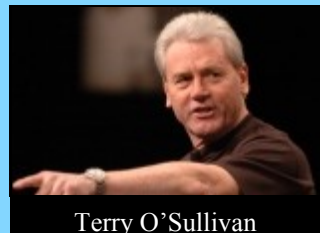




# 2012 NPMHU CONVENTION REPORT



Recently, delegates from across the United States gathered in Portland, Oregon for our quadrennial National Convention which was called to order by National President John Hegarty on the morning of August 6, 2012. As many of you know the purpose of our Convention is to set the tone and chart the direction of this Union over the next four years and beyond. In addition, the 2012 Convention enjoyed even greater significance as we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Labor organization. During the course of the six-day event, as we deliberated important changes to the organic law of our Union, we were also addressed by our National leadership as well as other dignitaries including



Laborers' General President Terry O'Sullivan, who gave a rousing, inspirational speech to the

body. Other luminaries and devout supporters of labor included Arlene Holt-Baker, Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO, Congressman Danny Davis (D-IL), Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR), as well as National Association of Letter Carriers President, Frederic V. Rolando.



Arlene Holt-Baker

As we have previously reported Local 308 sent ten delegates to the convention who carried a combined weighted vote of 91 on behalf of the membership of Local 308. The main focus of the Convention is to debate and vote on changes to the National and Local Constitutions of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union.

In our July posting we identified the changes to the Constitution proposed by Local 308 and while not all of our proposals were adopted by the delegates, significant changes were in fact accepted as a result of the submissions from Local 308. The boldest, in the opinion of many attendees, was the proposed changes to Article XV of the National Constitution, *Financial Affairs/Standards*. This change, which would cap the resources of the National Union at \$35 million, with the

surplus returned to the Local Unions was not recommended by the Constitution Committee. However, as a direct result of our suggestion our National leadership, recognizing the need of the Locals, countered with a proposal of their own which will return over \$2 million to the Local Unions over the next three years beginning in pay period 25 of this year and continuing through pay period 24 of 2015.



Following a private meeting with President Hegarty, Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner, and Eastern Region Vice President Sam D'Ambrosio, I was convinced that this proposal struck the appropriate balance between the needs of our National Union and the needs of the Local Unions. Locally, we anticipate additional total revenues from the National Office in the range of \$125,000 to \$140,000 over the three year period depending on membership levels.

Local 308 was also successful in introducing changes to the Uniform Local Union Constitution (ULUC), which governs the conduct of the Locals. As reported, we recommended changes that will provide additional financial transparency and ultimately protect the members and the resources of the Local Unions. Adopted by the Convention were changes to Article IV, Section 5D3, which now requires that *"The written financial report to the Local Executive Board shall include detailed information about any required tax payments and/or filings to governmental authorities."*

The obvious purpose of this change is to help ensure that the leadership of the Local Unions are submitting, not only payments to the IRS, state, and local governments, but the actual returns. As many of you know a failure to submit a return, even if payment is made, can lead to significant fines or penalties.

The Local's proposal to automatically certify a Branch President to represent mail handlers in the facility in which he or she was duly elected was not adopted. Since it was not a recommendation of the Constitution Committee it was introduced from the floor of the Convention by Local 308. Following lengthy debate and a roll call vote the measure did not pass. Although supported by the majority of delegates, the change did not have the two-thirds necessary for adoption.

Two of the three submitted resolutions from Local 308 were combined with other proposed resolutions and were adopted by the body. While the third, a surprisingly controversial resolution that simply urges to the extent practicable the prohibition of Coca-Cola beverages at NPMHU offices and functions was not adopted. Following debate, the Convention moved to table the issue for further review and discussion at the National level. For those of you interested in this issue, additional information is available at [www.killercoke.org](http://www.killercoke.org).

Once printed the National and Uniform Local Union Constitutions with all of the changes will be available for all members.



Mark Gardner, Quentin Seth, Sam D'Ambrosio, Mike Mohan, John Gibson, John Hegarty, Joe Zelenenki, Steve Bahrle, and Brian Carson

In addition to the changes to the Constitution of the NPMHU, nominations and elections for National office were also conducted. National President Hegarty and National Secretary-Treasurer Gardner were both re-elected by acclamation, along with Northeastern Vice President Paul Hogrogian and Central Vice President Jefferson Peppers. Elections will be conducted later this year to fill vacancies in the Eastern and Southern Regions as well as an election in the Western Region between the incumbent and a challenger. Please do not hesitate to contact your Local Union with any questions, concerns, or suggestions on these or any other Union related matter.

In Union Solidarity,

John Gibson

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



Bill Finley, Shelby Root, Mike Rembelinsky, Steve Bahrle, John Gibson, Mike Mohan, Joe Zelenenki, Rick Vennera, Quentin Seth, and Brian Carson