

MAIL HANDLERS FORGE AHEAD

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LOCAL 308 PRESIDENT



After wrapping the important business of our quadrennial National Convention, there will be very little time to catch our collective breath. Yes, debate, discussion, and ultimately changes to our National and Local Constitutions are no small matters to be sure. Add to that the important resolutions introduced and considered by the highest authority of this Union, the Convention's Delegation, seeking to define the loftier goals of this great Union is also an immense and important task. Great thanks to all those behind the scenes who facilitated what was a productive and well executed event. Not to mention the role our National Officers, President Hogrogian and National Secretary Treasurer Tabarus who, in his first effort in this role, made it all come together. A full and detailed report of the activities and the business of the 2024 National Convention is available online at npmhu.org. While there are still National elections to be conducted, which will finalize the business of the 2024 Convention, it is back to the always serious business of defending the contractual rights we have earned over decades of struggle for the scores of dedicated Union representatives across all thirty-six Local Unions.

For example, convention or no convention, the United States Postal

Service continues to drive forward with their marginally conceived plan of sorts to reconfigure the entire Postal Network from processing all the way through the final mile. They have made no secret of the potential pain bargaining unit employees, including mail handlers, may experience as both mail and employees are moved as a result of Postmaster General Dejoy's 10-year plan. As some have stated, Postal headquarters isn't quite sure what they plan to do but they're in a hell of a hurry to do it. Nothing novel in this approach, but that doesn't make it any less disruptive for thousands of employees. Minimizing any adverse effect on the members of the NPMHU will obviously be of the highest priority as operations management will undoubtedly misapply most of the provisions of Article 12 during this historic upheaval. Sisters and Brothers, I am confident that with Local and National representatives working collaboratively, we will meet this challenge and emerge more unified and stronger than ever.

Of course, our work demands reach well beyond the impact of the colossal changes to the Postal Service proposed by the PMG. As recently announced by President Hogrogian, we are already preparing for next year's contract negotiations. Our

current collective bargaining agreement expires September 20, 2025, with negotiations beginning in June of next year. As announced on September 9th, President Hogrogian has issued a call to all members to submit proposals which read in part,

"If you have any proposals that you would like to have considered for the upcoming round of bargaining, now is the time to submit them to the National Office. Every proposal submitted will be fully analyzed by the NPMHU's Field Negotiating Committee and the National Negotiations Team...To be fully considered prior to the onset of negotiations, proposals must be submitted by January 31, 2025. Although formal bargaining is not scheduled to begin until June, the Union's Field Negotiating Committee will be meeting for a full week in February 2025 to review all submitted proposals and outline the changes in the National Agreement that should be proposed by the NPMHU." Submission forms for any contract proposal are available at npmhu.org.

As you can see Brothers and Sisters, along with the day-to-day trials and tribulations of defending the rights of mail handlers, there is a constant effort to protect and improve our collective standing in the postal workplace. This battle never ends, and we must always forge ahead.