

## Marilyn's January 2021 Blog

**Happy New Year looking forward to a safe and healthy Year and an end to this terrible Pandemic!**

**A federal law that provides workers with emergency paid sick leave and other protections during the coronavirus pandemic expired December 31, 2020. However, in a memo from NAPS HQ dated December 23, 2020.** As a result of the COVID pandemic, the original March 23, 2020- Subject Liberal Changes of Schedule and Leave. USPS MOU has been extended for **sixty days**. This policy applies to all postal employees, including EAS.

### **NAPS Headquarters**

**VERA** - The short answer is the USPS has received approval from OPM to do a VERA. There is no timeline at this time (December 2020). Technically, the USPS has approval, but that does not mean they have to offer the VERA. However, if USPS does offer a VERA, they have a right to limit which group of EAS **may** receive it. As soon as NAPS receives any official word from USPS on this matter, we will notify the membership via NAPS' website and through your NAPS Executive Board. Employees considering accepting a VERA if offered should seek advice with a Human Resource professional to ensure that the monthly retirement payment will be sufficient to support your current lifestyle.

**COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABILITY** -The CDC has recommended that all Postal Service employees be included in the next round of distributions, or "Phase 1b." This phase will also include frontline essential workers such as firefighters, police officers, grocery store workers, public transit workers and others. Although we do not have specific dates when Phase 1b will be implemented, we urge you to periodically review your local public health service website for any updates.

**Vacation signup time!** I suggest once you pick that preferred vacation slot, plan and pre-pay for your vacation get a signature on a form 3971 approving your vacation. There is a lot of movement in management, you may need documentation that the time has been approved when your selected dates arrive.

### **January 6, 2021 NAPS MEMO**

The USPS has again extended the 120-Day Rule in Handbook EL-312, Section 743.15, 120-Calendar-Day Limit on Higher-Level Temporary Assignments, until March 22, 2021. (See attached memo on the naps.org web page). NAPS continue to advocate that vacant EAS positions be posted and filled within 120-days.

### **NATIONAL NAPS 2021 EVENT UPDATES:**

**The 2021 Legislative Training Seminar** Due to the continued uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the best interest of the safety and health of NAPS members, auxiliary, and guests the in-person Legislative Training Seminar (LTS) for 2021 has been cancelled. A NAPS Newsbreak has been published to announce this cancellation.

**California State Convention update:** Due to COVID-19 the 2021 California State In person convention which was scheduled to be held in Sacramento CA has been cancelled. Any updates will be shared.

**NAPS National 2021 Convention** is scheduled for August 30-September 3, 2021, Grapevine Texas (Dallas) and is still on the scheduled. It is hoped that the impacts of the pandemic will improve by August 2021. Information is being published in the NAPS magazine and on the naps.org web site.

**A New SPAC Year** a new commitment! Last year was a monumental election year! The winners of the Presidential race took four additional days and was finally announced on Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup> 2020! SPAC contributions will help NAPS gain access to are friends on Capitol Hill and also make new friends by educating representatives about the importance of continuing to keep the US Postal Service a strong viable Public Service! We need your support

**January 6, 2021, it was announced that Democrats were elected to the two Senate seats in Georgia. This means the Senate will be a 50-50 split and Vice President elect Kamala Harris will be the tie breaking vote!**

**Mask Up the virus is still spreading!**

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