

Daily Newsletter

Aug. 9, 2022 • Number 2

Wear Your Convention Badge

During this week's convention, you **MUST** wear your badge **ALL THE TIME**. You cannot be admitted to any events without your badge.

Your badge contains all the tickets you need for breakfast (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday), Monday night's Welcome Reception and Friday night's Grand Banquet. Tickets will be collected at the doors by the sergeants-at-arms.

'Rules Are Tools'

Attendees at Sunday afternoon's delegates' orientation learned the basics of parliamentary procedure from NAPS Parliamentarian Dr. Bruce Bishop. The primary reason NAPS members meet every two years at a convention is to make decisions. "My job is to help you have a more efficient meeting," he explained.

The best way to make a decision and assure that decision is supported by the group is by using parliamentary procedure—rules the members agree to follow to make decisions that provide everyone a fair opportunity to impact the outcome. NAPS uses "Robert's Rules of Order."

The organization's members are the decision makers, the officers are the facilitators—ensuring members have the tools they need to make decisions—and the resolutions committees research and make recommendations. All business is conducted by motions—ideas, essentially—and decisions are made by consent of a majority vote.

All the convention's business is conducted through motions. And those motions are subject to debate and can be amended. All decisions are made by majority vote.

Bishop told delegates their job is to be informed, participate in debates and discussions, ask responsible questions and keep discussions relevant. Their most important responsibility is to vote.

"My job is to give advice and counsel," Bishop said.

Don't Miss Your Area Photo

Today's area photos will be at 12:15 p.m., immediately after the opening ceremony, for the Mideast, Capitol-Atlantic and Pioneer areas.

At 5:15 p.m., immediately after the afternoon session, will be the Northwest, Rocky Mountain and Pacific areas. The photos are taken in Storyville Hall, the same room where breakfast is being served. Be prompt!

SPAC Matters

During Monday morning's session, Executive Vice President Chuck Mulidore told delegates that SPAC matters. "The passage of H.R. 3076 wouldn't have happened without SPAC," he said. "The credit goes to all of you who contributed."

Mulidore described the experience of being at the White House to witness President Joe Biden sign the legislation into law in April. "It was an amazing time," he offered, "and an honor to represent all of you. We were overwhelmed at the gravity of the situation and felt the collective honor of that day.

"There is more work ahead, though. With SPAC, we will continue our work and have more bill-signing ceremonies."

A SPAC contribution form, as well as forms for the NAPS and California State challenge coins, were included in the convention bags.

You also can support SPAC by registering for Thursday morning's SPAC walkathon at the SPAC table. For just \$20, you get a specially designed T-shirt. You also can buy just the shirt, but not walk. Either way, the money goes to SPAC.

The walkathon will get underway Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Meet in the lobby.

For all your SPAC needs, visit NAPS Director of Legislative & Political Affairs Bob Levi at the SPAC table in the Celestin Ballroom Foyer.

As of Monday afternoon, \$11,600 had been collected for SPAC.

Credential Changes

See Emily Christophersen in the NAPS Office for any changes to your credentials. The deadline for making any changes is noon on Thursday. No changes will be made after the deadline.

Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler!

Host Branch Committee Chair Tomica Duplessis welcomed NAPS members to the 68th National Convention Monday morning. She said New Orleans Branch 73 members have worked hard to make this convention the best NAPS ever has had. "We're so happy you're here," she declared. "Let's get down to the business of NAPS."

Cassandra Collins, Tomica's sister and a first-timer, gave the invocation. Rechelle Cook inspired the audience with the song "Open My Heart" by Yolanda Adams.

The Louisiana National Guard presented the Colors. Kyle Laurendine led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, Rechelle sang the national anthem.

NAPS always honors those members

who have died since the previous convention with a memorial service. This year's service, led by Bertha Brumfield, had a distinctly New Orleans flair and was celebrated in the manner of a traditional jazz funeral. New Orleans does everything with more style than anyone else.

The first speaker was New Orleans Postmaster Matthew Connelly who welcomed delegates and urged them to explore the city. "As a NAPS member," he offered, "I'm honored to be in front of you today. The people in this room make the Postal Service work!"

Courtney McKelvey, lead senior plant manager at the New Orleans P&DC, also welcomed delegates. McKelvey, a NAPS member and former president of Houston Branch 122, said NAPS is like no other organization and talked about being a first-timer at a NAPS convention.

"You have a wealth of knowledge in this room; these members will walk you through it," she counseled. "You'll learn about what NAPS does for the Postal Service."

"NAPS serves a purpose. We do a lot for EAS employees in this organization. Embrace the people who will show you the path."

Baton Rouge Postmaster James Tate next welcomed NAPS delegates. He said he joined NAPS in July 2001 after completing an ASP class and has been a member ever since. "Enjoy your time here in New Orleans!" he urged.

Entertainment was provided by the Victory Belles, a singing trio from the National World War II Museum performing music from the 1940s. Their repertoire includes all the treasured gems of the World War II era, as well as patriotic classics, including a musical salute to each branch of the U.S. armed forces.

Duplessis was honored to next introduce Rep. Troy Carter (D), freshman congressman representing Louisiana's 2nd Congress District, which includes New Orleans. Carter affirmed the city recognizes the importance of postal employees.

"Postal employees mean a little more for us here," he explained. "After storms, the Postal Service connects us to the federal government. The Postal Service has become an American staple. Your system

is a pillar of our American democracy."

Carter lauded the agency for its ability to grow and adapt. "You have overcome a litany of challenges and delivered ballots — on time — among those challenges," he offered. "We can't thank you enough for rising to the occasion and protecting our democracy."

Carter stressed the U.S. government needs to be a good employer and prop up good workers, including postal employees, with good pay and benefits.

The congressman said he was proud to have been a loud "yes" vote for H.R. 3076, legislation that will put the agency on the path to a bright future and provide more sustainable financial footing.

"We need people and our communities to thrive," he pronounced. "We can do better and must do better."

Carter expressed his support for H.R. 1623, the Postal Supervisors and Managers Fairness Act; H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act; and H.R. 1624, the Postal Employee Appeal Rights Amendment Act.

"Thank you all for being here," he declared. "Please accept my gratitude for what you do for our country."

Yulonda Love, the acting Louisiana District manager, addressed delegates. She addressed NAPS at its 2021 National Convention in Texas, when she was the Dallas postmaster. Last year, she told NAPS members to take care of themselves.

This year, she talked about the importance of helping people. "How many of you have passed by new managers who are asking for help? she offered.

Love asked delegates to take a pledge to help people. "My main objective is to help people," she vowed. "I want to be remembered as helping people along the way."

Duplessis then prepared to turn the convention gavel over to NAPS President Ivan D. Butts. "We've done all we can," she said. "It's time to officially get down to NAPS business. I hope we made you proud, Ivan."

Butts praised Duplessis and her committee members for their preparation and efforts. "They've poured their hearts and souls into this convention," he said.

At that point, Butts called the NAPS 68th National Convention's first business

session to order.

The first speaker was National Auxiliary President Laurie Butts. On behalf of the Auxiliary, she welcomed NAPS members and said the Auxiliary fully supports them.

Secretary/Treasurer Jimmy Warden highlighted the Hyatt Regency's emergency procedures, printed on page 20 of the *One Book*. He and Michiana Area Vice President Kevin Trayer met earlier with the hotel to discuss procedures.

Warden explained evacuation procedures. In the convention hall, delegates must evacuate through the side doors — not the doors at the back. A set of elevators are available for those in scooters and others unable to use stairs. The sergeant-at-arms will direct traffic to those elevators.

If anyone has mobility challenges, they should inform their area vice president.

Mobile Meeting App Available

Go to the Apple App Store or Google Play and search for **eventScribe**. **Install** and **open** the eventScribe app. Find the NAPS event icon in the Upcoming Events (bottom row) or **search** for **NAPS 2022 Event**. Tap the icon to launch the app.

Next, log in to the app. Log in to your account by signing in with your email and access key to begin using the app. If you do not have your access key, select the "forgot password" link to have your access key emailed to you. If you do not have an account, select "create account."

You can browse the event information and create a personal schedule by tapping on the star next to presentation titles.

Big Easy Tours

The following tours will depart at the these times on Wednesday, Aug. 10, from the tunnel behind the hotel, accessed from the 1st floor concierge area:

World War II Museum—8:30 a.m.

Cooking—9:30 a.m.

City Tour—10 a.m.

Airboat/Swamp—11 a.m.

Creole Queen—1 p.m.; the buses will circle back twice until all guests are picked up.