service Board of Governors.

As you are aware, the USPS Board of Governors plays a vital role in determining the policy to carry out the duties of the Postal Service, ensuring its sustainability. Given their backgrounds with the Postal Service, postal union, and voter initiatives, the nominees would be valuable resources to the Board.

With a career of over thirty years working on postal issues as a staffer within Congress and then as Deputy Postmaster General, Ron Stroman has keen insights on avenues to a sustainable future for the Postal Service. The NPMHU appreciated working with Mr. Stroman when he was the Deputy PMG, and we look forward to working with him as a member of the Board of Governors.

The postal workforce is unique not only from the private sector, but also compared to our federal counterparts. Our bargaining rights are different, and our employee characteristics vary from the federal workforce. Based on his service as the counsel for the American Postal Workers Union, Anton Hajjar brings necessary experience of working with postal unions and an understanding of what the workforce needs to be fully successful and meet the demands of postal customers.

The United States Postal Service saw unprecedented participation in voting by mail this election season. With over 135 million postal ballots processed and delivered, 97.9% of which were within 3 days and 99.7% within 5 days, voters discovered the convenience of vote-by-mail and many local election boards are expecting greater use of mail-in ballots even after the pandemic is over. As CEO of the Vote At Home Institute, Amber McReynolds provides first-hand knowledge to ensure successful and secure mail-in elections.

I urge the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to vote in favor of these nominees, and move them to the floor for a full Senate vote as quickly as possible.

## MAIL HANDLERS SUPPORT USPS SHIPPING EQUITY ACT

**T**he NPMHU anticipates that Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA-14) will reintroduce the USPS Shipping Equity Act in the coming weeks. As many NPMHU members know, the bill would allow the Postal Service to ship beer, wine, and spirits, just as its private sector counterparts are already doing. By removing this Prohibition Era constraint, USPS would have the same access to direct-to-consumer shipments as UPS and FedEx. Over the past five years, online sales of alcohol have grown by 12 percent, amounting to over \$1 billion. If the Postal Service had the same access to shipping alcohol, the Congressional Budget Office estimates an additional \$50 million a year in revenue to the financially deficient federal agency.

To provide safety assurances, Rep. Speier will include additional language that USPS will not be able to deliver alcoholic beverages where prohibited by state, local, and tribal governments, and USPS will face the same liabilities as the private carriers. In a statement from 2019, Rep. Speier commented, "It makes no sense to create a competitive disadvantage for the USPS by barring them from these kinds of shipments." In the past, this bipartisan legislation was endorsed not only by the postal unions, but also WineAmerica, American Craft Spirits Association, United States Association of Cider Makers, Kentucky Distillers' Association, and the Distilled Spirits Council. The NPMHU again supports this legislation and encourages members of the House to cosponsor it when reintroduced.



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**April 2021**