

Marilyn's July 2020 Blog

Last year we gathered with our friends and family at Picnics, Family Reunions, Parades and other community celebrations to our Nations July 4th birthday. This year we are challenged to figure out how to just enjoy being with close family and hosting a small BBQ in the back yard while keeping a social distance to ensure our elders and immunity sensitive relatives are not put at risk! What a difference a year makes. A new normal? Most likely the current normal until we get a cure (vaccine), or a national all clear that the virus has dissipated. I am always hopeful that like all other health challenges this too shall pass!

COVID-19 Spikes—I cannot believe we are still tracking COVID cases in the Postal Service as well as the general community. For whatever reason the United States appears to be loosing the battle at defeating this disease. It has become a political dividing line. It has nothing to do with politics and every thing to do with public health. Either you accept the data of health care professionals and scientist whom we rely on to keep us healthy or your take the word of opinionated naysayers! Remember the three W's Wash your hands, Wear a Mask and Watch your social distance!

Questions about TSP investments as a result of the Presidents changes to 401K's

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board is required by law to manage the TSP prudently and solely in the interest of the participants and their beneficiaries. Also, the Thrift Board consults with the Employee Thrift Advisory Council (ETAC), a statutorily created Advisory Committee comprising representatives of employee organizations, unions, and the uniformed services. NAPS is a member of the Council. As a result, the referenced Department of Labor rule would not impact retirement savings invested within the TSP. For this reason and the TSP's exceptionally low administrative costs TSP, participants are cautioned against withdrawing funds upon retirement and transferring those funds into profit-driven, privately-managed investment companies.

The Office of Personnel Management announced on June 18th that it is planning to issue regulations to allow agencies to restore federal employees' so-called "use or lose" annual leave that was canceled so they could work on the response to the coronavirus pandemic. Ordinarily, federal workers can only carry over so much annual leave from year to year. Any unused leave over that cap is forfeited at the end of the year. Leave that is lost at the end of a year can only be restored to federal workers if it was forfeited due to an administrative error, an employee being ill, or if leave was canceled due to an "exigency of the public business." In a memo to agency heads, acting OPM Director Michael Rigas said his agency will issue regulations officially deeming COVID-19 a national emergency to fulfill that "exigency of public business" requirement and to streamline procedures to restore leave to feds.

HATCH ACT REMINDER— NAPS is encouraging all eligible voters to become engaged in the Legislative process and support positive Postal Legislation that will secure the viability of the US Postal Service. Respect each others views and allow for open conversation about the issues. However make sure you are off the clock and out of uniform when promoting your views and opinions. Never use Postal computers or devices to forward political information not related to your job. Hatch Act violations are investigated by the Office of Special Consul and could result in an employee facing and Adverse Action up to removal from the Postal Service!

Update on HR 7015 Stand alone Postal Legislation and HERO's Bill stalled in the Senate. HR 7015 contains the same requested financial support for the Postal Service including funds to support vote by mail that is in the Senate stalled HERO's bill. HR 7015 was proposed in the hope of gaining significant Bi-Partisan support, because many legislators stated they supported the Postal Service, but not some of the items related to other proposals in the HERO Bill. ALL Postal employees, family and friends please contact your congressional representative and both Senators and ask them to support HR 7015.

SPAC— This is an important National Election year and NAPS needs SPAC funds to use to support our legislative friends in Congress. You can become a continuous contributor through payroll deductions. However you can opt to send a check made out to SPAC and send to 1727 King St, STE 400, Alexandria VA 22314-2753.

As of July 3, 2020 the COVID-19 virus case count state wide in California 238,880! Stay safe!

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