

Daily Newsletter

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2022 Convention Cities

The Sheraton Denver Downtown and Hyatt Regency New Orleans are hosting receptions this evening for NAPS delegates. The Sheraton Denver will be at Sol Toro, 6 to 8 p.m. Hyatt Regency New Orleans will be at Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

In Honor of Ann Konish

Ann Konish, a longtime member and SPAC champion, died June 7. She attended this year's Legislative Training Seminar where she presented \$5,000 for her 2018 SPAC contribution.

Executive Vice President Ivan D. Butts told NAPS delegates he called Ann in early June to thank her for her support of SPAC.

"Ann told me she wanted to give that \$5,000 because she knew her time was short," Ivan said. "I want to challenge everyone here to give \$100, if you can—whatever you can—in memory of Ann Konish. That will truly show how much we appreciated this woman who believed in what we needed to do legislatively."

Ivan told Ann NAPS was going to rename the SPAC Hall of Fame Award the Ann Konish SPAC Hall of Fame.

Scott Englerth, president of Ann Konish Branch 11, presented this year's awards. "Ann was known as the Queen of SPAC," he said. "She took it to heart and wore it with great pride. On behalf of our branch and her family, this is a great honor."

This year's winners are Paul Foley, Steve Shawn, Michael Boisvert, Laurie Well and Patti Lynn.

At the close of Tuesday's session, \$22,225 had been collected for SPAC.

'Mail Still Matters'

Postmaster General Megan Brennan thanked NAPS delegates for what they do for the Postal Service and its customers. She said that, despite the challenging times, it's the agency's collective responsibility to provide EAS employees with the tools, training and resources to better serve the American public. She also thanked the retirees for being actively engaged and advocating for NAPS.

Brennan talked about the change in how people communicate, conduct business and consume information; it's all about immediacy. First-Class Mail continues to decline, as well as presort and marketing mail. The growth in package volume remains healthy, but the rate of growth has slowed due to competition. "It's why we need to continue to deliver the value composition: competitive pricing, reliable and accurate scanning and on-time delivery," she pointed out.

Over the course of the past decade, there has been a 31 percent overall decline in volume. "As an organization, it's why we need to look at every opportunity to adjust the infrastructure and make adjustments to staffing and schedule," she said.

The Postal Service will report a controllable loss for the quarter, which includes some issues beyond its control, such as rising fuel costs. "Our message has been consistent all along," Brennan stressed. "While our financial challenges are serious, they are solvable. But we need legislative and regulatory reform to afford us some business flexibility, coupled with our aggressive management of the business."

The Postal Service, NAPS and other stakeholders have been advocating for reform for over a decade. Despite being able

to achieve alignment on key provisions of a postal reform bill, the legislation languishes. "It has bipartisan support in the House," she said. "We also have a pending Senate bill that has bipartisan support. In this environment, with boarder public policy issues being debated, the likelihood of us being able to advance the legislation becomes narrower. But we will continue to advocate for postal reform."

Another challenge is the lack of governors on the USPS Board of Governors. The Senate has not approved a governor since 2010. "We've been very vocal that having a full board is good governance," she stressed. "Everyone is best served with a fully functioning BOG providing oversight and direction to the Postal Service—the nation's second largest civilian employer and a \$68 billion company that matters to the American economy."

Currently, two nominations are pending in the Senate that have been voted out of committee. "We will continue to advocate for the urgency of having governors on board," she said.

Brennan discussed the presidential Task Force on the U.S. Postal System whose preliminary report is expected soon. She said the USPS has remained measured in its response, but continues to stress the need to look at the current business model. "The root cause of our financial instability is a business model imposed on us by Congress," she said. "We'll continue to position the organization for success in an increasingly competitive environment, but we need more flexibility."

"We expect our stakeholders—especially Congress, which has a key role to play in any changes in statutes or laws—to recognize the role of the Postal Service in

an increasingly digitized world; mail still matters. We must ensure that the stakeholders who will be making decisions about the future of the Postal Service and its role in a 21st-century marketplace are educated. Thank you for your efforts at the local, state and national levels.”

The PMG said the USPS will continue to look at opportunities to prioritize investments to stay competitive: infrastructure, vehicles, people, training, development, NSP, management essentials and developing a new POOM training program. “All that is investments in people,” she declared. “Ultimately, that’s to develop you to help provide the tools you need to identify gaps in performance and ultimately drive operating efficiencies.”

She urged everyone to sign up for Informed Delivery. “That’s our digital strategy,” she said. “It builds awareness and demonstrates the value of mail. We continue to benefit from package growth and that package revenue helps fund the network—an expansive network required to deliver the universal service obligation.”

Brennan talked about how the USPS is making a concerted effort to work with industry to reinvent mail. At the recent postal forum, the emphasis was on how to grow and position mail as part of a multimedia approach.

“Despite all these initiatives,” she said, “we have to run and run faster. The competition is not waning; the pace of competition is intensifying. And the USPS needs to continue to change and improve. We need to deliver the value proposition for our customer and we need to do it together.”

“I recognize we have challenges. This is a pivotal time for us to demonstrate the value of the Postal Service to the American public—to demonstrate that mail still matters, that the USPS is the platform the mailing and shipping industry relies on to reach its customers. It’s critically important the USPS has the business flexibility to compete.”

“We have strong leadership. At the end of the day, we’re responsible for a public institution that just celebrated 243 years. During these 243 years, our mission has remained unchanged: to bind this nation together. We’ll continue to do that.”

NAPS’ DDF provider Al Lum ad-

ressed NAPS delegates. During his tenure as a postal employee, Lum was active in NAPS; he was a delegate in Branch 100 and attended many national conventions. “This is my first as your DDF provider,” he said, “but my first convention was in Louisville in 1992.” His company, Labor Relations Admin Group, has 28 cases pending in the MSPB process and as of July 30 had picked up 63 adverse action cases.

Lum said among the hot issues are falsifications. In the past, it was falsification of clock rings, but now, falsification of scanning is becoming a big issue.

“In my role as your DDF provider,” he pledged, “I am committed to assist the Executive Board, officers and members to make our members’ futures better.”

USPS Chief Operating Officer Dave Williams told NAPS members he is honored to be part of the leadership team; the leadership EAS employees provide is second to none.

He pointed out that the USPS mission, from an operations standpoint, has changed pretty dramatically in the past five years; it will continue to change. “We’ve gone through a lot of change and consolidations. We’ve right-sized our organization and the operational footprint to match the new reality we’re working with regarding volumes and revenue. We must continue to change with it as we have in the past 20 years as First-Class Mail continues to decline.”

Williams said the USPS has pulled costs out as it chases the cost and growth curve. “We’ve repurposed a lot of our operational footprint for packages,” he explained. “We’ve pulled out machines and consolidated facilities and routes. We’ll continue to do that because it’s necessary to make sure our operating footprint matches the volume and revenue in our system.”

He talked about how peak volumes on Monday put enormous pressure on the operating infrastructure. “We have to change how we think about Monday. We’re calling it Master Monday.”

“We have a lot of controls we must put in place and we have to build trust between the operating functions to make sure Monday is just like any other day of the week. We’ll continue to build on the

strength we have on the Operations teams.”

UPMA Co-President Tony Leonardi reaffirmed that postal reform is long overdue. “I’m concerned that, the longer we go without reform,” he said, “short-term decisions will be made that won’t be to our benefit. We are at the will of Congress and we have to make sure they hear our voices.” He noted that the presidential Task Force on the U.S. Postal System is expected to make its report soon. “We need to make sure we come together and have a quick response,” he urged.

Leonardi thanked Northeast Region Vice President Tommy Roma and New York Area Vice President Jimmy Warden for the work they’re doing with USPS Northeast Area Vice President Ed Phelan on SWCs. “That’s one part of the equation,” he said. “Do we have replacements when we take time off? Does your phone ring before you get up in the morning? We need enough staffing so people can leave their jobs at the end of the day and not get five phone calls. We have to be able to leave our job and disconnect.”

Leonardi said UPMA and NAPS are on the same page regarding NPA. “The current program is not representative of what you do,” he stressed. “We can’t have people go years without a raise. We’ll continue to work with NAPS to try and revamp NPA. This is the biggest challenge we face; if people don’t feel valued, they won’t step up.”

In Memoriam

Following are more names of members who have died since the 2016 National Convention:

Earl Riggan, 8
Albert Martinez, 205
Pamela McNary, 23
Stan Patrick
Branch 14 members—
John Cobb
Katie Coffee
Frankie Dallas
Green Lee Davis
William Huges
Joe Ingraham
Barbara Jean Rochelle
Donna Thomas
Carl Williams