



THE FIGHT CONTINUES



The National Postal Mail Handlers Union continues to battle job killing forces on both the legislative and contractual fronts. As we have reported just about every chance we get, the continuing existence of the Postal Service as we know it is not a certainty. In fact, many of the rights we take for granted, earned over decades of collective bargaining, could be eliminated with a stroke of a Capitol Hill pen. The latest legislative assault on our jobs, S. 1486, introduced by Senators Carper (D-DE) and Coburn (R-OK), as cited in an open letter to senator Harry Reid and signed by all four National Unions would

- *destroy 80,000 full- and part-time jobs in both cities and rural areas, after a one-year delay, by eliminating Saturday mail delivery (harming millions of businesses who want it) and give the Postmaster General authority to eliminate additional days of delivery in the future;*
- *slash tens of thousands of additional jobs, after a two-year delay, by allowing USPS to reduce service and delivery standards and to close hundreds of mail processing facilities and thousands of post offices;*
- *mandate the elimination of door-to-door delivery of mail for all business and new households, and call for the phase out of door delivery to millions of established households – threatening at least 16,500 additional jobs; and*
- *impose cruel and discriminatory reforms to the FECA workers compensation program that would leave injured federal workers with the worst long-term injuries vulnerable to impoverishment when they reach their Social Security retirement ages.*

On the House side of the Congressional

ledger there's plenty of Postal Service destroying ideas as well. As detailed by the NPMHU in a letter to Congressman Issa, our National Union identified the worst of Issa's HR 2748 as

- *CHANGES LAYOFF LANGUAGE IN NEXT NATIONAL AGREEMENT*
- *CONSOLIDATES PROCESSING PLANTS*
- *INCREASES HEALTH BENEFIT COSTS FOR EMPLOYEES*
- *DOES NOT MAINTAIN SERVICE STANDARDS*
- *INTERFERES WITH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING*
- *DOES NOT FAIRLY ADDRESS FERS OVERPAYMENTS*
- *MAINTAINS ROADBLOCKS TO SEEKING ADDITIONAL REVENUE FOR USPS COFFERS*
- *ALLOWS FIVE-DAY DELIVERY AND FORCES USE OF CLUSTER BOXES INSTEAD OF DOOR DELIVERY*

It is apparent that our Members of Congress are willing to slash our rights and benefits if given half the chance. Contact your representatives and let them know that these two bills are not an acceptable solution to the Service's current woes. Instead let them know that S.316 and HR 630 are the bills that will preserve not only the Service but your job.

On the contractual front ,as we have discussed frequently, Local Union Headquarters continues to focus much of its attention on the closings and consolidations facing both the Central PA and Philadelphia Districts. Since we last reported, both the Reading and Williamsport facilities have seen their mail handler complement reduced to zero,

while our Southeastern facility will see a reduction from one hundred and eighty-five to fifteen by September 7th, 2013. The obvious disruption to those affected and their families cannot truly be measured and we continue to look for opportunities to minimize this ongoing impact. As we have reported, the notion advanced by the USPS that no continuing need exists for mail handlers within the Reading and Williamsport facilities is difficult to accept. As a consequence, Pennsylvania State Executive Board Member Mike Rembelinsky along with former Williamsport representative, John Sprinkle, performed a site visit and observed what we believe to be sufficient mail handler work to justify retreating members of the bargaining unit. Brother Sprinkle has filed the necessary grievance and we intend to fight for the return of mail handlers. In addition, Brother Rembelinsky along with Brother Chuck DeCarlo performed a similar study on the Reading facility and Brother DeCarlo has been instructed to file a grievance to return mail handlers to the Reading plant. In Southeastern we continue to look for ways to return mail handlers to that facility. The two remaining impacts within the Lancaster and Scranton facilities are still scheduled to occur in February of 2014. The logistical details of those consolidations have not yet been provided to Local 308. As soon as specifics are available we will share them with you. This office has previously forwarded information regarding relocation benefits to facility representatives. Any questions regarding those benefits or any other matter can be directed to your Branch President or this office.

In Union Solidarity,
John Gibson

Arbitration Advocacy Training

In our continuing effort to provide an ever-increasing level of representation to our members, Local 308 recently conducted arbitration advocacy training for selected representatives from across Local 308. As many of you know arbitration is the final step in our grievance process and requires a high level of skill and knowledge in order to effectively advance our arguments and training our reps on what to expect in arbitration can only enhance their Union education. Conducting the training session for your representatives were Local 300 President and Northeast Vice President Paul Hogrogian and National Contract Administration Representative and former Local 301 President Tim Dwyer. Both Brother Hogrogian and Brother Dwyer bring a wealth of knowledge to the table with more than 400 combined arbitration hearings to their credit. Paul and Tim were both informative and engaging during the session and we certainly appreciate the time they took out of their busy schedules to share their perspective and experiences with Local 308. We look forward to seeing them again in the very near future.



Pam Baum, Jeanne Gladilina, Phil Camilari, Matt Matteis, Elsie Sudler, Kyle Hamilton, Donna McDaniels, Jeanette Lanza, Keith Johnston, Paul Hogrogian, Tim Dwyer & Chris Lee



NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR LOCAL 308

Local 308 has finally settled on a new and permanent Headquarters we can call our own. Following an exhaustive search over many months, your Local Executive Board has agreed on a facility we will soon call our home. We believe that this property will fit the needs of Local 308 nicely, as well as save thousands of dollars per year. The building is located at 117 Neshaminy Road in Croydon, Pa just minutes from the Pennsylvania Turnpike and I 95. The property was originally listed at \$325,000.00 and we were able to purchase it for \$315,000.00. The facility will require some modification to meet the specific needs of the Union, which will obviously add some cost. Of course the final financial breakdown will be shared with the membership through Branch Meetings and Treasurer Mohan's web page. The financial arrangements on the purchase have been made and we are scheduled to make settlement October 1st, 2013. This will allow time for the property's modification before we move in sometime in December. As many of you know, currently we are renting space at the Frankford Arsenal at almost \$5,000.00 per month and by purchasing our own building we will reduce this monthly expense while building equity in a property we will eventually own outright. This is an exciting step forward for the Local, and we will keep you posted as we celebrate together a new beginning for Local 308.

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