



POSTAL NEWS

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Award Issued, Ending Arbitration With Rural Letter Carriers Union

Contracts Now in Place With All Four Major Postal Service Unions

WASHINGTON, DC — A three-member arbitration panel led by neutral chairman Herbert Fishgold issued its award today, establishing the terms of the new collective bargaining agreement between the Postal Service and the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA). The award establishes a four-year contract (from Nov. 20, 2006 to Nov. 20, 2010), affecting approximately 68,000 career employees and 55,000 non-career employees who deliver mail to residences and businesses on rural delivery routes.

"We are pleased to have contracts in place with all four of our major unions, bringing the 2006 labor negotiation process to an end," said Doug Tulino, Postal Service vice president, Labor Relations.

The Postal Service and the NRLCA reached a tentative four-year contract agreement in Dec. 2006, in collective bargaining negotiations, but the two parties entered the arbitration process after the union membership failed to ratify the agreement.

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An independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that visits every address in the nation, 146 million homes and businesses, six days a week. It has 37,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to pay for operating expenses, not tax dollars. The Postal Service has annual revenues of \$75 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.