

COLORADO



LOCAL 321

NATIONAL POSTAL MAIL HANDLERS UNION

Division of the Laborer's International Union of North America,
AFL-CIO

1833 WEST ELK PLACE - DENVER, COLORADO 80211

Office 1-303-455-6400 Fax 1-303-455-5810 Watts 1-800-521-5094 TDD 1-303-455-6400



~ ~ FOR YOUR INFORMATION ~ ~

July 11, 2008

Mail Handlers Picnic

This year's Mail Handler picnic was an overwhelming success. We have not finalized the numbers yet, but we know we fed many hundreds of members and their families. I would like to thank Vice President Don Gonzales for organizing the event. Thanks to Gonzo's planning and coordination, the picnic ran like clock-work.

In addition, we are grateful to the cooks who battled the heat of the grills, the ladies on the food line who kept things flowing, J.D. on the camera and those that worked the PAC and registration booth. Additionally, we had many Union representatives, their spouses and other Union members that assisted with set-up and break-



down and we thank you all for your help. I would be remiss if I did not recognize our *DJ Extraordinaire*, Brother Donny Hermosillo. Don kept the pavilion hopping all afternoon!

For those of you that did attend, you had the opportunity to meet and speak with your National President John Hegarty, National Legislative and Political Director Bob Losi, and the Colorado AFL-CIO Executive Director Mike Cerbo. A Political Action Committee 50/50 drawing was conducted; GMF mail handler David Barron won \$570.00. In addition, Brad Corban from Coventry®/Mail Handler Benefit Plan® was present to recognize Local 321's marketing efforts and achievements. Coventry's support and generosity is most appreciated. They donated a 19" flat

screen television that was awarded to BMC Mail Handler Doug Seaton by way of a random drawing from the members.

Those in attendance also had an opportunity to mingle with, and hear Congressman Mark Udall speak. The Congressman (pictured center) issued a press release announcing his appearance at the Colorado Mail Handlers picnic at Lakeside Amusement Park. Channels 2 and 31 covered his speech and subsequent press conference. It is good to have friends in Congress. Thank you all for attending this year's event. Your ongoing support is appreciated. All picnic photos will be linked to our home page www.local321.org soon.

More T-2 Craft Reductions Imminent

The Postal Service is reporting that the mail volume and revenue continues to drop. June's figures show a significant reduction when compared to (SPLY) same-period-last-year. The Postal Service is taking aggressive steps to cut costs.

The Union met with senior Postal managers on June 30 and July 7, 2008 to hear their proposals to cut certain operations out of T-2. Management has proposed to cease all Denver GMF letter automation processing on August 16, 2008. Management has stated that they will be excessing and abolishing all T-2 mail handlers from the automation unit, effective August 16, 2080. This will adversely affect 9 mail handlers in the Denver GMF.

In addition, management is making reductions in flat operations in the GMF and SPBS operation at the MPA. Management is proposing to eliminate all AFSM1000 operations on T-2. This will impact 1 mail handler; however, he will not be excessed out of the section. Instead, this mail handler will be moved to similar duties within his flat sections. Similarly, the T-2 SPBS mail handlers will not be excessed, but will perform similar duties in their APPS/SPBS sections.

While this is certainly not great news, many of our craft employees were able to avoid being excessed to the needs of a section. The Union was able to keep the SPBS and Flat1000 mail handlers out of an excess/abolish situation. The Union's were assured that these reductions are not a result of lackluster performance; the reductions are directly linked to flat or declining mail volume.

Management has indicated that they are also looking at future reductions in the manual operations at the GMF. They have also promised additional adjustments and reductions if mail volume continues to drop. They have agreed to meet with the Union before acting on these proposals, should they become necessary.

The Union will monitor management's actions and challenge all violations accordingly. The most obvious concern we have is will the operations actually stop? Will management really shut down automation for all of T-2? Will someone else perform the duties of those excessed? We will monitor and respond accordingly.

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OPM Grants USPS Authority to Offer Early Retirement

On July 8, 2008, the Postal Service announced that it had received approval from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management to offer voluntary early retirements to postal employees in clerk and mail handler positions nationwide. Automation and technological advances, coupled with mail volume reductions, has the Postal Service continuing to look for ways to voluntarily reduce its work force; in this case, by offering a VERA to certain employees in late 2008 or early 2009 as part of a nationwide reorganization. In a statement issued to the *Federal Times*, the Postal Service said it will not offer buyouts to anyone taking early retirement. The Postal Service said further details on the early retirement offer will be released in the near future.

The NPMHU will be meeting with the USPS to discuss all early out options now that OPM had made their ruling. Additional details will be posted as information becomes available.



Too much is at stake Nov. 4...

YOUR VOTE ON NOV. 4 will determine whether working families have good jobs, affordable health care, education, workplace rights, job safety, civil rights, retirement security and more.

...To let it slip away.

VOTING RIGHTS violations around the country in 2004 deprived thousands of working families, people of color, retirees, persons with disabilities, new citizen voters and the poor of their right to vote. You can make sure it doesn't happen again in 2008.

Act now to protect your vote.

TAKE A FEW SIMPLE STEPS now to make sure your vote is safe, secure and counted on Nov. 4:

- Contact your local election office immediately to check that you are registered to vote and find out where you should vote. Register immediately if you are not. It's easy to register online at www.myvotemyright.org.
- If you do not receive a registration card within three weeks of registering, call your election office. If there is a problem, follow instructions to correct the problem or reregister.
- It is particularly important to check your registration or reregister if you have moved, changed your name, or have not voted in recent elections.
- Find out whether you can vote early. If early voting is allowed in your community—do it.
- Check with your local election office about any new voting procedures and to see a sample ballot.

Postal Employees Day at Elitch Gardens

By Brad Walker

The Social and Recreation Committee is pleased to announce the Postal Employees Day at Elitch Gardens on Sunday August 3rd, 2008. The park is open from 10 am to 10 pm. Tickets are \$25 each and include admission to the park with unlimited rides; this does include entry to the water park.

An all you can eat lunch will be served in the Longs Peak Pavilion from 12:30 to 2:30 PM. Everyone going through the food service line will be given a return ticket good for limited use in September and October.

If someone has a season pass, they should purchase the "food only" ticket; the cost is \$8. Children under 3 are admitted to the park free. Senior Citizens 70 and over are also admitted to the park free.

Contacts are: Brad Walker 303-435-8626
Brenda Ruiz 303-853-6332

GET INVOLVED

Verify your voter registration information and print your mail- in-ballot application at: www.elections.colorado.gov

Tour 2 Reduction set to Impact Colorado Springs Mail Handlers

The Union met with Colorado Springs management on July 11, 2008. Our representatives were informed of management's proposal to excess three (3) Tour 2 mail handlers and reassign them to Tour 3. Management cited the "decreasing mail volume's adverse affect on the economic welfare of the USPS," as the basis for this decision. Management's written notice states that these changes will occur in no less than 30 days. Management also indicated that there may be "minor changes" in report times on Tours 1 & 3.

The Union will offer input and will attempt to minimize these adverse changes and disruptions. We are trying to negotiate as much notice as possible. If management does excess T-2 mail handlers to the needs of a section (as promised), the Union will ensure that it is done correctly. Moreover, we will monitor the T-2 operation after the action to determine if the operation continues to run. In other words, were the mail handlers truly excess to the needs of a section? Were the duties of the operation reduced or is someone else brought in to perform work previously done by bid holders? These issues will be tracked and challenged where appropriate.