



National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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LOCAL 303 INFORMATIONAL UPDATE #4

Since masks are required throughout Southern California I have run into a new term, "mask stake." I have walked by mail handlers that I know very well and did not recognize them. The National Mail Handlers Magazine displays photos of mail handlers from around the country with their mask on. I would like to test the skill of Local 303 mail handlers in recognizing their Union brothers and sisters by asking you to look at the back of the most recent Mail Handlers Magazine and see if you can identify any 303 members. If you think you are good and can recognize any, send me their name via email to (local303prez@att.net).

The topic of masks has generated countless calls to the Local, some for wearing masks and others against it. The Unions, the Postal Service, and State Government all have requirements for wearing masks. Local 303 Executive Board agrees with the wearing of masks unless you have a medical reason that would prevent you from wearing one.

Recently we the delegates to the 20/21 National Convention executed part of our constitutional requirement as delegates via Zoom video communication. We nominated mail handlers for all of the National positions. The following positions went unchallenged and therefore the incumbents were duly reelected: National President Paul Hogrogian, National Secretary-Treasurer Mike Hora, Central Region VP June Harris, North East Region VP David Wilkin, and Southern Region VP Lawrence Sapp.

As a result of the National nominations process there will be a mail ballot election for Western Region VP position between Juan Torres (Local 303), and incumbent Don Sneesby (Local 316). For the Eastern Region VP there will be a runoff between Felandria Jackson (Local 305) and incumbent John Gibson (Local 308).

There is a National election taking place on November 3, 2020 for the President of the United States of America. I hope you all will do your very important civic duty and participate. Take your family and friends with you. This election has consequences that will affect the Postal Service and whether or not we as essential workers receive Hazardous pay.

I get calls regularly from mail handlers that want to know why we are not getting it. The House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act (HR 6800), a bill that would provide an additional \$13.00 and hour for all postal employees.

The current President would veto the bill if it gets to his desk. To all the mail handlers that have complaints about not receiving hazardous pay, I say vote early. We all have different reasons why we vote and who we vote for, but my number one criterion is asking what will they as elected officials do to better the future of my employment with the United States Postal Service.

All career mail handlers are eligible for work clothes allowances. There are two different programs, one for all of us, and the other provides an allowance if you perform duties where the public may see you. One job that would allow mail handlers to receive the higher amount is mail handlers going out to pick up collections from the Blue mail boxes on the streets around postal facilities.

If you haven't gotten your work clothes allowance have your SDO/MDO log onto the Blue Page and get it done. As a Regular Mail Handler don't let them get away with telling you that they are not sure how to do it. I'm sure you would agree they would not let you get away with not doing your job because you said you are not sure how to do it. I know some of you do not use the work clothes allowance, but you can use it to order some tee shirts or the hoodie and donate those items to the Local. I will give the donated items to the MHAs who do not receive the work clothes allowance.

Eddie Cowan
Local President