



Colorado Mail Handlers Union, Local 321

FYI Update

April 2010

NPMHU

Expand Denver's Network Distribution Center & Close the Mail Processing Annex

The United States Postal Service has made no bones about their nationwide plan to get out of expensive leased facilities. The current lease for Denver's Mail Processing Annex expires on December 31, 2010.

Considering this and the fact that the Postal Service previously notified the Unions that the MPA would close in *February of 2010*, we knew it was only be a matter of time before this issue resurfaced; that time has come.

The Postal Service is once again exploring options that may result in closure and termination of all MPA operations. Local managers have made a proposal to expand the NDC and shift the MPA's APPS and priority operations into this new space. This proposal is in the very early stages, and has not been approved by Postal headquarters.

Nonetheless, I have received several calls questioning the rumors that are running on the floor. I can share this information with the caveat that it is only a proposal. The project is in the development stages and is under consideration; nothing has been approved. Is expected to be 90 days before Postal headquarters officials make their final decision.

The project would expand the NDC by enough space to accommodate a second APPS machine. This expansion would be approximately half the size of the recent GMF west-side (FSS) project. The construction project will take 2 years to complete. If approved, the MPA would shift to a month-to-month lease until the NDC construction is complete. Once complete, the APPS would be moved into the NDC, and the USPS would vacate the MPA.

The Union will continue to meet with management with the goal of minimizing any adverse impact on the craft.

The Union's advice: do not bid because of this news. The project will take years to complete, and it is not yet approved. This information is not a reason to vacate a bid assignment that you want. Additional information will be disseminated as it becomes available.

Denver NDC/P&DC Branch Meeting Time Change

The upcoming NDC/P&DC Branch Meeting scheduled for Thursday April 29, 2010 and all future NDC/P&DC meetings have been changed to 1pm.

The meeting will be at Local 321's offices at 1833 W ELK PLACE. A light snack and beverages will be available.

Five Day Delivery

*The Mail Handlers Update
March 2010*

It was best said by our National President John F. Hegarty, "Saturday delivery is an essential part of the Postal Service brand. While the current business model needs to adjust to the decline in volume, we should not push for a less professional, more limited role in the future. The new slogan of the Postal Service should not be, 'neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night - except on weekends.'"



The elimination of Saturday delivery will draw a lot of attention, and its demise will drive vital business to private sector competitors. Saturday delivery at weekday prices is a niche that only the Postal Service fills. Whether it is someone's government benefit check, a much-needed prescription drug, or a birthday gift, only the Postal Service provides reliable Saturday service without charging a premium. For many small businesses, Saturday deliveries are the differences between thriving and bankruptcy.

Current problems in volume and revenue, which competitors such as UPS and FedEx also are experiencing, start with a poor economy, and should be mitigated by a general economic recovery.

Factoid:

According to the Federal Times, the United States Postal Service submitted their Five-Day Delivery proposal to the Postal Rate Commission via e-mail

H.R. 4865 Introduced as the Thrift Savings Plan Bill

H.R. 4865 is legislation that could greatly enhance your retirement income. The "Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Bill" is now moving its way through the House. If enacted, the Bill will allow Postal and federal workers to deposit unused annual leave into their TSP account.

Employees could make the deposit only at retirement and only with allowable unused annual leave. Details would have to be developed by the Office of Personnel Management. However, the proposal mirrors recent changes in private sector 401(k) plans. In September the IRS began allowing private-sector employees to roll the cash value of unused vacation and sick leave time into their 401(k) accounts. This bill would allow TSP participants to do the same for vacation time, but it would not allow feds or service members to convert sick leave. Unused leave deposits would count toward annual contribution limits set by the IRS. Employees under 50 years of age are capped at \$16,500

per year; employees who are 50 or older can contribute an additional \$5,500 on top of that.

"This legislation provides workers with another way to boost their TSP accounts," announced principal author Representative Steven F. Lynch (D-MA). He was joined by Republican Representative Jason Chaffetz (UT), as the bill passed out of subcommittee unanimously.

The next step is for the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to take up the bill. No date has been scheduled. The National Postal Mail Handlers Union strongly endorses this legislation and will keep members informed through magazines and bulletins.

Colorado House Speaker Pushes Vote by Mail and Election Reform

House Speaker Terrance Carroll has announced he will introduce a bill that will expand access to mail ballots and expand our state's existing safety net of late voter registration. This bill just makes common sense. Expanding access to mail ballots will lower the cost of elections as County Clerks statewide are seeing budget cuts (note that the bill would still require polling locations in every county and would not replace voting in person). And expanding our state's current law permitting late registration would be another step toward ensuring that every citizen of our state who wants to vote has every opportunity to do that - no citizen should be denied their vote, for example, because of an administrative error.

Here are some important points about the Speaker's proposal that we support:

1. Mail ballots will be sent to nearly every registered voter, except people for whom the state doesn't have a good address.
2. Any voter can still choose to vote in person instead of by mail if that's how they prefer to vote.
3. The state's existing law permitting late emergency registration that has worked well for years would be expanded to allow any citizen to register and vote up to the Friday before Election Day beginning this year and through Election Day beginning in 2012.

We support election reform legislation that meets these goals and urge our election officials and legislators to do the same. Please take the time to comment in support by visiting the Progress Now Colorado link placed on Local 321's home page: www.local321.org.

In Unity,
Mike

**Michael J Hora
President
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