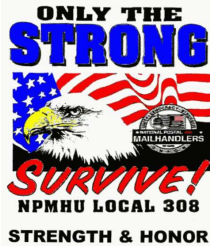




# National Postal Mail Handlers Union

## THE BREAKDOWN

### TENTATIVE 2006 NATIONAL AGREEMENT SUBJECT TO MEMBERSHIP RATIFICATION BALLOTS DUE BY JANUARY 24



#### Union Representatives

#### Local President

**Frank Phillips**

#### Branch

#### President

**John Gibson**

#### Chief Stewards

#### T-1

**Jeanette Lanza**

#### T-2

**Louis Morrone**

#### T-3

**Joyce Rogers**

#### Reg. Stewards

#### T-1

**Stephanie Geter**

#### T-2

**Mike Myles**

**Rob Singleton**

**Joe Zelenenki**

**Gary Simmons**

#### T-3

**Mike Mohan**

**Robert Hall**

**Robin Fowler**

#### Alt. Stewards

#### T-2

**Sandra Dudley**

**Velma Jackson**

**Keith Johnston**

**John Wescott**

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A referendum of the entire NPMHU membership is now pending for ratification of the tentative five-year agreement to establish the terms of the 2006 National Agreement between the NPMHU and the U.S. Postal Service. Ratification materials have been mailed to all members. To be counted, the completed ballots must be received no later than 9:00 a.m. on the morning of Wednesday, January 24, 2007. Beginning on that day, and continuing as necessary into January 25, the ballots will be verified, counted, and certified by the American Arbitration Association to determine whether a majority of voting mail handlers have approved the tentative agreement.

Both National President John Hegarty and National Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner are urging all members to take the time necessary to return their ballots, and to exercise their constitutional right to vote on ratification of the contract. "Every mail handler should take whatever time is necessary to review the contract and cast a vote during the ongoing referendum," said President Hegarty.

Secretary-Treasurer Gardner added that "two cornerstones of the American trade union movement are the right to bargain collectively and the right to vote freely on the resulting contract agreements. All Mail Handlers should exercise these fundamental rights of union membership."

The terms of the tentative extension are fully explained in the booklet that accompanies every ratification ballot. In general terms, the tentative agreement continues - for an additional five years - the pattern of general wage increases and cost-of-living adjustments based on increases in the Consumer Price Index. If ratified, the new agreement would provide five general wage increases of 1.2% to be paid in November of each year, as well as an additional 0.6% to be paid in February 2008; it also guarantees up to ten cost-of-living adjustments from March 2007 through September 2011. A new wage scale also contains several improvements, including a new Step P that effective November 25, 2006 will apply to all mail handlers when they reach (either previously or in the future) 24 weeks of service in Step O. The tentative agreement also provides that all mail handlers employed as of November 20, 2006 will be protected against layoff or force reduction during the entire term of this agreement. The contract also continues most other economic benefits, offset slightly by a 1% increase in health care contributions during each year of the contract beginning with 2008. Finally, the tentative agreement preserves the current restrictions on the hiring and use of casual employees. Given all of these terms, the NPMHU National Executive Board has unanimously endorsed the tentative agreement, and is urging a vote in favor of ratification.

Please remember to cast your secret ballot by the January 24 deadline. Any member who does not receive a ballot or the accompanying information by January 10 should call the Ratification Ballot Coordinator at 202-833-9095, extension 1025, to request those materials.