

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

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April 13, 2020

Board Memo 022-2020: NAPS HQ COVID-19 Weekly Communication April 4-10, 2020

Executive Board,

As efforts continue to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, please share the attached NAPS HQ COVID-19 Weekly Communication for the week of April 4-10, 2020 with your membership. This communication will also be posted on NAPS Facebook and website, <u>www.naps.org</u>. Be and stay safe.

Thank you.

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NAPS COVID-19 Weekly Communication April 4 - April 10, 2020

On Sunday, April 5, NAPS HQ sent out its first NAPS COVID-19 Weekly Communication to the NAPS executive board to share with their membership and was also posted NAPS website, naps.org.

On Monday, April 6, NAPS resident officers and staff returned to NAPS headquarters at the 1727 King Street, STE 400, Alexandria, VA after teleworking since March 19. NAPS HQ's goal is to eliminate or reduce the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, to continue with State of Virginia's current "stay in place" and social distancing order, NAPS HQ is rotating NAPS staff between telework and working in the office with the resident officers.

On Wednesday, April 8, NAPS HQ mailed a letter to Postmaster General Megan Brennan, requesting the U.S. Postal Service exercise its authority under 5 CFR § 550.904 to pay the hazard pay differential to postal employees who are assigned to and are performing duties considered "hazardous" under such authority during the period of national emergency as declared by President Donald J. Trump on March 15, 2020. In addition, NAPS requested the Postal Service, in conformance with the spirit of ELM 434.143, to provide additional pay to all regular FLSA-exempt employees in EAS-18 positions and above, including postmasters and officers-in-charge, for authorized supervisory hours worked over 8.5 hours on a scheduled day or any hours on a nonscheduled day during the current period of national emergency, as declared by President Donald J. Trump on March 15, 2020.

NAPS resident officers, along with the Executive Board, continued to participate in USPS Area and District COVID-19 teleconferences providing addressing COVID-19 workplace issues and suggestions to assist the USPS on their efforts to protect employees while everyone fights against this pandemic. Daily dialogue with USPS HQ continues with updates and various USPS policy changes related to COVID-19.

NAPS continues to forward USPS Stand-up Talks to the Executive Board in our effort to keep members informed about the effects of the COVID-19 on the USPS and actions to protect postal employees, NAPS members and the American public against this pandemic.

NAPS Legislative activities:

1. NAPS reached out to our State Legislative Chairs, with the coordinative support of our Executive Board, to conduct a contact campaign (letters and emails) to all State Governors to secure Negotiated Service Agreements (NSA) with the USPS. The objective is to secure the ballots for voting through the use of Vote-By-Mail. NAPS is encouraging all members to engage in this campaign and recruit the support of family and friends.



2. NAPS requested all State Legislative Chairs, with the coordinative support of our Executive Board, to conduct a contact campaign (letters and emails) to all US Congressional leaders urging support and passing of legislation to appropriate emergency funds to the U.S. Postal Service due the COVID-19 pandemic. In the House of Representatives, Rep. Joe Neguse introduced H.R. 6425 to provide such an appropriation. NAPS has supplied templates and contact information for the support of this initiative.

NAPS HQ conducted an interview with the Federal News Network (FNN). Executive Vice President Ivan Butts conducted this radio interview and utilized this opportunity to validate NAPS' request to the PMG and legislators for the implementation of Hazard Pay for all USPS employees working during the COVID-19 world pandemic. The USPS is continuing operations to deliver critical pharmaceutical packages, essential supplies as well as maintaining the normalcy of mail delivery to America during this crisis.

Vice President Butts also capitalized on this interview opportunity to express the needed support for the \$25 billion in emergency funding for the sustainability of Postal Service operations during this crisis in American. NAPS believes that this emergency funding is in line with the half-trillion-dollar funding being made available to corporations such as UPS and FedEx.

In additional news, Senate Democrats this week proposed legislation that would offer premium pay to federal workers who are "essential frontline employees" during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. The proposal is part of a larger package offered to frontline workers in both the private and public sectors. A \$25,000 premium pay increase for essential workers, equivalent to a raise of \$13 per hour from the start of the public health emergency until December 31, 2020.

As NAPS continues to conduct business as usual, NAPS encourages members to reach out to their respective regional or area vice presidents for support, information and inquiries, not just related to the pandemic, but issues involving the USPS or your respective NAPS branch.

NAPS family, we will get through this together, stronger than ever. Keep safe. Be vigilant. Have faith and God Bless!

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