

## Marilyn's October Blog 2017

As we enter the fall season I hope everyone took some rests days to get away from it all! I traveled to Cuba on a People to People tour. It is always interesting to get away and see how others live, it makes you appreciate what you have. It was a step back in the time. Cuba's economy stopped in the 1960's when Fidel Castro took over and the US impose trade sanctions on the island. Most of the cars are from 1950's or earlier but spiffed up and shiny. It was like being in a 1950's movie only in color! The old vintage buildings, no fast food restaurants, no advertisements on signs just famous Cuban rebels on the facades of buildings and bill boards. The People were very friendly and were happy to greet us and our money! The government controls the wages, media (such as it is), housing, food, which is rationed monthly, medical care and their Politics! I found the Cuban people to be well educated (free education including college), however struggling with little opportunity unless they are in the tourist or entertainment industry. They did have cell phones (as of 2008), but WIFI is at a premium and cash only no debit or credit cards from the US! We took a four-hour tour in a 1949 Classic ford convertible! We tasted the famous Cuban Rum and even Puffed on the famous Cigars. I Have to admit it was an enjoyable adventure, the history, people, music dancing and welcoming greetings. But with all our complaints, concerns and issues there is no place like home back in the good old USA. At least you can complain out loud about the politicians and not have to be afraid the government will come for you!

### **MESSAGE FROM USPS Pacific Area VP**

Wildfires raging across areas of California over the past few days have caused loss of life, destroyed homes and businesses, and severely disrupted the lives of many through forced evacuations, including our own employees. At this very difficult time, it is imperative that we ensure the safety of our employees. The fires are still dangerous and have temporarily closed or impacted dozens of Post Offices. Many employees can't get to work because of the fires, either because of evacuations, road closures, or because their own homes are threatened by the fires. We are working hard to divert affected mail to other processing facilities, and to make sure that the mail gets delivered without endangering the people who process and deliver it. We are regularly re-evaluating our ability to operate in affected areas, and every effort is being made to deliver the mail, safety permitting. So far, we know of 17 employees in the San Francisco and Bay-Valley districts who have lost their homes. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those employees along with those who have been evacuated and must bear the uncertainty of not knowing the status of their personal property. I take great pride in the heroic efforts our employees are making, and I urge them to take every precaution during this very challenging time. **Larry Munoz Pacific Area VP Operations.**

***The NAPS Executive Board has donated to the Postal Employees Relief Fund (PERF). Individuals can donate through PostRelief.Com. Postal Employees impacted by the disasters can apply for funds on the PERF Hotline 202-408-1869. There are also additional resources through the Disaster Relief Grants from the Federal Employees Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA). Check naps.org home page for additional information. This has been a rough few months, hurricanes, floods, fires, stay safe all!***

**Legislation:** The House of Representatives on Thursday approved its FY 2018 budget resolution ([H. Con. Res. 71](#)) that could set the stage for \$32 billion in cuts over the next 10 years in federal employee and retiree benefits. On a more positive note, the [Senate Budget Committee](#) on Thursday approved a budget resolution, subject to full Senate approval, that would not target cuts in federal employment benefits.

Overall, the House budget resolution targets \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts over through the budget reconciliation process that will finance the Republican tax reform package currently being drafted in Congress.

The final terms of the Congressional budget resolution for FY 2018 will be negotiated by House and Senate leaders later this fall. NAPS and other federal and postal employee/retiree groups will continue to push for a federal budget that is not balanced on the backs of federal and postal employees and retirees. (Message from Bruce Moyer, NAPS National Legislative Consultant) **CALL YOUR LEGISLATOR NOW!**

**SPAC DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR PAYROLL DEDUCTION TO SPAC OR SEND A CHECK!**

**NAPS Calendar of upcoming events Correction:** : Last month I listed the wrong dates for the LTS which is scheduled March 10-13, 2018, in DC; NAPS California State Convention, April 22-25, 2018 Embassy Suites by Hilton San Rafael, Marin County CA

National NAPS Convention August 6-10, 2018, Mohegan Sun Hotel.

**in Solidarity**     [marilynwalton@comcast.net](mailto:marilynwalton@comcast.net)