



# LOCAL 308 ON CAPITOL HILL



Local 308, along with many other locals from across the country attended the NPMHU biennial Legislative Conference held May 8-9, 2013 in Washington D.C. As most mail handlers know, the continuing existence of the Postal Service as we know it depends in great measure on the implementation of thoughtful legislation addressing a variety of issues. The most noteworthy of these issues is the onerous burden placed on the backs of the working men and women of the Postal Service in the form of the \$5.5 Billion



pre-funding requirement of the Retiree Health Benefit program. Instituted by the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, this crippling piece of legislation, signed by President Bush required pre-funding for the next 75 years in a ten year period. The main focus of this year's legislative action is Senate Bill S. 316 introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders, Independent of Vermont with a total of 25 sponsors as of this writing and its House companion Bill HR 630 introduced by Congressman Peter Defazio, Democrat of Oregon, with 147 sponsors including 6 Republican co-sponsors. Both bills, entitled The Postal Service Protection Act of 2013, strive to implement measures that would eliminate the required pre-funding of the Retiree Health Benefits Fund, establish criteria for the closing and consolidation of postal facilities, authorizes the transfer of excess retirement contributions to the Retiree Health Benefit Fund, the Postal Service Fund, and the Employee's Compensation Fund under FECA



and to the USPS for payment of its debt obligations. In addition, S. 316 and HR 630 would permit the Postal Service to provide additional non-postal services or products "consistent with the public interest" as well as protect six day delivery. During Day 1 of the conference those in attendance were addressed by Congressman Gerry Connolly of Virginia, Congressman Michael Grimm of New York, Richard Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO, and Senator Bernie Sanders, who introduced S. 316. Senator Sanders, a staunch defender of the middle class and decent paying jobs like ours, reminded the attendees that 1% of the

country owns 38% of its wealth and the bottom 60% owns only 2.5%. The Senator added that the bottom 40% owns nothing at all. On Day 2, as we made our final preparations to lobby Congress,

Brother Terry O'Sullivan, General President of Laborers International Union of North America motivated all in attendance with his usual rousing address. Representatives of Local 308 visited the offices of Senator Lautenberg of New Jersey, Senator Casey of Pennsylvania as well as the offices of Congressman Gerlach (R-PA), Congressman Meehan (R-PA) Congresswoman Schwartz (D-PA) and Congressman LoBiondo (R-NJ). Please log on to [npmhu.org](http://npmhu.org) and click on our legislative link for additional information regarding important Postal Legislation. You can also send your elected representative a personalized message asking him or her to support S. 316 or HR 630 or simply thank them for their support. Get engaged and stay engaged, your voice really does matter.



LiUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan

In Union Solidarity,  
John Gibson



AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka



Mike Rembelinsky, National President John Hegarty, Mike Mohan, John Gibson, & Nick Campellone



Senator Bernie Sanders & President Gibson



CATERED FOOD \* SOFT DRINKS \*  
BYOB \* RAFFLES \* MUSIC\*

SATURDAY  
JUNE 22, 2013  
12PM - 6PM

\*CORNTOSS \* BASKETBALL \*  
HORSESHOES

## NPMHU Proudly Presents THE 308 SUMMER SHIN DIG

ON THE GROUNDS OF THE  
HISTORIC  
FRANKFORD ARSENAL  
5301 TACONY STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19137

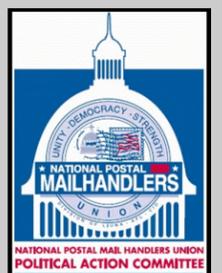
FAMILY & FRIENDS : \$10.00  
MEMBERS W/ POSTAL ID :  
FREE!  
KIDS UNDER 6 : FREE!

CONTACT  
UNION HEADQUARTERS  
AT 215-537-8220 OR  
SEE YOUR STEWARD



## PAC PAC PAC

Saving the Postal Service and your job starts with us Brothers and Sisters. The political climate in Washington DC is as dysfunctional as ever and we need to show our support for those on the right side of the ideological spectrum who are protecting decent middle class jobs like ours. This is a fight and we must engage the enemy with all the economic might we can muster. I urge you to do just that little bit more by leading the charge to strengthening our political muscle in Washington DC and contribute to the **Mail Handler Political Action Committee.**



Together we can make a difference.

*NPMHU, Local 308  
President's Report  
April-May 2013*