

National Headquarters 1727 KING STREET, SUITE 400 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2753 (703) 836-9660

April 20, 2020

Board Memo 024-2020: NAPS HQ COVID-19 Communication April 11-17, 2020

Executive Board,

As efforts continue to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, please share with your membership the attached NAPS HQ COVID-19 Communication for the week of April 11-17, 2020. This communication will also be posted on NAPS Facebook and website, www.naps.org. Be and stay safe.

Thank you.

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NAPS COVID-19 Weekly Communication

April 11-17, 2020

NAPS continues to conduct business as usual during this pandemic, including the planning and coordination of the national convention activities. Final national convention committee selections were made this week and committee notification letters mailed on Thursday, April 16, 2020. NAPS headquarters continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and the possible impact it may have on our national convention this August. If there is a change in our national convention plans, NAPS will advise members accordingly.

NAPS resident officers, along with the Executive Board, continued to participate in USPS Area and District COVID-19 teleconferences to assist the USPS on their efforts to protect employees while everyone fights against this pandemic. NAPS forwards COVID-19 related USPS stand-up talks to the executive board to keep members, active and associate, informed.

Daily dialogue with USPS HQ continues. On Wednesday, April 15, NAPS National President Brian Wagner attended a management association teleconference with Postmaster General Megan Brennan and other executive postal leadership on COVID-19 related matters as well as state of the business. The PMG plans to have biweekly teleconferences with the management associations.

NAPS membership continues the implementation of our grassroots efforts for support of the emergency aid that is being sought in H.R. 6425, *Protect Our Post Offices Act*, introduced on March 31, 2020, by Rep. Joe Neguse, (D-CO-02). NAPS salutes all postal employees, especially our EAS, who continue to deliver critical medicines and essential supplies to American households during this worldwide pandemic. Additionally, NAPS grassroot efforts extend to making contact with state government officials to seek the use of Vote-By-Mail (VBM). It is within our power as an association to provide a safe and an effective means—VBM for American's to exercise their constitutional right without having to make a potential life and death decision to vote.

NAPS HQ continues to encourage members, family, and friends to contact their Congressional leaders to ensure support of emergency aid to the USPS, and to also contact state election officials on adopting VBM for elections. NAPS was contacted this week to weigh in on a potential House resolution recognizing frontline workers in this COVID-19 war, in which we readily support. NAPS is encouraged by the messages received from our membership in response to our call to action to contact Congressional leaders.



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The staff at NAPS HQ has been working at times in the office on a rotating basis and at times remotely from home, but the work that we do on behalf of membership continues regardless of our location. NAPS completed the branch DCO deposits for March, and the necessary branch reports were sent out by Emily Christophersen, our new membership coordinator. Please reach out to Emily at naps.ec@naps.org or Chuck Mulidore, National Secretary/Treasurer, at naps.ec@naps.org for any membership related issues.

Speaking of membership, NAPS HQ has received approximately 200 new membership applications as a result of the NAPS HQ membership drive launched in February 2020. Unfortunately, events surrounding the coronavirus pandemic have likely taken the focus of many of our newly promoted EAS from joining NAPS, and also since USP (formerly NSP) classes at this time have been cancelled, this certainly has impacted our membership recruiting efforts.

NAPS is pleased to report that since the first of March, it has received nearly 400 membership applications in total. The first half of March alone bringing in over 200 applications. Even better, in calendar year 2020, NAPS has received over 800 applications. NAPS thanks all those responsible for their efforts in these difficult times! Of course, March is also a time of the year when NAPS members may withdraw from our organization. Also, retirements impact our overall membership numbers. NAPS will be monitoring our DCO reports later this month and next, to see if there is any substantial overall growth in membership.

During a recent NAPS regional teleconferences with the resident officers, the following questions were asked and forwarded to USPS HQ for a response. The responses to NAPS questions are below:

- 1. Is the Postal Service withholding posting of EAS vacancies as a result of the current COVID-19 situation? If so, how many by USPS Area.

 USPS Response: There has been no change to the Nonbargaining hiring process. We are unaware of any Areas intentionally withholding the posting of EAS vacancies due to the pandemic.
- 2. Is the USPS withdrawing currently posted EAS positions due to the pandemic? *USPS Response: We are not aware of any EAS postings that have been removed.*
- 3. In light of individual states implementing stay at home orders, are EAS transfers to other states being delayed or canceled? Are there time restrictions for holding an EAS employee in their current position being expanded/adjusted once their Form 50 is processed? Will transferred employees entering states requiring them to quarantine be paid USPS admin pay for being required to quarantine by the respective state?



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USPS Response: If the pandemic has created any challenges in an EAS employee relocating, then that employee should discuss the specific circumstances with their current manager and the selecting official. Relocation exceptions are being address on a case by case basis.

4. Will EAS be able to carry over more than 560 AL hours this year due to the COVID-19. USPS Response: There has been no change to annual leave carryover limitations for EAS due to the pandemic. Changes to this leave benefit has not been considered. NAPS national office will be contacted for further discussion if consideration is given to change this leave benefit.

Even during this pandemic, members are encouraged 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 is family. We will get through this pandemic together, stronger than ever. Keep safe. Be vigilant. Have faith and God Bless!

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