



Colorado Mail Handlers Union, Local 321

FYI Update

August 2010

NPMHU

USPS to Consolidate Operations in Ft. Collins, Golden, Longmont and Littleton on Aug 28, 2010

By next week, all mail handlers in Ft. Collins, Golden, Littleton and Longmont will have received letters affording them the opportunity to select from about 65 different (120 day) detail assignments; most of which will be in the Denver P&DC. As of today, the effective date of their involuntary reassignments is August 28, 2010.

I would encourage each mail handler to take advantage of this selection opportunity. If you don't make a choice, the USPS will make one for you. Each reassigned mail handler will remain in their detailed schedule as unassigned regulars for 120 days as required by Article 12.6B7 and 12.6C6a(3).

After the 120 day inequities period, all reassigned mail handlers will be eligible to bid with full seniority in the gaining installation. Additionally, as unassigned regulars, each involuntarily reassigned mail handler may also be assigned to a residual vacancy after 120 days. Please watch the vacancy postings and bid accordingly.

In addition, 57 clerks, (19 each from Golden, Longmont and Littleton) are also set to be reassigned. Some of these clerks will possibly land into metro area clerk vacancies. The remaining clerks without assignments will be involuntarily reassigned to the mail handler craft. Any clerk reassignments into the mail handler craft will also be effective on August 28, 2010.

As of now, it appears that all reassigned clerks are fulltime employees. This means that they will be reassigned as fulltime regular mail handlers (in the Denver P&DC), and will begin a new period of seniority in accordance with Article 12.2G3.

In short, all affected mail handlers will be reassigned with full craft seniority; they will retain their current craft employment classification and can bid after 120 days. All full-time clerks reassigned into the mail handler craft can bid immediately, but do so with a new seniority date.

The following seniority dates of our involuntarily reassigned mail handlers will become effective on December 28, 2010¹:

08/03/85	03/01/86	05/09/87
09/04/93	11/27/93	07/08/95
09/02/95	12/23/95	02/17/96
10/11/97	08/29/98	11/07/98
02/13/99	06/19/99	08/14/99
10/23/99	02/12/00	07/15/00
08/12/00	10/05/02	01/11/03
12/10/05	01/21/06	03/31/07
06/09/07		

¹ Additional adjustments in seniority may occur in accordance with Article 12.2G6.

H.R. 5746

(Excerpt from www.npmhu.org / Legislative Update)

House of Representatives Bill 5746 (the United States Postal Service's CSRS Obligation Modification Act of 2010) was just introduced by Congressman Stephen F. Lynch (D-MA) on July 15, 2010. This important piece of legislation, if passed, would direct the Office of Personnel Management to use proper accounting practices when determining the Postal Service's liabilities regarding its obligations to the Civil Service Retirement System.

Ultimately, it is expected that this bill would lessen or eliminate the unfair and unjust payments that have saddled the Postal Service since the passage of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006. In particular, the amount of the Postal Service's "overpayment" to the CSRS, which is anywhere from \$50 to \$75 billion dollars,

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would be used to reduce the amounts that the Postal Service currently owes to the Retiree Health Benefit

Fund. Eliminating this massive obligation would put the USPS in much better shape financially.

As USPS employees, H.R. 5746 may be the most important piece of legislation we will ever face. It has the potential to change the financial future of the Service. We need every member to contact your member of the House of Representatives and ask him or her to sign on as a cosponsor of this extremely important legislation as soon as possible; we expect action on this bill to start very soon.

Please take 2 minutes to phone your Congressional District Representative to ask them to support HR 5746. Our future may depend on it!

CD1	Rep. Diana DeGette	(202) 225-4431 (303) 844-4988
CD2	Rep. Jared Polis	(202) 225-2161 (303) 484-9596
CD3	Rep. John Salazar	(202) 225-4761 (970) 245-7107
CD4	Rep. Betsy Markey	(202) 225-4676 (970) 221-7110
CD5	Rep. Doug Lamborn	(202) 225-4422 (719) 520-0055
CD6	Rep. Mike Coffman	(202) 225-7882 (720) 283-9772
CD7	Rep. Ed Perlmutter	(202) 225-2645 (303) 274-7944

If you are interested in working on the 2010 Labor Campaign, please reach out to Zack Mischo at 303-946-0166.

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Mail Handlers Union Picnic

This year's mail handler appreciation picnic was another huge success. I would like to thank those that worked the event for their time and hard work. We were honored to have NPMHU National President John Hegarty and Central Region Vice President Jefferson Peppers on hand for our event. In addition, MHPB® (Mail Handler Benefit Plan) Representative Brad Corban attended and donated a flat screen television to the Union's randomly awarded prizes.

In addition to the great music, and plentiful food and drink, mail handlers and their families biked, boated, swam, and played volleyball at the Aurora Reservoir. We hope to see you all again next year!

The winners of the prizes are:

<u>Flat Screen TV</u>		
ART	ROJAS	GMF
<u>\$50 Gift Card</u>		
L.C.	ROYBAL	MPA
R.	ROSA	COS
C.J	DAVIS	GMF
M.A.	MARTINEZ	NDC
J.C.	GRIFFIN JR	NDC
M.C.	HARTE	COS

Fourteen Days to File

By contract, the Union's opportunity to file a grievance is limited in scope. In accordance with Article 15.2, *the Union may initiate a grievance at Step 1 within 14 days of the date the Union first became aware of (or reasonably should have become aware of) the facts giving rise to the grievance.*

Please know that management DOES NOT automatically provide the Union with a copy of discipline when it is issued to a mail handler. If you receive discipline, whether in person or by mail, it is imperative that you notify the Union immediately. We only have 14 days to act on your behalf.

Additionally, union members are reminded that it is **YOUR** responsibility to ask for a steward if management requests to interview you and you feel the meeting could lead to discipline. Though management **usually** provides a steward without you asking, the **burden of requesting a steward falls directly on the employee.** These are your Weingarten rights. These rights apply when **ANY** Postal entity (OIG, Inspectors, etc.) request to interview you. Make a request for a steward if you have any questions at all as to the reason for the meeting.

In Unity,
Mike

Michael J Hora
President
NPMHU, Local 321