



POSTAL ENEMY

1



The commitment of those in USPS Headquarters to dismantle the great American institution that is the United States Postal Service really has no limits. With the recent announcement to reinstitute the Service's Network Rationalization Plan, which would be more aptly named the "Network Irrationalization Plan", eighty-four facilities across the country, including our own Scranton and Lancaster plants, will see reductions in operations and personnel. The implementation of this absolutely toxic agenda will ultimately lead to the destruction of the mail processing network, which appears to be the plan. Our National office has described this action as "foolhardy" and the Postal Service's strategy as "misguided". I believe it is more sinister than simply misguided. I am convinced, as many of you must be by now, that PMG Donahoe is hell-bent on permanently crippling our United States Postal Service. In his video statement, Postal Enemy # 1 claims that "The Postal Service has recorded substantial losses over the last three years and continues to see steep declines in First Class Mail volume and revenue. As a result, we find ourselves with excess capacity in the network and few alternatives to reduce costs. Our operating costs are continuing to increase, and our debt and other liabilities threaten our financial viability." Really? More than one report has the Postal Service with an operating profit over the last six quarters and only through the wizardry of Postal accounting has the PMG spun it into a loss. In reality, our greatest liability may be the PMG himself. The PMG's misleading public narrative of a Service that cannot survive without

slashing jobs and degrading service ignores the true reason for the recorded losses; the \$5.5 billion prefunding requirement of the retiree health benefit plan. Without this onerous burden hung around the neck of the USPS by the Lame Duck Congress of 2006, we would be in the black. As previously stated, over the last six fiscal quarters revenue has outpaced expense. This fact has been conveniently ignored by Postal Enemy #1, who has apparently established an alliance with those in Congress who have their sights set on privatizing mail processing operations and destroying the Postal Service as we know it. It is obviously irrational to shrink our mail

was forthcoming about his foreknowledge of the announcement by the PMG to reinstitute the destructive consolidation process. According to Mr. Alexander, he knew when we knew. The PMG's theory that excess mail processing capacity exists in each of the identified targets for consolidation is not supported by the facts on the ground in Central PA. Reports from the Central PA District indicate that in terms of excess capacity in the gaining installations of Lehigh Valley and Harrisburg, not much, if any, exists. Of course we are keeping a close eye on the affect these actions may have on the Scranton and Lancaster plants in the coming months. As many of you re-

This news is very disturbing, and continues a pattern of foolhardy actions by the USPS in a misguided "cut to survive" strategy that will ultimately lead to the demise of the Postal Service. It also represents the Service's latest attempt to threaten Members of Congress with adverse consequences in their home districts if the Postmaster General does not get the legislation he is supporting.—National President John Hegarty

call, the work hours expended to consolidate our Williamsport and Reading facilities into the continuing installations of Lehigh Valley and Harrisburg far exceeded the projected savings. As we reported, the Service alleged that they would save \$9 million by consolidating Williamsport and Reading, but instead spent \$31 million more

processing network at the very same time as our share of the package market increases. As ominously predicted by NPMHU National President John Hegarty, this "'cut to survive" strategy... will ultimately lead to the demise of the Postal Service". This appears to be the goal of the PMG as he continues to propose and implement crimes against the mailing public and the employees of the United States Postal Service. Immediately following the announcement to move forward with this Network "Irrationalization" Plan, this office contacted our Central PA District to discuss the logistical specifics of this looming impact. Lead Plant Manager Chris Alexander

than projected. (See April-May Report) The likelihood of a Scranton and Lancaster consolidation resulting in the projected annual savings of more than \$17 million following the disaster of Williamsport and Reading is about 0%. We encourage you all, in every district of this local to contact your elected representatives in both the Senate and Congress and urge them to help end this madness and promote the survival of the United States Postal Service by firing the PMG and endorsing legislation that aims to enhance the Service, not destroy it.

In Solidarity,
John Gibson

Educating Your Representatives

Our most recent Shop Steward's training was held over a two day period in May for eighteen of our newer representatives. We thank those mail handlers who have taken on the challenge and responsibility of this difficult but important job. Protecting our contractual and at times legal rights against all manner of management offensives is no easy task and we appreciate the work our shop stewards do. We also thank National Shop Steward Trainer and Northeast Regional Local 300 President Paul Hogrogian along with National Contract Administration Department Representative Tim Dwyer who have once again taken time out of their busy schedules to share their decades worth of experience with our representatives.



1st Row: Louise Queen, Margot Garcia, Courtney Dickerson, Ottavia Sas, Paulene DeLeon. 2nd Row: Paul Hogrogian, Joy Carlino, Jordan Davis, Teresa Marucci, Caryn Davis, John Gibson, Valarie Waters 3rd Row: Tim Dwyer, Shakia Polk, Eugene Jones, Sean Craig, Greg Hawkins, Phillip Washington, Evamarie Parker, Brian Clark, Ray Olmo

Executive Board Gathers

In accordance with the National and Uniform Local Union Constitutions, the Executive Board of Local 308 held its quarterly meeting on June 24, 2014 in Local Union Headquarters. In attendance were Treasurer Mike Mohan, Vice President Steve Bahrle, Delaware State Executive Board Member Joe Stancell, New Jersey State Executive Board Member Nick Campellone, Pennsylvania State Executive Board Member Mike Rembelinsky, Recording Secretary Joe Zelenenki along with the undersigned. During our meeting a full report regarding the activities of your Local Union since our last meeting was presented along with a full financial report provided by Brother Mohan. A variety of discussions were conducted that included asset allocation, steward vetting and appointment, grievance initiatives, as well as the level of interest in legislative affairs affecting the USPS. The official minutes of this meeting will soon be available on the Local's web site. If you have any specific questions please do not hesitate to contact this office.



L to r: Mike Mohan, Nick Campellone, Joe Zelenenki, Joe Stancell, Mike Rembelinsky, Steve Bahrle, Photographer John Gibson

-John Gibson

*NPMHU, Local 308
President's Report
June 2014*