



# AMP UPDATE



Since announced more than a year ago, the so-called Network Optimization plan hatched by Postal bean counters in Washington DC has been hanging over our heads. A plan that included consolidating or closing more than 250 mail processing facilities and thousands of Post Offices nationwide affecting countless lives. Congress, for the most part, has simply sat on their hands while the settled lives of hard working mail handlers across this Local and across the country hang in the balance. As many of you know Area Mail Processing feasibility studies have been conducted on five mail processing installations within the jurisdiction of Local 308 and include Southeastern, Lancaster, Scranton, Reading, and Williamsport. In a November 27th teleconference Local 308 as well as NPMHU Regional Director Teresa Harmon with Area Labor Relations representative Ken Botknecht and Central PA District representatives including Lyle Gaines, Steve Kunisky, Peggy Bolen, and Karen Barber discussed the Network Optimization status of Williamsport, Reading, and Scranton. According to management there will be no reassignment of Scranton Mail Handlers until 2014 although originating mail will be leaving Scranton in 2013, there will be no reassignment of mail handlers outside of the facility at that time. Management confirmed that they will reassign all current

mail handlers now in the Williamsport facility effective February 23, 2012 with 60 day notices to be issued on or after December 10, 2012. As reported by the Service there are currently 32 residual vacancies in the Harrisburg facility with another 7 assignments to be created for the incoming Williamsport mail. This is considered a centralization of mail processing operations and reassigned mail handlers should expect to be treated as details for 120 days from the date of the first assignment. This means that although schedules will be preferenced, these are not bids and should be posted at the end of the 120 day period along with the newly created assignments for all mail handlers eligible to bid within the facility. Central PA management was instructed by the Area to schedule relocation seminars for the impacted employees well in advance of February 23. I have previously forwarded information regarding those benefits to your facility representatives. The issue of mail handler work remaining in the Williamsport facility was raised and management was notified that the Union will be conducting a site visit post AMP. With regard to the Reading facility, management confirmed that it intends to also reassign all remaining mail handlers effective February 23, 2012 with 60 day notices issued on or after December 10, 2012. Along with Harrisburg's 32 residual vacancies an additional 27 positions will be cre-

ated for the incoming mail. In addition, Lehigh Valley residuals will be offered to impacted Reading Mail Handlers. According to management, 11 residuals currently exist in Lehigh. There are outstanding issues related to the facility's continuing mail handler needs however, including any proposed hub operations or other mail handler duties. I expect to hear from management within the next ten days on remaining mail handler work. Again, this is considered a centralization into Harrisburg and reassignments will be treated as details for 120 days from the first assignment. On the other hand, the Lehigh positions will not be treated as details, and reassigned mail handlers can access the bidding process in accordance with Article 12. The status of the Lancaster consolidation within the Central PA District as well as the Southeastern consolidation within the Philadelphia District has not changed and the logistical specifics of those consolidations have not yet been shared with Local 308. As soon as details are available we will share them with you, In the interim please do not hesitate to contact your Union representative or this office with any questions or concerns on this or any other Union related matter.

In Union Solidarity,  
John Gibson

## The Battle Rages On



As we all breathe a collective sigh of relief following a brutal election season, our work on Postal reform begins anew. The make-up of the 113th Congress, while improved, still includes enough Postal haters to sink this ship and our jobs with it. Congressional foes of the Postal Service and the working people it employs will be no less antagonistic towards reform as we fight for the legislation we need to protect our

Service and our Jobs. The chances of Postal reform during the Lame Duck session are slim which means we must gear up for what will undoubtedly be the fight for our very existence. Senate bill 1789, which was imperfect to be sure, will have to be reintroduced in the new Congress and a companion bill introduced in the House. As many of you know the House Bill we have supported in the past is the bi-partisan endorsed HR 1351 introduced by a great friend of the NPMHU, Stephen Lynch (D-MA). HR 1351 has the support of 227 in Congress including 33 Republicans and contains what we believe to be the right path to Postal solvency which is critical to ensuring mail handler jobs and stemming the tide of closures and consolidations. The road to a fiscally vibrant Postal Service moving forward is not to shrink, but to expand the products and services we provide the American people. On the other hand, the House, in the form of HR 2309, generated legislation that would, if adopted, destroy the Postal Service as we know it and obliterate the rights we have fought so very hard for. Sponsored by Darth Vader, (Darrell Issa (R-CA)), and Dennis Ross (R-FL) this destructive mess of a bill will target the hard working employees of the Service by creating the Postal Service Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority which, among other powers can revise the current criteria for establishing wages and benefits including rolling back fringe benefits to 1971 levels. This bill will also eliminate the negotiated no lay-off clause and allow the Postal Service to force injured employees into retirement. Once again our work, challenging and demanding work to be sure, is ahead of us and it is a fight we must meet head on. I urge you all to stay engaged with the legislative battle we all now face. If you are not enrolled or contribute to the Mail Handlers Political Action Committee (PAC) please sign up through Postal Ease or send a check directly to

**Mail Handlers PAC**  
PO Box 65171  
Washington DC 20035



and follow all relevant and important postal legislation at [npmhu.org](http://npmhu.org).

## Local Branch Meetings



South Jersey



Lancaster



Scranton



Scranton

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