



# MAIL HANDLER UPDATE

**NATIONAL POSTAL MAIL HANDLERS UNION**

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## JOIN THE UNION—JOIN THE FIGHT! NPMHU NATIONWIDE ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF: JANUARY 1, 2014



Mark A. Gardner  
Secretary-Treasurer



**In an effort to further unify our membership during these difficult and uncertain times, the NPMHU Committee on the Future has renewed a nationwide organizing campaign that will be rolled out on January 1, 2014. The theme of this campaign is a familiar one, “Join the Union, Join the Fight—It’s a Career Decision!”**

As all Mail Handler union members know, there are some who take for granted the hard-fought salary and benefit packages that Mail Handlers enjoy. Many of those individuals do not recognize and value the hard work that NPMHU representatives provide, day in and day out, to secure, maintain, and improve upon our wages, benefits, job protections, and working conditions.

This organizing campaign will empower members to work together to make these non-member holdouts understand that they have their mail handler jobs only because of the strength and commitment of the NPMHU—and that the time has come for them to join and support the National Postal Mail Handlers Union.

To help facilitate this campaign, the National Office has developed an updated NPMHU organizing brochure, which describes many of the benefits of union

membership. Copies of this brochure, along with other organizing materials, will be mailed to thousands of NPMHU officers and shop stewards across the country in the coming weeks.

As a special incentive, the National Executive Board has reinstated, for a limited time, a program wherein the National Union will pay a \$50 “bounty” to each Mail Handler member responsible for signing up a non-member, consistent with the following provisions: To qualify for payment, the current member, steward, or officer must (1) sign up a mail handler who was hired prior to September 1, 2013, (signing up newer employees—those hired since September 1, 2013 is encouraged, but will not qualify for payment) and (2) send in the newly-developed sponsor card (copies of which will be mailed to all officers and stewards) to the National

Office no later than March 15, 2014. The National Office will monitor the dues check-off report, and will send a \$50 check to the organizer once the eligible new member appears on dues check-off. Remember, a separate \$50 bounty will be paid for each recruited non-member, consistent with the provisions detailed above, and therefore members who are effective organizers can earn multiple payments.

We encourage all members to monitor union bulletin boards, National publications and the website at [www.npmhu.org](http://www.npmhu.org) for additional information on this upcoming organizing campaign. Organizing campaign literature will be mailed to every NPMHU steward and officer in the country in the coming weeks. Please review these materials, and feel free to use the documents during recruitment discussions with all non-members.

### Contract and Membership Cards Distributed

**T**he NPMHU recently completed the task of mailing a booklet containing the 2011 National Agreement and an NPMHU membership card to every member in good standing. Please take the time to read the contract, protect your rights and contact your Union Steward if you observe violations; you are the eyes and ears of enforcement.

If you did not receive a National Agreement and membership card, there is a very good chance that the USPS does not have your current address on file. Keep in mind that the Union’s mailing address database for all regular members is updated each accounting period from address data provided to the National Union from the USPS. These updates provide the most current contact information available. In order to ensure that you receive all correspondence from the Union (and USPS) you must update any mailing address changes with the employer. You may update your address via Postal Liteblue at <https://liteblue.usps.gov>. In addition, you may submit the change by mailing a completed PS Form 1216, Employee’s Current Mailing Address, to HRSSC COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS, PO BOX 970400, GREENSBORO NC 27497-0400, or you may process the change of address via telephone by calling HRSSC at 877-477-3273, option 5, and following the prompts to speak to a service representative who will assist you.

### Scholarship Opportunities Available

**A**ll mail handlers are encouraged to take full advantage of several scholarship opportunities that are now available and detailed on-line at [www.npmhu.org](http://www.npmhu.org). National Postal Mail Handler Union regular members and their eligible family members may apply for scholarship assistance from the NPMHU Arthur S. Vallone National Scholarship Program. In addition, there are other scholarships available through the Union Plus Education Foundation and the Union Plus/National Labor College. Deadlines and eligibility requirements vary; please visit the NPMHU site for applications, guidelines and additional program details.



### Holiday Safety

**A**s we enter the holiday season, personal and workplace demands typically ratchet up. Family commitments, personal obligations and stress compete with increased workplace burdens. With the increasing mail volumes, many mail handlers will experience additional work hours through the holiday season. It is a busy time of the year, so please work safely to ensure that you may fully enjoy the holidays with your family and friends. On behalf of the National Executive Board, Contract Administration Department and NPMHU national staff, we offer our best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a healthy and fruitful New Year.

### NEW LEAVE YEAR TO START JANUARY 11, 2014

The new Postal Service leave year will begin on January 11, 2014 (pay period 3). As usual, the maximum carryover for annual leave is 55 days or 440 hours, so any annual leave above that amount must be used by January 10, 2014 or that leave will be forfeited. Anyone who is above the 440 carryover hours should plan now to use the excess leave to ensure that you do not lose it.



**Please Post!!**

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