



# NATIONAL & LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES MEET



As required by Article IX of the Constitution of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, the second of two Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU) for 2013 was convened in Chicago, Illinois August 22-24, 2013. NPMHU National Officers met with representatives from each of the Local Unions, providing a State of the Union report, a full financial report, a report from the Contract Administration Department as well as discussed matters related to legislation, the Committee on the Future, and other items of interest submitted by the Local Unions.



National President John Hegarty.

National President John Hegarty brought the meeting to order on Thursday morning and began by introducing Brother Julio Figueroa of Local 313, who delivered the morning's invocation. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the roll call of all Local Unions, and

introductions of our National Officers and staff, we were greeted with a few welcoming words from host Local President and Central Region Vice President Jefferson Peppers of Local 306.

Our National President began his formal report to the Locals outlining four main topics including an update on the recently determined 2011 National Agreement, an update on the closings and consolidations of mail processing facilities, the financial status of the Postal Service, and finally the state of current Postal legislation. Brother Hegarty informed the group that the bound version of the new National Agreement was being printed and would be mailed to each member. In addition, copies of the final text of the National Agreement was provided to those attending. President Hegarty also discussed the newly created Mail Handler Assistant (MHA) and stated that we currently have ap-

proximately 5,000 on the rolls. Unfortunately, there are still outstanding issues regarding the nationally generated reports for the accounting of the MHAs, with Brother Hegarty adding that the parties at the headquarters level continue to work through a number of issues remanded by the Fishgold Award. The President's discussion regarding the financial condition of the Postal Service was quite revealing as Brother Hegarty informed the group that through the first three quarters of the fiscal year the Postal Service earned a \$300 million profit taking out the \$5.5 billion pre-funding obligation. Revenues have increased due to the increase in the package volume, with the Service currently holding approximately 15% of the market share. Brother Hegarty then discussed the legislative agenda identifying those bills we support and those initiatives that would be harmful to mail handlers and other Postal employees.

Following a brief intermission, National Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner offered the Locals a detailed report of the National's finances as well as specific analysis regarding membership and revenue trends. Brother Gardner reported that there are more than 45,000 mail handlers currently on the rolls and almost 87% belong to the NPMHU. There are, unfortunately, almost 6,000 free-riders. The value of Union membership is lost on too many of our co-workers. Our most recently decided contract is evidence enough to support membership with guaranteed contractual raises and a continuing no lay-off clause. The job and wage security established for the mail handler craft all the way through retirement would not exist if not for the collective bargaining efforts of this Union. Brother Gardner informed those in attendance of an upcoming membership drive to enroll long term non-members. Details of this drive will be announced shortly



Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner.

The second half of day one included a report from our Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi who described a 113<sup>th</sup> Congress as "frustrating" to say the least. The prospect of fair and considered Postal reform will not come easy and mail handlers along with other postal employees are encouraged to reach out to their elected representatives and urge them to save the Postal Service and protect its decent paying jobs. During Brother Losi's presentation we were greeted with a surprise visit from Congressman Danny Davis who described his efforts to fashion acceptable Postal reform.

Following the morning's invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and roll call of the Local Unions, Day two of the SAMLU began with a report from Coventry Health who administers the Mail Handler Benefit Plan (MHBP). Coventry Representative Al DiLeo provided a synopsis of the plan's major activities including its recent purchase by Aetna, a strategy review, a marketing update, and plans for this year's open season. Recently appointed Manager of Contract Administration, TJ Branch then summarized the major activities of the Contract Administration Department including the implementation of the Fishgold interest arbitration decision. TJ was followed by Brother Tim Dwyer who delivered a report regarding the modified arbitration process. Additional discussions were then conducted by Brother Paul Hogrogian, Northeast Regional Vice President and National Shop Steward Trainer regarding the multitude of Article 12 issues facing mail handlers across the country and an in depth review of the Fishgold award which continued into the Saturday session.

If you have any questions or concerns about these or any other Union related matters please do not hesitate to contact me. In Solidarity, John Gibson

## LOCAL UNION COUNCIL GATHERS

In accordance with Article IV of the Uniform Local Union Constitution members of the Local Union Council met early in September to discuss and vote upon major policy issues affecting Local 308. The Local Union Council is made up of the seven members of the Executive Board and our ten Branch Presidents and meets annually.



During this year's meeting the Council discussed a variety of topics including proposals to modify the Union's By-Laws including increasing the amount of Holiday Gift Certificates to \$35. The council also reaffirmed the salary structure for elected representatives which continues to remain frozen. Once National President Hegarty approves the changes, the modified By-Laws will be posted on the web at [www.npmhu308.org](http://www.npmhu308.org). In addition to many roundtable discussions regarding contract compliance, an in depth review of our new National Agreement was also conducted.



Quentin Seth, Mike Mohan, Nick Campellone, Shelby Root, Rick Vennera, Mark Adamchak, John Gibson, Bob Glycener, Pam Baum, Steve Bahrle, Bill Finley, Michael Cooper, Brian Carson & Joe Zelenenki

## LOCAL 308 CELEBRATES LABOR DAY



Johnny O'Donnell, Quentin Seth & Michael Cooper



Congressman John Carney, Kim Johnson & Michael Cooper



Velma Jackson, Joe McKiernan, Rick Vennera, John Gibson, Mike Mohan, Lawrence Sydney, & Jules Ferrell

Join the PAC

*NPMHU, Local 308  
President's Report  
August-September 2013*