

National Harbor, MD

NAPS
65th National
Convention

Daily Newsletter

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In Memoriam

Following are additional names of members who have died since the 2014 National Convention in San Diego:

Robert Arnold, 23
Jerry Bangust, 72
Steve Barnaby, 245
Michael Battle, 559
Brenda Bouldin, 541
James Dodge, 577
Janice Dorney, 20
Alice Davis-Hamilton, 541
Jim Dodge, 577
Olympia Fasano, 202
Warren Harding, 35
Ron Jones, 36
David Lee, 20
Joseph Mancini, 47
Donald McKenzie, 43
Harold Metts, 555 and former Executive Board member
Tom Moog, 72
Julia Nardi, 268
Delores Nichols, 541
Charles Polk, 35
Gary Schroeder, 131
Pauline Tate, 541
Warren Thomas, 35

Proud To Be First-Timers

NAPS President Louis Atkins welcomed the 141 first-time delegates to their first NAPS convention at the orientation Sunday afternoon. "Thank you for coming," he said. "At my first convention, I heard from people who affected my career. You'll meet the greatest and kindest people. Be sure to go back home and share what you learn."

Executive Vice President Ivan D. Butts welcomed everyone to the NAPS

family. He encouraged delegates to meet their fellow members and network at the convention. "We are the management team who runs the Postal Service," he said. "We have an opportunity to grow and become more viable. Events like this help us be better managers and advocate for our members."

Secretary/Treasurer Brian Wagner told the first-timers they will learn how the organization conducts business; they may have ideas on how to make the organization better. "That is your job," he said. "Stand up and speak up; be heard."

Branch 531 Shines

The 65th National Convention got under way Monday morning with the Opening Ceremony. Branch 531 President Michele Randall welcomed NAPS members to the convention. "We have a tremendous week prepared for you," she promised.

Capital District Manager Salvatore Vacca said it was an honor for him to be at the convention. "The power, dedication and experience in this room is incredible," he said.

He advised members to take advantage of networking; this convention could turn into opportunities down the road. "Reach out to each other," he said. "If we allow more than 600,000 employees to come to work each day with solutions, think how powerful that would be."

He also told delegates that his expectation is to treat everyone with the utmost dignity and respect all the time.

Capital Metro Area Vice President Linda Malone commended NAPS for the great turnout and said it is indicative of what NAPS does for its members and the

Postal Service. She thanked everyone for the extraordinary job they do every day.

Malone referenced a saying by which Colin Powell abides: "Be kind and share the credit." She said it's ironic that he followed that philosophy while making a career in the military.

"Despite our organization being laden with procedures and focused on numbers and performance, leaders must show kindness every day," she said. "We need to talk about how we go forward in a kinder and gentler way and appreciate our employees. Being kind is underestimated and showing it to our employees is a good thing."

President Louis Atkins introduced Deputy Postmaster General Ron Stroman as a friend of NAPS and someone who is fair, honest and tells it like it is. Stroman said that, as an organization, we need to talk about how we change the environment and how we work together; it's a collaborative effort.

"We have to grow," he said, "and treat each other with understanding and collaborate in ways that don't disparage others. We are on the same team and need to work together."

Stroman said he was drawn to the USPS because it is such an iconic institution that does so much. "I want to preserve this institution and give it financial stability," he said. Despite the increase in packages and improvements in processes and deliveries, the reality is that the finances need to be fixed. "We all have a stake in doing this," he urged.

If postal reform legislation is not passed this year, tough decisions will have to be made. He said the best way to stabilize finances is with postal reform. Stroman feels the agency is in the best position politically since he has been involved, but

there needs to be bipartisan cooperation.

The House had a unanimous voice vote on the latest postal reform legislation from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which is unprecedented in this congressional season.

Stroman said that support was a result of the Postal Service reaching out to the mailers, management associations and unions and negotiating. There are four main issues: Medicare integration, extending the exigent rate increase, using postal-specific demographics to figure retirement benefit liabilities and allowing greater USPS product flexibility.

“We need to forge consensus,” he stressed. And, despite it already being the middle of August and some saying it’s time to look to the next Congress, Stroman said he remains optimistic. “When you have an opportunity like now, we need everyone to come to the table and make concessions and make something happen.”

He acknowledged the concerns many retirees have regarding Medicare integration, but pointed out that everyone has a stake in making the USPS financially stable.

“My hope is NAPS takes a position to be supportive with regard to the existing reform legislation. In order for us to move and get this done,” he said, “we need everyone at the table. This is a heavy lift, but we’ve gone further than we ever have. I believe we all will be better off. If we get through this, our future is bright.”

National Auxiliary President Sharon Mathews welcomed everyone to National Harbor, MD. She said the Auxiliary has the same goals as NAPS and invited family members (over the age of 16) to join and work with the Auxiliary in pursuing its goals.

Executive Vice President Ivan D. Butts encouraged everyone to visit the SPAC table out in the hallway. He thanked Sharon Mathews and her fellow Auxiliary members for their dedication and generosity to help move NAPS’ legislative goals forward. He declared \$40,000 as the SPAC goal for the 2016 National Convention.

If every delegate registered at the convention contributed just \$35, that goal easily would be surpassed. “We have to be engaged with our leaders,” he said. “And SPAC is how we do that.”

For those wanting to join the Drive for Five Campaign, SPAC Manager Katie Maddocks is available at the SPAC Cafe to help members join. She encouraged delegates to see her if they had any questions or wanted to increase their contribution amounts. “We need to make sure candidates understand what NAPS means and what we are looking for,” she said.

The SPAC Hall of Fame contributors for the 2016 National Convention were recognized: Rich Wilson, Branch 61; Mike Winters, Branch 255; Darrell Williams, Branch 554; “Texas Bob” Bradford, Branch 203; and Joe Amash, Branch 83.

The Opening Ceremony concluded with a rousing performance by The Intruders Review, singing hits from the ’60s and ’70s. Thanks, Branch 531, for an amazing start to this week’s convention.

PMG Addresses Delegates

Postmaster General Megan Brennan addressed NAPS delegates Monday afternoon. She thanked members for their leadership and said she was at the convention out of respect for NAPS, the resident officers and the supervisors who lead the Postal Service. She talked about Postal-Proud and working to engage every brain in the game considering the agency’s talented work force.

Brennan said she has traveled around the country and heard from many employees that they need more training. “We’ve been responsive,” she said, “but we’re not where we need to be. Give us input as we roll this initiative out.”

She said the USPS is the platform on which the mailing industry relies and is part of the larger ecosystem on which the U.S. economy relies—from letter shops to transportation providers and the like.

Brennan said it’s imperative to speed the pace of innovation in order to stay competitive. The challenge also is that recent growth is in products that generate a lower contribution per piece; the agency is being careful about pricing.

She said the USPS has earned the Amazon business and credited NAPS members for doing a tremendous job in earning that business. But the pressure always is there to deliver service. Brennan

said the focus is on being more customer-centric—making it easier to do business with the USPS at bulk mail entry units and working with industry to make it simpler and far more intuitive.

Brennan said her commitment to NAPS members is to continue to properly resource employees: “You and I, as management, or employees on the workroom floor interacting with customers, giving them the tools they need to do their jobs and recognizing those who are doing the work know best and leveraging those practices.”

“We’re constantly looking at how we can improve the mail,” she said. “We have to tout and recognize the importance of innovating; we will continue to do so and position ourselves in a 21st-century marketplace.”

Rules Changes

The Rules Committee made two changes to the Convention Rules:

1. Paragraph 14 has been added to I. Operation of the Convention:

“14. When a division is called for, no one can leave or enter the convention floor until the count is completed.”

Under III. Election and Balloting, line 53: “completed for the distribution of ballots; all doors will be secured.”

Signature FCU

Come visit the Signature Federal Credit Union booth in the exhibitors’ area. Everyone who opens a new account will be entered to win an Apple watch! Also, don’t forget to pick up a Signature FCU pen and other give-aways.

SPAC Donations

As of Aug. 15, convention contributions to SPAC totaled \$12,000. That included the raffle, challenges, walkathon and in-kind donations. Thanks, NAPS members, for your generosity, but we still have a ways to go to achieve our goal of raising \$40,000 this week. Be sure to visit SPAC Manager Katie Maddocks in the exhibit hall and support SPAC.