

# Educating Legislators On the Workings of The Postal Service

**T**he 2010 LEAGUE Legislative Forum at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in

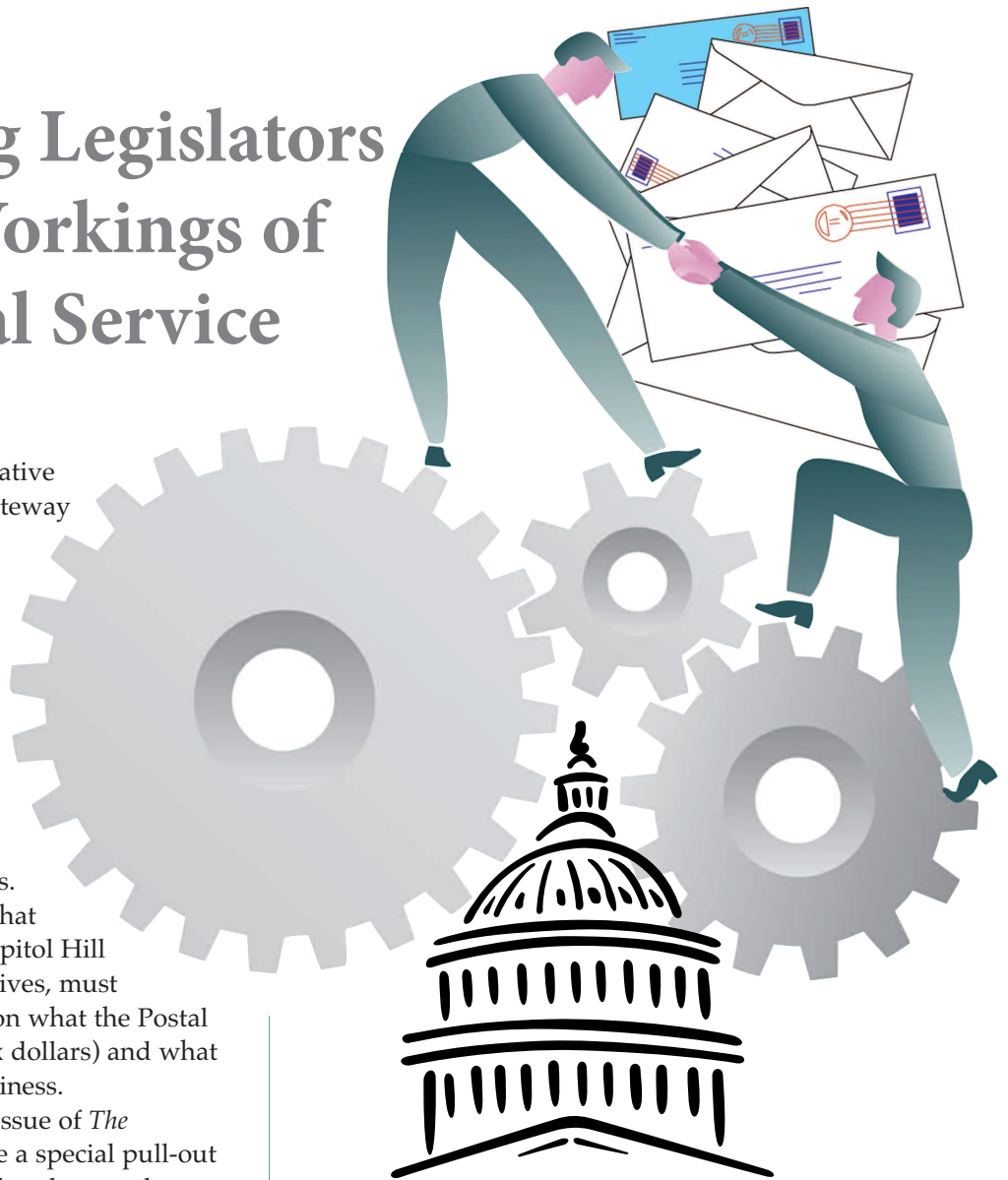
Arlington, VA, Jan. 30 through Feb. 2, opens new communication with our senators and representatives. The passage of H.R. 22 gives a one-year reprieve from the full retiree prefunding benefits payment and there will be a new focus on setting a better payment schedule for the following years.

What this means at the core is that LEAGUE members, both on Capitol Hill and with their local representatives, must educate members of Congress on what the Postal Service is (not supported by tax dollars) and what it can do to run more like a business.

The January / February 2010 issue of *The Postmasters Advocate* will feature a special pull-out section for what the LEAGUE does best—education. Plans were coming together at Postal Headquarters in December 2009 to launch new programs and initiatives that will be renewing the retail focus of post offices as business centers. The LEAGUE's end-of-the-year interview with Tim Healy, USPS Senior Vice President of Retail, will reveal all in this first issue of the new year and will provide insight into what will be a departure from "business as usual" at our retail outlets.

As a LEAGUE initiative, each member will be encouraged to meet with their legislators both during Forum and in the months following, using the educational tool—information—as presented in this special pull-out.

"The LEAGUE is 'The Education Organization' and we can make a difference in future postal issues being addressed on the Hill by making sure all legislators are informed as to what the Postal Service is, what its constraints are and how our



changing economy can be dealt with," says LEAGUE President Charley Mapa.

"This legislative initiative is a LEAGUE-wide effort to make sure both senators and representatives are informed on the Postal Service's status as an American institution and how post offices [of every size] connect our nation through the mail system and are the cornerstone of communities," says Mapa. "Having a tool—a strong informational package in the magazine—to use when visiting with our legislators reflects on Postmasters, all postal employees and on the Postal Service itself."

Workshops on new postal programs and building professional skills are also a Forum highlight. There will be time for networking and camaraderie for Postmasters, PMRs, OICs and all LEAGUE members. Plan now to attend—register by Jan. 1, 2010, to receive the early registration rate. Use the LEAGUE website to download the form at left. •