



# *SENATE PASSES 21st Century Postal Service Act of 2012 (S. 1789)*



In a vote of 62-37, the United States Senate passed the 21st Century Postal Service Act of 2012 (S. 1789) as amended. Not unlike most major pieces of legislation, 1789 contains some provisions that are positive and some things that are not so good. On the positive side, this Bill will return the \$11 billion overpayment made to the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) back to the USPS to use for early retirement incentives and postal operations. This legislation will also preserve service standards for at least two years, protecting many mail processing facilities from closure or consolidation. In addition, S. 1789 permits the Postal Service to expand its services to include the shipment of beer, wine, and liquor as well as other product services, which will create additional revenue opportunities. Unfortunately, the negatives include harmful changes to the FECA provisions affecting postal employees and an overall bill that lacks the strength to protect service standards beyond two years and does not provide the pricing flexibility needed by the Postal Service to compete in the open market. A full breakdown of the bill and its amendments can be linked through our National website at [www.npmhu.org](http://www.npmhu.org) and/or [www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us).

As you know before the changes contained in the Senate bill become law, the House of Representatives must also pass their version of postal reform. This, quite frankly, will hinge on the ability of those on the ideological ends of the political spectrum to come together and compromise. This is something they are currently having some real difficulty with, particularly during an important election year. The current version of the House bill that has the most political traction is undoubtedly the most harmful to postal employees. HR 2309, proposed by Congressman

Darrell Issa contains many anti-worker provisions that would devastate our ability to bargain for decent wages and benefits. This bill, ironically has only two co-sponsors, yet HR 1351 which provides many of the protections we support has 227 co-sponsors including wide bipartisan support among the members of congress. As always, we encourage you to contact your congressional representative and demand that they support HR 1351 and not 2309. Remember, whatever bill comes out of the House must be reconciled with Senate bill 1789 before it can be signed by the President and become law. This fight is far from over and much work remains to be done.

Returning to the recent vote in the Senate and the 21st Century Postal Service Act of 2012, it is important to note that the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) did not support S. 1789 for reasons primarily related to the failure of the bill to guarantee 6-day delivery. (The Bill protects 6-day delivery for two years.) It is this opposition to 1789 that may have caused Senator Bob Menendez of New Jersey to vote no on this legislation. The only other no vote within the jurisdiction of Local 308 was cast by Senator Patrick Toomey, whose "nay" was not the result of the NLCA position. Senator Toomey clearly voted along ideological lines and Local 308 has responded to his attack on mail handlers. In a letter dated April 26th, 2012 I wrote,

**Dear Senator Toomey,  
I write to you regarding your recent nay vote on the 21st Century Postal Service Act of 2012 (S. 1789). Although you and members of your staff seemingly command a full grasp of the positive impact that passing this legislation would**

**have, not only on the thousands of Postal Employees within Pennsylvania, but the literally hundreds of thousands of hardworking Pennsylvanians who rely on the Postal Service to make a decent middle class living, you voted against it. Sir, this is indeed disappointing and your actions reveal an ideology outside of the mainstream. Further, you supported Senator Paul's amendment (2039), which called for the end of collective bargaining for all Postal employees. Your motivation for restricting the right of decent hardworking Americans to bargain for living wages and benefits is as curious as it is disturbing. As a representative of more than 3,000 Postal Employees I can assure you that your voting record on this and future issues will be shared with those I represent.**

**Sincerely,  
John Gibson  
President  
NPMHU – Local 308**

Brothers and Sisters, those who wish to destroy our right to bargain for wages and benefits are not our friends and we need to stand up against them. I urge you to write to Senator Toomey and express the importance of protecting the rights of mail handlers and all postal employees and remind him that the attack on working men and women in Pennsylvania will not go without response.

In Union Solidarity,  
John Gibson



**RESERVATIONS GOING FAST. ACT NOW!**

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**  
AN NPMHU SPONSORED EVENT

## THE 308 SUMMER SHIN-DIG

**SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2012**  
12 TIL 5  
5301 TACONY STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19137

ON THE GROUNDS OF THE HISTORIC FRANKFORD ARSENAL

RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 24th

CATERED FOOD  
SOFT DRINKS & WATER  
"BYOB"  
PRIZES, RAFFLES  
& SO MUCH MORE!

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

FAMILY FUN LIKE THIS CANNOT BE HAD ANYWHERE ELSE AT THIS PRICE!  
DON'T MISS OUT

CONTACT UNION HEADQUARTERS AT 215-537-8220 or SEE YOUR SHOP STEWARD FOR TICKETS!



### Facility Visits



### 2012 NPMHU CONVENTION APPROACHES

The Union's quadrennial national event fast approaches as our National Office has called for members to submit proposals for consideration to amend our National and Local Union Constitutions as well as submit resolutions for consideration by the Convention. Proposals to amend the Constitution or resolutions submitted for consideration must be received by the National President at Union Headquarters no later

than June 7, 2012. The address for our National Office is **1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 500 Washington, DC 20036.** In addition, for those members who intend to be in Portland, Oregon during the convention (August 6-11, 2012) can reserve a room at the Convention rate. For more information please contact Local 308 Headquarters at 215 537 8220.

*NPMHU, Local 308  
President's Report  
April 2012*