



# USPS TO EMPLOYEES "AMP YOU!"



As most of you undoubtedly know by now, we are facing the greatest downsizing initiative in the history of the United States Postal Service and many hundreds of mail handlers within Local 308 and thousands more across the country may be impacted. As I meet many of you during facility visits and branch meetings as well as the Area Mail Processing public meetings there is a great sense of cynicism and betrayal regarding the Service's consolidation initiative. Without a doubt there is certainly good reason for this feeling amongst the rank and file. The hardworking mail handlers in the facilities identified for study, our Brothers and Sisters in the seven installations targeted, are now rewarded for their efforts with the threat of having their lives turned upside down. As we attend the public meetings and are bombarded with the alleged projected savings for the Postal Service, there appears to be no consideration of the personal impact to the lives of mail handlers and their families. Management's heartless AMP equation does not include the human element. The "company first, people last" philosophy that now permeates our society, turning the American dream into a corporate nightmare for working people, where the only interest is the bottom line, has now infected the Postal Service. As described at each of the four public meetings held thus far, the AMP assault on our lives is a top down initiative concocted in Washington DC, where the postal

pencil pushers are completely disconnected from the reality of the processing of the mail and the people that make it happen. Yet somehow in their infinite wisdom, they know what's best in Williamsport, Reading, Scranton, Lancaster or thousands of other facilities across the nation. I don't think so, yet we must suffer the consequences of "knee-jerk" decisions made by the faceless automatons hidden away in some ivory tower. These are difficult and stressful times and lives will be impacted, this is a certainty. As we come closer and closer to what will be, at the very least, an ugly situation for many of our Brothers and Sisters, know that we continue to take steps to minimize the impact to the greatest degree possible and intend to exercise all of the tools at our disposal to protect your rights. Please continue to watch the Union's website at the National and Local level as well as your facility's bulletin board for updates on the AMP process. As soon as official details are made available to your Union we will make them available to you. As always feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

In Solidarity,  
John Gibson

## Congress Struggles with Postal Issues

As the number of bills addressing the Postal Service's fiscal woes mounts, we seem further away from a legislated solution than ever before. As explained in the Postal Union's jointly sponsored television add, congress created the mess we're in now and they can fix it. As many of you recall the Postal Enhancement & Accountability Act of 2006 required the Postal Service to pre-fund its Retiree Health Benefit Fund for decades into the future by paying out more than \$5.5 billion annually through 2016. This pre-funding requirement is a burden not borne by any other Federal Agency and no private sector company. The precipitous decline in the nation's economy had made a bad financial situation even worse. The most



prominent legislative initiatives include HR 1351, HR 2309, S 1769 (P-21) and most recently S 1853 introduced by Congressman Bernie Sanders (I) of Vermont. This Union supports HR 1351 and S 1853. Although we have not taken an official position on S 1769, there are provisions of 1769 that are damaging to Postal employees, particularly those who have suffered a job related injury. HR 2309 on the other hand, a bill sponsored by Congressman Darrell Issa (R) of California, who should be the poster boy for the 1%, is an extremely unfriendly, even dangerous bill to the working men and women of the United States Postal Service and we encourage all mail handlers to contact their congressional representative and ask that they oppose this harmful bill. Please go to recently upgraded National web site, [npmhu.org](http://npmhu.org), and click on the legislative link for details and direction on how to contact your member of congress.

We cannot overstate the importance of staying legislatively connected, it is no exaggeration to say that our very livelihoods may be at stake.

## Attend Branch Meetings, & Stay in the Loop!

With all the challenges facing Mail Handlers in these uncertain times please make every effort to attend your Branch Meeting where important information is shared and exchanged between your elected representatives and your Union Brothers and Sisters.



Lancaster members stay informed.

### Upcoming Meeting Schedule\*

Trenton	December 3, 2011	1:00 PM
Phila NDC	December 7, 2011	3:00 PM
Reading	December 10, 2011	8:30 AM
Phila PDC	December 12, 2011	TBD
Harrisburg	December 15, 2011	4:30 PM

\*SEE YOUR LOCAL UNION REPRESENTATIVES FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS

## POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE



Now more than ever an active and aggressive legislative agenda by working men and women is absolutely essential to preserving the middle class and the American Dream. As a matter of law no dues money can be spent directly by any labor organization to advance the candidacy of any individual. However, we can donate voluntarily to the Mail Handlers PAC, which will be used to contribute to the campaigns of those individuals, of any party, who have demonstrated a support for the NPMHU and working people. Please visit [npmhu308.org](http://npmhu308.org) or see your Union rep to find out how you can become a political activist and help defend your rights as a working person.



Members gather in Scranton.

## Local Unions to Meet in Washington DC

As required by Article VII, Section 9 of our National Constitution, our National Leadership has called all Local Presidents and other representatives to Washington DC on Decem-

ber 1, 2011 to "receive their advice and counsel" with regard to the path of a successor National Agreement. As we have followed the progress of negotiations through the Contract Updates provided by the National Office it is clear to most that a negotiated settlement appears

to be a long shot. A review of Update # 8 reveals a series of draconian measures proposed by the USPS reversing many of the bargained rights we currently enjoy. As soon as practicable this Local will provide you with the details of our meeting.

# PLEASE POST

*NPMHU, Local 308  
President's Report  
November 2011*