

Mail Handlers hold international union convention in Portland

The National Postal Mail Handlers Union held its 100th anniversary convention at the Hilton Hotel in Portland the week of Aug. 6-11.

Aug. 6, 1912 is recognized as the union's birthday because that was the first day in which the U.S. Postal Service recognized its right to organize and to engage in the grievance process. The union is an affiliate of the Laborers Union.

The theme of the convention, which attracted 280 delegates, was "Honor the Past, Shape the Future."

The host local was Portland-based Local 315.

During the week, international union elections were held, with incumbent President John Hegarty and incumbent Secretary-Treasurer Mark Gardner re-elected by acclamation.

Delegates also passed a resolution endorsing the re-election of President Barack Obama.

Guest speakers throughout the week included Arlene Holt-Baker, executive vice president of the AFL-

CIO; Terry O'Sullivan, general president of the Laborers International Union of North America; Fred Rolando, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers; Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain; Billy Hayes, general president of the Communication Workers Union of the United Kingdom; Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), who was recognized as the first U.S. senator in history to be elected by a mail-in ballot; Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon); Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Oregon), Danny Davis (D-Illinois), Raul Grijalva (D-Arizona); Rep. Richard Neal (D-Massachusetts); and Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz.

The National Postal Mail Handlers Union represents 47,000 postal employees responsible for loading and unloading trucks, transporting mail within the facility, preparing, sorting, and containerizing the mail for distribution and delivery, and operating a host of machinery and automated equipment.

The convention was held at a time when some in Congress are trying to dismantle the U.S. Postal Service — and with their contract talks headed for arbitration, due primarily to the legislative uncertainty.



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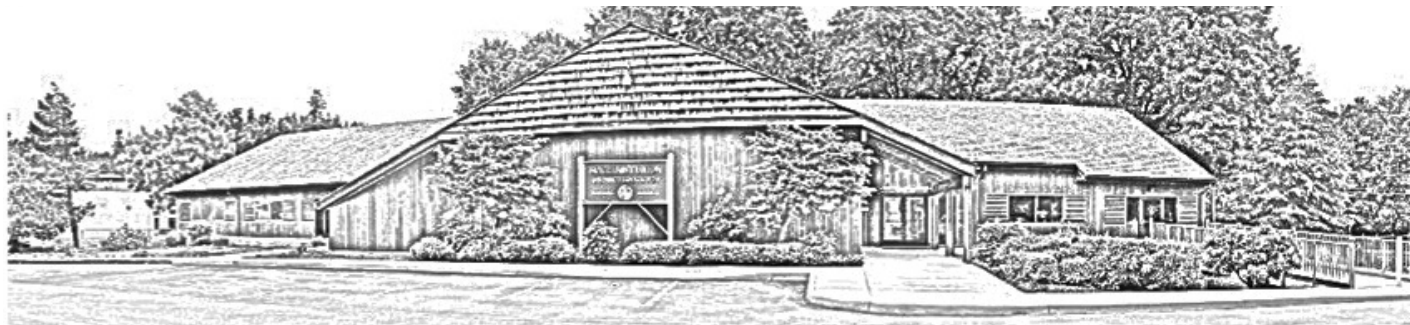
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