

Marilyn's May 2020 Blog

Greetings from week six sheltered in place smog free California! The upside is sunny clear blue sky's, clean fresh air and cheap gas! The down side the only outings are trips to grocery store or take out food!

However, I have to give a shout out to the essential workers that have to work every day during this pandemic.

All Postal employees deserve our special recognition for being on the front line now 7 days a week! While letter volume is down package volume has exceeded peak season!

COVID-19 - USPS Area Staffs in coordination with the Unions and Management Associations has been conducting daily Zoom meetings briefing everyone on the daily status of the impacts of this ongoing pandemic. The goal of the area telecoms is to share information, provide feedback fill in the communication gaps because instructions and policies are changing hourly, daily

Our role as representatives is to make sure you are receiving information and tools needed to do your job. I and my colleagues including the National NAPS resident officers have been attending daily COVID-19 daily Zoom meetings. One message I hear continuously is a sincere thank you to all the essential employees. I hope everyone is getting that message it is being expressed daily by Senior Postal and District Area Staff.

Moratorium Request - Due to COVID-19 pandemic I am requesting local NAPS officers send memos to their Districts requesting a 30 day moratorium on I&I's for EAS. Please make request locally first then move up if there is a negative response. It is challenging to travel to in person meetings during the shelter in place. Also many of our members are not comfortable with tele-com I & I's.

Representation in progress - If a Decision letter has been issued to a member do not delay because of COVID-19 issues. Proceed as normal by sending the Decision letter, any supporting documentation and a signed DDF request form to the NAPS DDF provider. Labor Relations Admin Group LLC, P O Box 25822, Brooklyn NY 11202. LRAG.PO@gmail.com.

A letter of final decision once issue cannot be delay you must followed the required guidelines to insure the member qualifies for Adverse Action DDF representation and all filing deadlines. Any questions contact your NAPS Area VP.

Telework Contingency Policy Extension (Dated 4-28-20) The Telework Contingency policy memorandum of March 17 is extended until further notice for PCES and EAS employees. Telework for bargaining unit employees will be governed by the current Memorandums of Understanding on Telework. **Signed by Isaac, Cronkhite, Chief Human Resources Officer USPS HQ**

Pacific Area Office requests we remind all employees that are teleworking to refer to the USPS Blue Page for notices and updates so employees on Telework won't get in trouble not being familiar with policies, instructions and ethics of teleworking.

Support the Postal Service there are several stimulus packages proposed in Congress. All Postal employees, retirees, family and friends need to contact their representative and both Senators asking to include the Postal Service in any new funding including funds to support nationwide **Vote by Mail!** NAPS has also requested that members contact their Secretary of State to request expanded Vote by Mail. Scientist and Medical experts are predicting that COVID-19 might impact voting during the upcoming November elections, additional voting options need to be available to the public.

Contacting your legislators is very easy you can write a letter to your representatives local office. Each representative has a web page once there click on contact and type in your zip code, it will take you to a page where you type in your information and you can send a message to your representative and submit when finish. Just takes a minute to let your legislator know you want USPS included in the next financial emergency spending bill.

EAP Presentation is available to all Pacific Area Districts, Unions an Management Associations. The slide presentation provides information on their services for employees and tips on how to cope with the impacts of COVID-19. For more information contact Mark Gripe, Area EAP, mgripendbh.com.

COVID-19 employee tracking, as of May 1, 2020 Nationally 6,763 cases/incidents, 1,806 confirmed, 1,200 returned to work. The Pacific Area tracked 1,045 COVID-19 cases/incidents, 70 confirmed 2 unconfirmed. 778 employees returned to work.

Maintain social distance, wear a mask where required, wash hand frequently and stay safe!

In Solidarity

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