

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: Deborah Brandon, 369; Curtin Bruns, 255; Yvonne Fair, 255; Robert “Bob Lancia, 33; Rene “RJ” Moore, 36; Jeff Poole, 255; and Harrison Rankin, 322.

Donate to PERF

Executive Vice President Ivan D. Butts reminded NAPS members on Tuesday of the importance of donating to PERF; a flyer was included in delegates’ bags. You can donate only during the CFC open season, which opens Sept. 1 and goes to Dec. 15, with a one-time donation or payroll deduction. The recent devastating flooding in Baton Rouge is a reminder why PERF is so important. “The money you give is relief for your brothers and sisters in the Postal Service,” Ivan said.

Tuesday’s Speakers

NAPUS President Tony Leonardi told convention delegates that, two years ago in San Diego, he pledged to work with NAPS’ leadership team to ensure a united front in legislative issues and concentrate on trying to get a bill on which they could all agree moved forward in the House and Senate for the benefit of all EAS employees.

Leonardi recounted how they visited with many on the Hill and made personal visits to Rep. Elijah Cummings in Maryland, Rep. Gerry Connolly in Virginia and Sen. Tom Carper in Delaware. “We stood together and told them we needed postal reform,” he said. “We will continue to

work together through this year and going forward; we think it may come to the floor during a lame-duck session. We need to keep our eye on the ball and work together to get the best bill possible to help and support the Postal Service and, in turn, help us.”

He told NAPS members that NPA is a much better system this year; the results through June indicate 97 percent of EAS managers will receive an NPA payout. He credited the Postal Service for working with NAPS, NAPUS and the League to make progress. “We still have a lot of work to do,” he pointed out. “We will continue to work diligently on this issue so we have a fair NPA system and are compensated for what we do.”

Leonardi pledged to continue working with NAPS’ leadership to make sure postal reform legislation gets the best results for all EAS employees.

League President Sean Acord told delegates it has been an interesting two years since he was elected president. Two years ago, POSTPlan was the looming issue; Postmaster positions went from more than 22,000 to about 8,000. As a result, the League and NAPUS began to look at options to consolidate the two organizations.

He said he and Tony Leonardi worked many days and nights to iron out differences. Fast forward to the present and, on Nov. 1, the two organizations will dissolve and reform as United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA).

“I’m confident it was the right decision,” he said, “but it was not an easy decision for many of our members. No one can go back, but we can start now and make a new beginning.”

Acord said they have long worked with NAPS; he pledged to work with

NAPS’ new leadership. “Even on issues with legislation and WSCs, which needs a lot of help, we work together. I look forward to continuing that effort.”

USPS Chief Operating Officer Dave Williams thanked NAPS for the opportunity to speak at the convention and share the success of the Postal Service and what they have accomplished together. “I am so proud to be a part of the leadership team with you and delivering results for our customers in the manner you’ve been able to do this year,” he declared.

Williams said it has been a year of outstanding performance when you look at service, financials and the ability to keep employees safe. He told delegates he takes every opportunity to talk about safety and encouraged them to do the same. “We’ve had significant reductions in accidents, but one serious accident or fatality is too many,” he stressed.

He commended NAPS members for the agency’s outstanding service performance: all-time records have been broken on Priority, Standard, Parcel Select, scanning and customer insight. “Never before have we had higher service in these categories,” he proclaimed, “and that’s a direct result of your leadership.”

Williams talked about the Lean Six Sigma program, which allows the agency to better solve problems. “Some of you may think that what I’m pushing with this is more bureaucracy,” he said, “but it helps us focus on the value we provide our customers—improving service performance, driving efficiencies in the organization and making our workplace safer is what drives value for our customers.”

Every day, it’s important to focus on how to get better, find gaps in performance by identifying route causes and putting

counter measures in place that are sustained so it is not necessary to keep solving the same problems. “That cadence of continuous improvement, managing differently and giving skills to our employees—there is no stopping our organization,” he said. “My intent with the Lean process is to be where everybody has an opportunity to improve our organization every day.”

Williams said the Postal Service is setting itself up for tremendous success going into 2017. He also said he wants 100 percent of the management team to be successful; he promised to work with the area vice presidents to make that happen.

He thanked NAPS members for the tremendous service performance. “To have the level of improvement from where we were last year would not happen without your leadership. The credit goes to you.”

NAPS Legislative Counsel Bruce Moyer told delegates he is thankful for the opportunity to serve them. “I want the very best for you and your families because you are the best that America has to offer,” he said. “You stand for the strength of our country and the iconic value of the Postal Service; you are America’s best!”

He referenced efforts to achieve postal reform and assured delegates of the resident officers’ commitment to making sure anything Congress does on postal legislation represents action that will further NAPS members’ interests and stabilize the USPS and its finances. He commended Executive Vice President Ivan D. Butts for his advocacy.

Moyer reiterated that SPAC is an incredibly important tool that advances NAPS on Capitol Hill and buys access. “Those of you who attend local events sponsored by lawmakers in whom we’ve placed our trust and confidence know the value those dollars serve and the importance of us to remain a player on Capitol Hill,” he said.

He told delegates that the Senate postal reform bill, S. 2051, has stalled because Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Ron Johnson (R-WI) is involved in a tight race for re-election and does not want to disenfranchise the mailer and paper interests in his state.

Moyer said it’s doubtful the House bill that was reported out of committee earlier

this summer will move to the House floor after the summer recess. Most lawmakers will be engaged in a sound-bite battle in competition for who gains the upper hand in November and their obligation to keep the government funded and pass a short-term funding bill.

“If I’m proved wrong, I would love it,” he declared, “because we want to see postal reform move forward as long as it’s a good bill. The House bill doesn’t contain the service standards and other assurances of quality and performance, particularly for rural areas, the Senate bill has, but it does have the MSPB provision.

“We will continue onward,” Moyer pledged, “advancing the interests of the Postal Service and EAS employees for a good postal reform bill. If we move into a lame-duck session, whatever is on the table at that time will be a sound bill.

He said there still are questions; Medicare integration remains a problem for some. But he stressed there will come a time when a bill must get through because the finances of the USPS demand it.

Moyer explained integration would provide a plan that is a mirror plan to current FEHBP plans, still with the FEHBP framework, but just for postal retirees. It would be administered by the OPM and have the same kind of integration and coordination of benefits that others receive.

He referred to Deputy PMG Ron Stroman’s remarks from Monday when he said it’s about making the choice for the greater good and stability of the Postal Service.

Moyer said he hoped as many branches as possible send delegates to next year’s Legislative Training Seminar. “It’s really important in a new Congress that we begin communications with newly elected members,” he said, “as well as with lawmakers at home where there is more time and a more intimate setting than in Washington, DC. It’s that combination of continuous involvement at LTS and contact at the local level that creates strong advocacy for NAPS.”

He told members that NAPS does not get involved in presidential campaigns; not one penny of SPAC money goes to presidential candidates. But he strongly urged everyone to vote this November. “Democracy has served up two candidates from the major parties who stand before us,” he told

delegates. “It’s your privilege to be able to go in that voting booth and make that choice. To stand aside and say you’ll vote for neither betrays the true freedom and privileges you have as an American. Be informed; recognize that politics is not a spectator sport and exercise your privileges as all Americans, keeping our country strong and free.”

Convention Contest Winners

During Tuesday’s business session, winners of the 2016 Newsletter Contest were announced.

Best Layout: *NAPS Branch 42 News* (Baltimore)—Maxine Campbell, editor; Diane Mondie-Wilkes, layout/design.

Best News/Feature Article: Ernesto Gonzalez, “The Vehicles Area Coming,” *NAPS Central Florida Branch 406*.

Best Bylined Column/Editorial: A.J. Arborn, “The Back Cover,” *NAPS Central Florida Branch 406*.

Overall Excellence: *NAPS Branch 42 News*—Maxine Campbell, editor.

Winners of the Best Website Contest:

1st place: NAPS Branch 244, Pacific to Sierras

2nd place: NAPS Branch 463, Southern Nevada

3rd place: NAPS Gateway Branch 131.

Congratulations to these branches for the great job they do communicating with their members!

Need to Know:

◆ At the end of the day Tuesday, **SPAC** contributions totaled just over \$20,000. There are only two days left for delegates to meet our convention goal of \$40,000. Visit SPAC Manager Katie Maddocks at the SPAC table soon!

◆ Need to cash a check or make a deposit to your **Signature FCU** account? Stop by the Signature FCU booth in the exhibitors’ hallway to conduct transactions, open a membership and pick up some neat give-away items.

◆ **The Committe to Elect Chuck Mulidore NAPS Secretary/Treasurer** is hosting a thank-you social with sweet treats on Thursday, 6 p.m., in National Harbor 4 & 5.