

Marilyn's November 2021 Blog

In November we honor our Veterans and thank them for their service! Then we get together with friends and family to give thanks for all we have to love and enjoy in life on Thanksgiving. Remember COVID variants are still out there consider getting a regular flu shot and a COVID booster if you have had the regular COVID shots!

Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Premiums are changing!

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is announcing changes in premium rates for certain Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) categories. These include changes to premium rates for Employee Basic Insurance, Option A (most age bands), Option B (most age bands), Option C (most age bands), and Post-Retirement Basic Insurance. These rates are effective October 1, 2021, and will be first reflected in your November 1s, 2021 annuity payment.

You can find additional details relating to this change at: www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/life-insurance/program-information/#url=Premiums-for-Annuity

FLSA nonexempt employees must be paid for all time that they work, whether or not the work is authorized. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to minimize the occurrence of these unauthorized workhours and to minimize (consistent with operational requirements) the use of premium pay hours Ref. *Handbook F-401 NAPS position if you work the hours claim the pay!*

Civics 101

What is the difference between an appropriations bill and an authorization bill? An appropriations bill provides the legal authority needed to spend or obligate U.S. Treasury funds. Twelve annual appropriations bills fund the entire federal government. The bills are supposed to be enacted prior to the start of a new fiscal year, designated as October 1. Failure to meet the deadline results in the need for temporary short-term funding or governmental agencies offices will shut down. For example, funding for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Education Programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration is contained in an appropriations bill. An authorization bill provides the authority for a program or agency to exist and determines its policy and structure. It also recommends spending levels to carry out a defined policy, but these levels are not binding. Authorizations may be annual, multiyear, or permanent. Expiring programs require reauthorizations. House and Senate rules require that authorization be in place before final funding decisions are made, though this rule frequently is waived or disregarded. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is an example of an authorization bill.

NAPS Headquarters Alexandria VA - In 1993 NAPS purchased a new four-story building in Alexandria, VA, for \$3.125 million, in compliance with a 1990 National Convention resolution. Because Virginia state law requires nonprofit organizations owning property to incorporate, the board established NAPS Property, Inc. Upon entering the building in front of the first-floor elevators is a bust of Donald A Ledbetter, a popular Past President. In March 2020, the building was officially named the Vince Palladino Building, Vince was the president. when the building was purchased. And at the 2021 October Executive Board meeting by unanimous consent the Executive 4th floor Conference Room will be named for Margarete A Grant, past Secretary/Treasurer who participated in the purchase of the building, Margarete was the first female NAPS resident officer.

SPAC In 1999 NAPS announced aggressive plans to revitalize the Supervisors' Political Action Committee (SPAC) and rebuild the NAPS Congressional Liaison Network. More than 700 NAPS members attended the 1999 Legislative Training Seminar, March 21-23, to help advance postal reform and other legislation of vital interest to postal supervisors. With that effort we have moved forward until today we have categories of recognition for NAPS members contributing to SPAC. We have the "Drive for Five" or continuous contributor through payroll deduction or OPM if retired monthly contributions. You can also contribute directly by personal check or credit card!

NAPS Legislation HR 3076 is the current focus it is a provision to better integrate FEHBP premiums for postal employees and retirees and relieved the ongoing prefund issue causing great financial stress to USPS's operating budget. 3076 was approved by the Oversight & Reform Committee in May by a Bipartisan voice vote. Unfortunately, this legislation is stalled in the Ways & Means and Energy & Commerce Committees. If this bill is passed out of these committees and on to the house floor for a vote it has bi-partisan support If your congressperson is on either of these committees contact them and ask them to vote to move 3076 to the floor for a final vote!