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Since the Legislative Training Seminar in March, a quiet, sustained effort has been underway on Capitol Hill to draft a moderate postal reform measure that can at-

tract Republicans, Democrats and the postal stakeholder community. The most intensive work to date has occurred in the Senate and soon could result in a bipartisan measure being introduced. Earlier this spring, Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), chairman of the Senate postal oversight committee, gave the green light to his ranking Democratic colleague, Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), to draft a consensus postal bill. Carper, who chaired the committee during the past Congress, has the experience to know the “sweet spot” of postal reform. As committee chairman, Carper ran into obstacles from both Democrats and Republicans, but tenaciously cleared his postal measure (S. 1486) through the panel, only to have it die after Majority Leader Harry Reid declined to bring it to the floor.

were printed in the August issue of The Postal Supervisor.)

The roundtable discussions, unsurprisingly, lined up with NAPS’ plea to Congress from LTS delegates earlier this spring: Pass postal reform legislation that stabilizes the Postal Service’s finances, restores prompt service and assures greater postal product and service innovation. As a result, Carper, in late June, directed his staff to draft a postal measure along these lines, especially addressing the growing concerns of rural-state senators.

## Postal Reform Legislation Emerges in the Senate

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This time around, Carper has taken a more methodical, transparent path toward drafting a postal bill, working with Senate colleagues and stakeholders to find common ground. During May and June, Johnson and Carper convened a series of roundtable discussions with leaders from the Postal Service, the Government Accountability Office, employee organizations, mailers and others to identify postal policy priorities. NAPS participated in and contributed to those discussions and offered its views. *(NAPS Executive Vice President Ivan D. Butts’ written remarks*

### Rural-State Pressure

Lawmakers from rural states always have been key to support for the Postal Service. Post offices, prompt mail delivery and the fulfillment of the universal service obligation are singularly important to rural states and their connection to the rest of the world. But rural-state lawmakers began to raise their voices in protest after the Postal Service changed its delivery standards in 2012 and initiated, according to the Congressional Budget Office, “one of the most comprehensive operational transformations in the agency’s history.”

Since then, the USPS has closed about 150 mail processing facilities—about one-third of the 460 such facilities it operated in 2012. As the Postal Service began to reap cost savings this spring, it also witnessed plummeting service performance scores in urban and suburban areas—and especially in rural locales—because of poor planning, bad weather, longer transportation routes and insufficient capacity.

Lawmakers grew even more upset and began to suggest the Postal Service had overreached in its quest to cut costs. “The Postmaster General doesn’t have a clue about what’s going on in rural America, and it shows,” Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) said recently.

### Thrift Savings Plan

Fund	G	F	C	S	I
July 2015	0.19%	0.74%	2.10%	(0.12%)	2.08%
Past 12 Months*	2.09%	3.27%	11.29%	11.28%	0.00%

The G, F, C, S, and I Fund returns for the last 12 months assume unchanging balances (time-weighting) from month to month, and assume that earnings are compounded on a monthly basis.

Fund	L Income	L 2020	L 2030	L 2040	L 2050
July 2015	0.55%	1.03%	1.22%	1.33%	1.46%
Past 12 Months*	3.52%	5.23%	6.14%	6.79%	7.20%

These returns are net of the effect of accrued administrative expenses and investment expenses/costs. The performance data shown represent past performance, which is not a guarantee of future results. Investment returns and principal value will fluctuate, so that investors’ shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The L 2010 Fund was retired on Dec. 31, 2010.

Visit the TSP website at [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov)

Efforts to require the Postal Service to roll back relaxed service standards began to surface. In June, the House Appropriations Committee narrowly approved an amendment to rescind the lower service standards and restore postal service standards to those in place on July 1, 2012. In July, Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) introduced legislation, the "Rural Postal Act of 2015" (S. 1742), that would restore stronger service standards and place a two-year moratorium on closing additional mail processing plants. In endorsing the legislation, NAPS President Louis Atkins said, "It is critical that mail service to all parts of America, including rural America, remains strong and we assure the highest-quality, most-cost-effective service available."

#### Putting the Genie Back in the Bottle

Whether Congress can realistically mandate the Postal Service to turn back the clock and return service levels to what they were in 2012 remains unclear. To do so, the USPS would need to reopen facilities that have been closed or sold, redeploy workers and return equipment it no longer owns or has been repurposed. The Congressional Budget Office has told Congress that costs would mount. Indeed, the CBO estimates these realignments would cost significantly more than \$300 million and the Postal Service doesn't have the necessary resources.

How Congress puts pressure on the Postal Service to better assure prompt service, while remaining financially viable, represents the toughest challenge Carper faces in drafting postal reform legislation. NAPS will continue working with Senate leaders and friends to assure the best balance that provides all Americans cost-efficient and prompt mail delivery.

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Article XIV of the *NAPS Constitution* requires the secretary/treasurer to "furnish financial reports quarterly and publish same in *The Postal Supervisor*."

#### Balance Sheet—May 31, 2015

##### Assets:

Cash and Investments	\$14,462,016.42
Dues Withholding Receivable	247,974.45
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	476,350.05
Total Current Assets	15,186,340.92
Building and Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	3,552,760.50
Total Assets	\$18,739,101.42

##### Liabilities and Fund Balances:

Accounts Payable	\$ 11,554.06
Accrued Expenses	253,109.70
Deferred Revenues	49,840.00
Dues to be Remitted to Branches	481,001.90
Total Liabilities	795,505.66
General and Designated Fund Balances	17,943,595.76
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$18,739,101.42

#### Statement of Revenues and Expenses

(For the period March 1, 2015, through May 31, 2015)

##### Revenues:

Dues and Assessments	\$ 1,605,030.40
Less: Dues Remitted to Branches	1,043,559.95
Net Dues and Assessment Revenue	561,470.45
Investment Income	82,883.94
Royalties	2,118.11
Legislative Conference Revenues Net of Refunds	71,635.00
National Convention Revenues Net of Refunds	16,360.00
NAPS Property, Inc. Net Income Before Depreciation	\$144,828.85
Less Depreciation	(79,246.80)
NAPS Property, Inc. Net Income	65,582.05
Training Registration Income	8,130.00
Other	10,802.88
Total Revenues	818,982.43

##### Expenses:

National Headquarters	319,451.79
Executive Board	305,446.87
Legislative Conference	213,377.73
National Convention 2014	8,900.00
<i>The Postal Supervisor</i>	60,440.89
Legal and/or Fact Finding	4,236.00
Legislative Counsel	21,313.26
Legislative Expenses	4,550.99
Education and Training	33,792.63
Disciplinary Defense	61,854.87
Training Registration Expense	37,690.00
Total Expenses	1,071,055.03

**Revenues In Excess of Expenses** \$ (252,072.60)