



## “LOCAL” MAIL STAYING “LOCAL”

Paul V. Hogrogian, National President

**D**ear Members: Earlier this year the Postal Service announced what it called “Mail Processing Facility Reviews” (MPFRs) for approximately sixty sites. The Postal Service had determined that there was a need to consolidate certain mail processing operations from these facilities into other processing centers. The plan was to move ALL Outgoing/Originating mail (letters/flats and parcels) from the targeted installation to a centralized Mail Processing Facility (MPF). The targeted facilities included:

- Provo
- Minneapolis
- Trenton
- Wilmington
- South Jersey
- Lehigh Valley
- Bethlehem
- Scranton
- Columbia, MO
- Springfield, MO
- Tacoma
- Yakima
- Wenatchee
- Missoula
- Knoxville
- El Paso
- Fayetteville
- Dakota Central
- Bismarck
- Grand Forks
- Bemidji
- Cheyenne
- North Platte
- Grand Junction
- Buffalo
- Charleston, WV
- Johnston
- Eastern Maine
- Fort Myers
- Champaign
- Peoria
- Lubbock
- Midland
- Abilene
- Brockton
- Burlington
- Casper
- Charleston
- White River Junction
- Fresno
- Reno
- Gulfport
- Quad Cities
- Waterloo
- Iron Mountain
- Sioux Falls
- Manchester

While some of these consolidations made sense, others did not. The original concept was to centralize mail processing among facilities in a metropolitan area within a 50-mile radius. The Postal Service’s plans, in some instances, have extended much further than that, often exceeding one hundred miles, sometimes exceeding two hundred miles. This would mean that a letter mailed across town would travel to a centralized facility (often 100–200 miles away), be processed there and then returned to the original facility for local processing. We have and will continue to argue to the Postal Service that they must reevaluate the situation, reconsider these plans and implement a more reasonable and rational plan.

Many representatives in Congress have also voiced their opposition to the Mail Processing Facility reviews. At least four separate bills have been introduced in Congress to stop the consolidations until service performance improves. A bi-partisan group of twenty-six Senators signed a letter to pause all changes to the delivery network until the Postal Regulatory Commission reviews the proposed changes. Ron Stroman, a member of the Board of Governors and former Deputy Postmaster General, called on the Service to slow down network changes until service scores improves and “has gotten close to our service targets for 2024.”

The Postal Service has now announced a change in their plans. The Postal Service’s plans propose improvements in mail processing and transportation. The Postal Service now proposes to continue mail cancellation operations in thirty-six of the proposed sixty MPFR sites. The “local” mail processed there will therefore remain in the local area, thereby avoiding the unnecessary round trips of several hundreds of miles. The Postal Service claims that the proposed changes will maintain the existing 1–5-day service standards for first class mail.

The NPMHU has not yet been supplied with a complete list of the thirty-six facilities where local mail will remain local. However, the Postal Service has already announced that its plans to send ALL Outgoing mail from Reno, Nevada to Sacramento, California have now changed. The Reno Postal facility will now continue certain local originating mail processing operations. Outgoing single piece mail will continue to be processed at its current location in Reno.

The Postal Service anticipated staffing impacts due to the proposed move of originating operations to Sacramento. However, with the decision to keep these operations at the Reno facility, there are no anticipated employee impacts. We are hopeful of comparable results in the other thirty-five MPFR sites where the local mail will be processed locally.

The Postal Service also announced that "local" mail in Charleston, WV and Bismarck, ND will also remain "local."

It is worth repeating that these plans are extremely fluid and subject to change. The National Office will provide updates on this project as we receive more information.

The NPMHU will ensure that the Postal Service complies with all the provisions of our National Agreement especially those contained in Article 12 and keeping all dislocation and inconvenience to Mail Handlers to an absolute minimum when implementing these plans.

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The proposed changes should not impact Election Mail for the upcoming elections. The Postal Service has outlined its preparedness for the secure and successful delivery of Election Mail during the 2024 general election. The USPS will draw from its successes during the 2020 and 2022 elections. In the 2020 general election, the Postal Service delivered 99.89% of ballots from voters to election officials within seven days. The 2022 midterm elections saw a similar level of efficiency with 99.93% delivered within seven days.

USPS officials announced that it will once again implement proven extraordinary measures in the weeks immediately before and after the election (October 21 to November 15, 2024) to enhance the timely delivery of mail-in ballots entered close to Election Day or the state's designated ballot return deadline. These efforts may include extra pick-ups, extra deliveries, extended hours and special sort plans on processing equipment to expedite and enhance ballot delivery.

The Postal Service has already committed to pause the movement of mail and packages identified in the Mail Processing Facility Reviews until early 2025.

The Postal Service has once again established Election Task Forces at the National, Local and Branch levels. Mail Handlers will serve on the Local and Branch Task Forces while NPMHU Political and Legislative Director Katie Maddocks will represent the NPMHU on the National Election Committee.

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The Postal Service has received the go ahead to move forward with Phase 7 for the processing/shipping of COVID test kits. The proposed COVID test kits fulfillment sites are:

- 1. Cleveland, OH
- 2. Industry, CA

- 3. Jersey City, NJ
- 4. St Louis, MO
- 5. Sacramento, CA
- 6. Philadelphia, PA
- 7. Westchester, NY
- 8. San Jose, CA
- 9. Trenton, NJ
- 10. Palatine, IL
- 11. Grand Rapids, MI

The target Launch Date is September 23, 2024, and the anticipated ramp down period (if no Phase 8) is October 21 to November 27, 2024.

This program provides Mail Handlers with another opportunity to perform an essential Public Health Service to the American people.

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The NPMHU was recently inducted into the Department of Labor's "Century of Service Honor Roll of American Labor Organizations." The Honor Roll showcases unions who have reached 100 years. The ceremony, which was hosted by Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su, was held at the Frances Perkins



Building in Washington, DC on September 17, 2024. I had the privilege of representing the NPMHU at the ceremony. It is certainly a great honor reflecting our great organization and its great membership.

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I remain confident that through the work of our Contract Administration Department and our legal representatives, and through the hard work of our Regional, Local, and Branch representatives, we can successfully meet all challenges that lie before us.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul V. Hogrogian", is written over a horizontal line.

**Paul V. Hogrogian**  
National President