

History of the NPMHU Local 300 Women's Caucus

The NPMHU Local 300 Women's Caucus began its journey in 2004.

The suggestion of the women's committee was proposed by a (male) member of the Local Union Council of Local 300. The basis behind the proposal was that women needed their own center of operation in order for women to network, exchange ideas and empower each other.

It is from this forethought that the Women's Caucus was born.

Being able to communicate effectively with others is one of the best life skills a person can develop. Someone who can effectively communicate thoughts, ideas and feelings is better equipped for success both on the job and in personal relationships.

The Women's Caucus knows that effective communication is much more than being able to talk; it is also the ability to listen and understand others.

These are the principles that assist us in resolving conflict. These are the principle that the Women's Caucus will use in encouraging the membership in the direction of solidarity.

The Framework

The Board members of the Women's Caucus represent our tri-state area/branches. **Local 300 represents NYC, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

****Caucus Board Members/Officers must be (certified) Shop Stewards.**

The Local President is recognized as the Ex-Officio of all Committees/Councils/Boards. (As per the National and Local Constitutions of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union).

Chairperson

Caucus activities are presided over by a **Chairperson**. The Chair is appointed by the Local President. The job of the Chair is to facilitate the meetings, work with the members of the assembly to construct an agenda relating to women's issues and our concerns as working families; set a platform of goals, and ensure that participation in meeting these goals are met by each member of the Caucus and its participants.

Officers of the Women's Caucus

Co-Chair: Facilitates the meetings in the absence of the Chair.

Secretary: Responsible for the minutes and other correspondence.

Treasurer: Keeps all financial records regarding Caucus affairs. (i.e. fundraisers, etc.)

Co-Treasurer: Functions in absences of the Caucus Treasurer.

Project Coordinator: Coordinates the efforts/labor, of any projects, programs or proposals.

Sub-Committee Members: Interacts with the Project Coordinator on all projects or programs initiated.

All these ladies bring a wealth of experience to the table.

This careful construction of the assembly ensures that communication between the (members/participants) of the Caucus, the Executive Board and the Local Union Council of Local 300, and the membership is precise.

Our Field Associates

In order to expand our efforts to circulate information about the Caucus, a team of **Field Associates** were assembled. *The Field Associates are "volunteers" assembled from the membership.*

The FA's act as liaisons to the body of the Caucus; assisting us in gathering feedback and vital information from the membership.

This group of hard working individuals has given the Caucus the mental edge needed to plan resources and programs within the Union base to address women's issues.

****All Field Associates must be a member in good standing.**

Networking

The Caucus networks with many organizations, such as the New York Childcare Coalition, which is an affiliate of DC-37, and the Central Labor Council, CUNY (study programs for women in the workplace) TWU's Local 100 Child Fund Program, The Alcoholism Council of New York and Connell University of Labor Studies, The Board of Elections, and The Veteran Administration just to name a few. Our resources are extensive throughout the Tri-state area.

Information about the Women's Caucus is provided through our newsletters, our minutes, and branch mailings. Our Caucus members also give reports at branch meetings.

Library of Information

Our efforts in successfully networking with these organizations, has lead the Caucus in formulating an **Information Guide**. These guides provide the addresses and telephone numbers of many agencies that will empower the membership to resolve personal and family issues.

The Women's Caucus has also developed an **Information Bank**. This library of information has many other resources that will benefit the membership.

Social & Recreation Committee

In our efforts to address women's issues, the Caucus realizes social and recreational needs must be met. The Caucus' networking system has enabled us to receive information on women's events/conferences and social affairs. Our partnership with other union affiliates/organizations has enhanced our mobilization efforts, relating to political and economical agendas. **All members and associates of the Caucus are S&R organizers.**

Proud History

Women have made great strides throughout history.

Women have charted the course that has lead to changes in social policies that have given women the right to vote; and economical policies that allows us to enjoy free enterprise.

One of the earliest women's clubs started in 1868 in NYC. The entry of women into public life has been reflected in many programs. Women's clubs have started many libraries, and established many health and welfare programs.

Today's Battle

The addition of women's committee to the Union base, gives women the opportunity to have the platform necessary to resolve our issues as women working in allied labor; and to aggressively develop strategies to address political agendas that affect us as working families.

The Postal Service is going through a transformation. The consolidations of mail processing operations, (affecting bid assignments), is only the beginning in the postal services mission, to create a plausible state of affairs resulting in the business becoming a more automated enterprise.

The postal service has already begun to put their plans into action.

Many of our brothers and sisters around the Local have felt the harshness of facility consolidation. Consolidations are as wide spread as NYC, New Jersey, Connecticut, Boston, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and California.

These changes have resulted in excessing employees. When employees are excessed they may have to travel many miles away to their new facility.

The changes in the way the postal services conducts business, will affected our Union brothers and sisters family environment relating to childcare, eldercare, and any other family oriented business/schedules they have in place.

These changes will be especially harsh on women. Many women are the sole supporters in many households. **(Approximately 67% of households in America are supported by single women. ***The number of single men in America, with children heading households stands at approximately 35% and increasing.)**

It is to this end that the Local 300 Women's Caucus, and the Union as a whole, is seeking to stay ahead of the fray in addressing any changes that will affect us as working families.

The Women's Caucus will continue to work towards educating our union members on the importance of organization, mobilization, political agendas and of course, women' issues.

The NPMHU Local 300 Women's Caucus is here to assist all members.

We believe that any solution that benefits a woman will benefit a man.

The forethought of our Local in assembling a women's committee; shores up our Union base of resources to help women become more empowered.

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**Paul Hogrogian, Local President/National Executive Board Member
Robert Blum, Vice President - Jeff Perry, Treasurer
Linda Yancey, Recording Secretary/Chair, Women's Caucus
Larry Hill, NYS Representative - Tom Ruther, CT State Representative
Charles Price, NJ State Representative**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the WOMEN'S CAUCUS is to encourage the social and productive interaction between women.

- To promote the health, welfare and safety of all the women of NPMHU Local 300.
- To provide an opportunity to use collective talents and gifts of the Mail Handler women in NPMHU Local 300.
- To provide support to the women of the Local 300 community with programs, special functions and agendas.
- To educate and give political voice to women about the labor laws and their rights under them.
- To protect and strengthen the tradition of our democracy and the enjoyment of the rights and liberties to which we are justly entitled.
- To persuasively recruit women to organize and defend public issues that effect women.
- To give constructive aid in promoting causes of peace and freedom.
- To encourage all workers without regard to race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability or sexual orientation to share equally in the full benefit of Union organization.
- To assist and cooperate with free and democratic labor movements.