



NPMHU LOCALS CONVENE



As required by Article IX of the Constitution of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, the first of two Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU) for 2013 was convened in Las Vegas, Nevada, April 4-6, 2013. NPMHU National Officers gathered with representatives from the Local Unions, providing a state of the Union report, a full financial report, a report from the Contract Administration Department as well as matters related to legislation, the Committee on the Future, and other items of interest submitted by the Local Unions.

National President John Hegarty brought the meeting to order on Thursday morning and began by introducing Sister June Harris of Local 306, 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, Eddie Cowan of Local 303.

Our National President began his formal report to the Unions with a review of the status of the critically important Postal Reform needed from the 113th Congress. Brother Hegarty informed those in attendance that he simply did not know whether the reform we need would occur this year. The gridlock that exists on Capitol Hill has an obvious impact on the prospects of measured, yet meaningful reform to the USPS. If anything gets done at all, the \$5.5 billion in retiree health benefit fund payments required by law may be deferred but would not be waived according to Brother Hegarty. In addition, it is unlikely that the overpayment into the Civil Service Retirement System fund, which may be as much as \$80 billion, shall be returned to the Postal Service.

As reported by President Hegarty should a reduction to five day delivery as proposed by the USPS become a reality, it is estimated that a loss of as many as 400 mail handler positions could occur.

Brother Hegarty added that Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi was coordinating with the other Postal Unions in the planning of another Save Our Service rally and added that as details emerge they would be passed on to



the Local Unions.

Brother Hegarty then reviewed the activities of the Committee on the Future of the NPMHU citing specifically a recently circulated "white paper" describing a hybrid plan to privatize the Postal Service which would eliminate all postal employees except those who deliver the so-called "last mile". A full Committee report was distributed to all in attendance.

A review of the recently decided National Agreement was then provided by the National President informing the Local Presidents and others in attendance that a draft version of the Agreement would soon be printed and that a bound version would follow not long after. Brother Hegarty noted that due to significant changes to the terms of our National Contract, the interpretation of those changes would provide quite a bit of work on the local level for Union representatives. Of course the creation of the Mail Handler Assistants (MHAs) and their role in the workforce was of particular interest and Brother Hegarty made it clear that along with some of the other changes, the contractual terrain for the MHAs has yet to be fully mapped out.

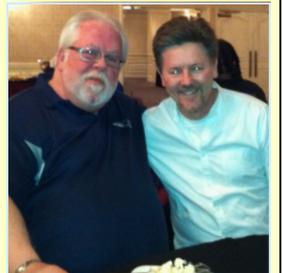
In his report to the body National Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner offered the Locals a detailed report of the National Office's finances as well as specific analysis regarding membership and revenue trends. Brother Gardner reported that there are more than 41,000 mail handlers currently on the rolls and almost 90% belong to the NPMHU. There are, unfortunately, almost 4,500 free-riders. With a contract that continues to protect all mail handlers from lay-off and provides wage increases including cost of living allowances it is inexplicable in this economic environment that this minority still doesn't recognize the value in membership. Collective bargaining works Brothers and Sisters and membership is the only rational course. The Secretary-Treasurer did provide optimism with regard to revenue trends which should see an increase in dues revenue with the inclusion of Mail Handler Assistants in the bargaining unit and the Convention inspired supplemental payment from the National to the Local Unions.

The second half of day one included a Legislative report from Bob Losi who de-

scribed a 113th Congress as a little less than functional, as we continue to lobby for measured Postal reform. As a reminder, Local 308 will be sending four representatives to include Brothers Mike Rembelinsky, Nick Campellone, Quentin Seth along with the undersigned to the 2013 Legislative Congress to be held in Washington DC, May 8-9, 2013. This two day event will see the NPMHU go to Capitol Hill and lobby for the future of the Postal Service and our livelihoods.

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). Representatives from Coventry described a national reduction in enrollment of approximately 2.7% along with a status report of the acquisition of Coventry by Aetna. The purchase of Coventry requires approval from each state as well as the Department of Justice (DOJ) before it can be finalized. At this point the acquisition now only needs the DOJ to approve. Once approved Aetna will become the 3rd of 4th largest managed care organization in the country.

Brother Bill Flynn, Manager of Contract Administration, then gave his 40th and final report to the Local Unions. Brother Flynn, a great friend to Local 308, has long been a staunch advocate for Mail Handlers across the country, committed to protecting and enhancing our rights as Mail Handlers. Bill, we wish you a happy and healthy retirement, you will certainly be missed.



The remainder of the SAMLU was dedicated to a presentation by our National Contract Administration Department covering Article 30 and the protection of our local Memoranda of Understanding.

If you have any questions or concerns about these or any other Union related matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Solidarity,
John Gibson

Article 30 Training Conducted

In our continuing effort to educate those who provide representation to mail handlers, the Union scheduled and conducted Article 30/Local Memorandum of Understanding training for all branches on April 15, 2013. Administering the session were Sam D'Ambrosio and Paul Hogrogrian from the National Office who provided those in attendance with information that will enhance their ability to protect the Local Agreements we currently enjoy. If you have any questions or concerns about your current LMOU please do not hesitate to contact any Union representative and/or your Branch President.



*NPMHU, Local 308
President's Report
March-April 2013*