

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

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

NAPS COVID-19 Weekly Communication

March 30 - April 3, 2020

On March 15, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that groups or individuals cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus) and the President encouraged all Americans for the next avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people. To answer the call, NAPS Headquarters issued a [March 16, 2020 Newsbreak](#) recommending NAPS events (meetings, training seminars and state conventions) to be canceled and rescheduled to a later date. The vast majority of all NAPS events have been canceled for the months March, April and May. NAPS thanks our members, branches and executive board who answered the called to cancel such events.

Furthermore, in following CDC guidelines, NAPS HQ [announced](#) its decision to telework for two weeks starting March 19. Since that time, NAPS has remained fully operational. On occasion and for short periods of time, the resident officers have returned to the NAPS HQ office to handle required NAPS business. NAPS HQ resident officers and staff will be back in the office on Monday, April 6.

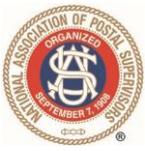
On March 30, NAPS Headquarters issued a [national COVID-19 message](#) to the membership. Again, our deepest thanks, appreciation and praise to all postal employees, especially our EAS and NAPS members, both active and retired, for their dedication to support and protect the membership during this pandemic. NAPS continues to encourage members to be safe and follow CDC and social distancing guidelines to protect yourself, your family, friends and community.

NAPS' position is that all postal employees should have sufficient supplies of personal protection equipment (PPE) to perform their duties in safely, not just during this COVID-19 pandemic, but at all times. NAPS will continue its efforts to push for ample supply of PPE protection. In doing so over the past two weeks, including this week, NAPS headquarters and your executive board have remained in daily contact with postal leadership at the Headquarters, area and district offices. This has included attending daily USPS COVID-19 teleconferences to receive information, ask questions, address concerns and provide input. Board members are on at least 5 telecons a day representing NAPS. Resident officers are also participating on these telecons.

NAPS receives daily COVID-19-related USPS communications/stand-up talks, MOUs, etc., which are shared with the Executive Board and posted on the NAPS website under our new [COVID-19 information and resources page](#). Visit www.naps.org for COVID-19 information and answers to your questions, including how best to protect you and your family during this pandemic.

This week, your resident officers completed a [NAPS Chat podcast](#) with Bob Levi updating members on NAPS' actions, postal and legislatively, regarding COVID-19. On the COVID-19 legislative front, your NAPS Legislative Team is working on multiple issues to support USPS operations and our NAPS membership.

Representing supervisors, managers and postmasters in the United States Postal Service



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

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

Hazard Pay

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer on April 1, 2020 sent a letter to the White House urging the issuance of an Executive Order establishing that federal employees on the frontline who provide essential services to America become eligible for “hazard pay.” Schumer says Congress should ultimately pass legislation that would require extra pay for being on the front lines of the crisis. If President Trump does it now for federal employees, it would set an example for private sector employers, Schumer said.

USPS employees are a vital part of the Nation’s essential governmental infrastructure who work, on a daily basis, in facilities that have potential COVID contamination and are constantly interacting with individuals who may carry the virus. NAPS believes that USPS employees on the front lines should be eligible for hazard pay, and has urged Congressional Leaders to call for an Executive Order that recognizes USPS employees as eligible for hazard pay. In addition, NAPS has urged USPS to exercise its authority to grant “hazard pay” to frontline USPS employees.

NAPS Support for H.R.6425, The Protect Our Post Offices Act

On March 31, 2020, Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-02) introduced legislation ([Protect our Post Offices Act, H.R. 6425](#)) providing \$25 billion in emergency appropriations to the U.S. Postal Service in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

NAPS strongly supports the “Protect Our Post Offices Act.” In a recent letter to Members of Congress, Executive Vice President Ivan Butts underscored the need for assistance, pointing to the critical role that the Postal Service has played during the pandemic:

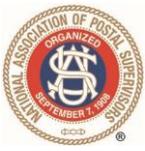
As you know, the coronavirus pandemic has had a grave impact on our nation’s economy, and the capability of governmental and commercial entities to maintain essential services. Despite the carnage, the U.S. Postal Service continues to function, maintaining post office hours, and processing and delivering our nation’s mail and parcels on behalf of your constituents and businesses. The nation’s postal employees continue to “bind the nation together.”

NAPS has sent its letter of support for H.R. 6425 to more than a thousand House lawmakers and staff involved in Congressional oversight of government operations. NAPS will soon launch a grassroots campaign in support of the legislation.

Vote by Mail (VBM)

On March 27, 2020, the President signed into law the CARES Act, (H.R. 748, The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.” This \$2 trillion relief measure responds to the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses.

The law provides FY2020 supplemental appropriations for federal agencies to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, and extends authority to the Postal Service to borrow \$10 billion from the U.S. Treasury.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

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

The law also provides \$400 million to ensure the stability of our elections and protect our democratic system. The funding will go to the Election Assistance Commission to support the 2020 election cycle to increase the ability to vote by mail, expand early voting and online registration, and increase the number of polling places and workers.

On April 2, 2020, NAPS reached out to every State elections oversight official via a mailing from Executive Vice President Ivan Butts encouraging States to adopt Vote by Mail (VBM) and to administer it with cost-efficient pricing through a Negotiated Service Agreement with the Postal Service. In addition, NAPS would like to thank NAPS New Mexico leaders Frank Gallegos and Joel Wadsworth for their engagement with the New Mexico state leadership on VBM. NAPS will magnify our VBM grassroots efforts in the coming weeks.

Until our next *NAPS COVID-19 Weekly Communication*, we will continue with the business of NAPS. As reminder, members are encouraged to reach out to their respective regional or area vice presidents for support, information and inquiries related to the pandemic or other issues involving the USPS or their respective NAPS branch.

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

NAPS Headquarters