



# MAIL HANDLER UPDATE

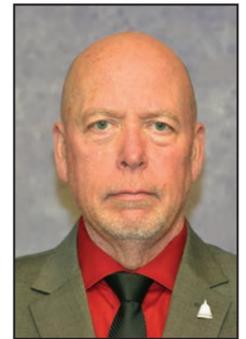
NATIONAL POSTAL MAIL HANDLERS UNION

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**Paul V. Hogrogian**  
National President

## MAIL HANDLERS RATIFY 2022 NATIONAL AGREEMENT



**Michael J. Hora**  
Secretary-Treasurer



The terms of the 2022 National Agreement between the NPMHU and the U.S. Postal Service were officially ratified on March 13, 2023. The certified results show that over 84% of the membership approved the new contract, with the final vote tally at 6,617 in favor of ratification and 1,237 in opposition to ratification.

Further details about the implementation of the 2022 National Agreement will be provided to Local Union officers and representatives in the coming weeks. All members are encouraged to retain and utilize their copy of the ratification booklet until National Agreements are printed and distributed.

### COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE

The NPMHU's Committee on the Future was established to engage in long-term strategic planning on issues that are confronting the Union over the coming months and years. The Committee most recently met in March 2023 to discuss several important issues facing mail handlers today and into the future.

The membership of the Committee on the Future is comprised of all members of the National Executive Board – including President Paul Hogrogian, NST Michael Hora, and Vice Presidents John Gibson, June Harris, Lawrence Sapp, Don Sneesby and Dave Wilkin – as well as various Local Union Presidents, currently including Kevin Tabarus of Local 300, Danny St. Marie of Local 301, Tony Coleman of Local 302, James (J.C.) Morris of Local 317, Nick Mosezar of Local 318, Kelly Dickey of Local 322, Jeff Larsen of Local 323, and John (J.R.) Macon of Local 329. Also in attendance were Katie Maddocks, Political and Legislative Director; Teresa Harmon, CAD Manager; Nina Gallauresi, Exec-

utive Director MHBP; and Matt Clash-Drexler, General Counsel. The Committee focuses on five key issues facing the NPMHU: USPS privatization; the legislative relations program; USPS automation and other technological changes; financial planning, especially for the Locals; and membership recruitment.

The Committee began with a review of local and national finances and recent implementation of regular and associate member dues increases given rise by a vote of the delegates at the recent 2022 convention. President Hogrogian next led Committee discussions on the financial status of the Postal Service and implications of declining volume trends within each mailing category.

The Committee reviewed USPS network operations, focusing on the impact of future closures and consolidations that purport to improve transportation utilization and handling methods with a significant shift to ground transportation. The core of the USPS Network Redesign plan is the consolidation of all originating letters, flats, and parcels from all mail processing facilities within a metropolitan area into one mega-processing center. While the Postal Service's plans are fluid and constantly changing, the Committee began the creation of best practices for locals to utilize when responding to these changes.

The Committee also reviewed mail handler complement and membership trends with discussions on areas of necessary improvement. The USPS has converted 40,000 Mail Handler Assistants (MHAs) to fulltime regular (FTR) since Arbitrator Fishgold mandated the new employment category in 2013. However, employee turnover and membership recruitment continue to be a major concern. The Committee discussed the NPMHU's opposition to recently implemented changes that slow the processing of SF 1187s union enrollment and dues

deduction authorizations submitted to USPS Shared Services Center.

The Committee discussed organizational priorities and the NPMHU's Legislative Agenda of the 118th Congress. President Hogrogian led discussions with Legislative and Political Director Maddocks on key pieces of the Legislative Agenda to include implementation of the recently passed Postal Service Reform Act of 2022, which repeals the burdensome 2006 mandate for the USPS to prefund its retiree healthcare benefits and will lower premiums for NPMHU members and our fellow postal employees while safeguarding benefits. The legislation provides badly needed financial relief for the USPS.

Other key issues of our Legislative Agenda include strengthening service standards while preserving universal service ensuring that every American household and business has access to USPS products and services, protecting earned retirement and healthcare benefits, promoting workers' rights, and strengthening American elections. The NPMHU Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress will be posted in its entirety at [npmhu.org](http://npmhu.org) and included in the next edition of the Mail Handler magazine.

The Committee also discussed the impending implementation of the Postal Service Health Benefits Program set for January 1, 2025. Topics of concern include Medicare concepts, requirements, options and integration, forthcoming educational campaigns by OPM and USPS for active and retired FEHB enrollees, negotiation and preservation of health benefits during collective bargaining, and the impact of the PSHBP on the Mail Handler Benefits Program (MHBP®).

A full report from the Committee will be included in the upcoming issue of the Spring edition of the Mail Handler Magazine.



**Please Post!!**

**March 2023**