



MAILHANDLER UPDATE

NATIONAL POSTAL MAIL HANDLERS UNION

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BARGAINING BEGINS

The National Postal Mail Handlers Union bargaining team met with representatives of the U.S. Postal Service on August 30, 2011 to mark the official start of the collective bargaining process for a successor agreement to replace the 2006 National Agreement which is scheduled to expire on November 20, 2011.

"We recognize the tough financial straits in which the Postal Service finds itself," said National President John Hegarty, "and notwithstanding the unjustifiable actions recently taken by USPS Headquarters in asking Congress to overrule our collective bargaining agreement, we intend to work hard, in good faith, to try to reach an agreement."

Bargaining will continue now, through November 20, as the parties

attempt to come to agreement on the myriad issues, made even more difficult due to recent events.

"We are not happy that the Postal Service has tried to abrogate the no-layoff clause through Congressional action, or that the Service has issued ill-advised proposals to pull out of the Federal health and retirement systems" said Hegarty, "but we intend to devote significant time and resources to try and reach a contract that is fair for the hard-working men and women whom we represent, fair for the USPS, and fair for the American mailing public."

The NPMHU will put out periodic updates, in the form of bulletin board postings, as bargaining progresses. Please stay tuned.



National President John Hegarty delivers his statement to open formal contract negotiations with the USPS.

USPS Misfires Even Before Start of Bargaining

With less than three weeks to go before the start of bargaining over the terms of the 2011 National Agreement, the Postal Service publicly announced that management is seeking wholesale changes in its collective bargaining agreements. USPS management also decided to try to bypass the NPMHU and other postal unions, by asking Congress to enact legislation that would impose many of its outrageous proposals. Instead of coming to the bargaining table in good faith, management is looking for two bites of the apple. The mentality seems to be: let's see what we can get through bargaining, and then if we don't like it, we'll go to Congress. This might lead one to ask: Has Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker been named the new PMG?

On August 11, 2011, the Postal Service announced that it was

seeking to abrogate the no-layoff clause, eliminate the application of the CSRS and FERS retirement systems to postal employees, and end the Postal Service's coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. And to make matters worse, the Postal Service did not propose these changes at the bargaining table, but instead went straight to Congress to seek these changes by legislation. USPS management has circulated two "white papers" on Capitol Hill and in the press that attempt to justify their actions. Those "white papers" are now posted on the NPMHU web site (www.npmhu.org), and also have been circulated to the Union's Leadership during a recent National-level meeting (which ironically was held in Wisconsin).

Apparently, the Postal Service understands that such draconian proposals have little chance of being

supported by the NPMHU during the current round of national negotiations, so instead the agency decided to ignore its obligation to bargain directly and in good faith with the NPMHU. Such tactics do not suggest that postal management will be adopting an enlightened and cooperative atmosphere during this year's collective bargaining, but only time will tell.

In the meantime, the NPMHU and all of its Local Unions and members are urged to oppose these changes with their elected representatives on Capitol Hill. This end-around by USPS management only reinforces the need for all rank-and-file mail handlers to put pen to paper, and to write to their elected representatives to oppose this foolhardy scheme.

NEW WAGE CHARTS REFLECT \$978 COLA

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released its July 2011 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) on Thursday, August 18. Based on this release, the Postal Service has confirmed that there will be a \$978 cost-of-living adjustment increase for employees covered under the NPMHU National Agreement effective pay period 20, starting on September 10, 2011.

This translates into approximately forty-seven cents per hour, and will be reflected in paychecks dated September 30, 2011.

Reprinted below are the new wage charts—effective beginning on September 10, 2011—that reflect this COLA adjustment, which is the last increase in wages under the expiring 2006 National Agreement.

Mail Handlers (RSC M) Schedule | Effective September 10, 2011 (PP 20-2011)

Full-Time Annual Basic Rates

Full-Time Regular - Level 4					Full-Time Regular - Level 5				
Step	Yearly	Hourly	BiWeekly	Overtime	Step	Yearly	Hourly	BiWeekly	Overtime
AA	32,973	15.85	1,268.19	23.78	AA	34,519	16.60	1,327.65	24.90
A	37,347	17.96	1,436.42	26.94	A	38,895	18.70	1,495.96	28.05
B	42,845	20.60	1,647.88	30.90	B	44,769	21.52	1,721.88	32.28
C	45,446	21.85	1,747.92	32.78	C	47,440	22.81	1,824.62	34.22
D	49,271	23.69	1,895.04	35.54	D	50,023	24.05	1,923.96	36.08
E	49,577	23.84	1,906.81	35.76	E	50,357	24.21	1,936.81	36.32
F	49,893	23.99	1,918.96	35.99	F	50,696	24.37	1,949.85	36.56
G	50,197	24.13	1,930.65	36.20	G	51,021	24.53	1,962.35	36.80
H	50,511	24.28	1,942.73	36.42	H	51,358	24.69	1,975.31	37.04
I	50,819	24.43	1,954.58	36.65	I	51,696	24.85	1,988.31	37.28
J	51,136	24.58	1,966.77	36.87	J	52,028	25.01	2,001.08	37.52
K	51,441	24.73	1,978.50	37.10	K	52,359	25.17	2,013.81	37.76
L	51,754	24.88	1,990.54	37.32	L	52,690	25.33	2,026.54	38.00
M	52,063	25.03	2,002.42	37.55	M	53,029	25.49	2,039.58	38.24
N	52,373	25.18	2,014.35	37.77	N	53,364	25.66	2,052.46	38.49
O	52,681	25.33	2,026.19	38.00	O	53,693	25.81	2,065.12	38.72
P	52,994	25.48	2,038.23	38.22	P	54,027	25.97	2,077.96	38.96

Part-Time Regular and Flexible Employees Hourly Basic Rates - Level 4 (Part-Time Regulars)(Part-Time Flexible)

Step	Hourly	Step	Hourly
AA	15.85	AA	16.49
A	17.96	A	18.67
B	20.60	B	21.42
C	21.85	C	22.72
D	23.69	D	24.64
E	23.84	E	24.79
F	23.99	F	24.95
G	24.13	G	25.10
H	24.28	H	25.26
I	24.43	I	25.41
J	24.58	J	25.57
K	24.73	K	25.72
L	24.88	L	25.88
M	25.03	M	26.03
N	25.18	N	26.19
O	25.33	O	26.34
P	25.48	P	26.50

Please Post!!

August 2011