



# FIRST CLASS LEADER

Volume 8 Issue 4

Branch 66

April 8, 2006

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## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

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### IMPORTANT DATES

General Membership meetings  
Apr 11, 2006  
May 9, 2006

### Legislative Training

April 2-5, 2006 in Wash DC

### Five State Convention

Spokane, June 8-10,2006

### Branch Picnic

Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 2006

### National Convention

Las Vegas, Aug 7-11,2006

Our Legislative Seminar was marred by news of the untimely and tragic death of fellow Branch 66 member Lori Hayes-Kotter. Our hearts go out to the family, friends, and co-workers of Lori. Branch 66 will be sending a group of officers to North Powder Oregon on Sunday to attend Lori's funeral and express our condolences.

Branch 66 Vice President Jeff White has made arrangements with the NW Priority Credit Union for the establishment of a Memorial Fund intended to assist Lori's immediate family. NAPS headquarters has already voted

to make an initial contribution in the amount of \$5,000.

District Manager Dallas Keck and I were able to let Lori's husband know about this and we were assured this will be helpful in getting Lori's family through their short term financial difficulties. Information regarding this Memorial

Fund has been placed on the National NAPS web site and had been forwarded to Postal Headquarters and Western Area Headquarters for dissemination through Postal Communication Channels.

The information is as follows:

The name on the account is "In memory of Lori Hayes-Kotter"

The account number is 43270

NW Priority CU  
12630 S.E. Division  
P.O. Box 16640  
Portland, OR 97292-0640

503-760-5304  
toll free: 1-800-331-0968  
[www.nwprioritycu.org](http://www.nwprioritycu.org)

### Next Meeting

We have not had a lot of luck in locating a suitable off site location for our meetings. Jeanine Lerten did some research and has made a suggestion but I was unable to make the arrangements in time for this month's meeting so we will me meeting at the Main Post Office, either the cafeteria Conference Room or the PEDC Classrooms, 6:30 pm this Tuesday, April 11, 2006. Hope to see you there.

Branch 66 Members,

Your Branch 66 Legislative Delegation has just returned from the NAPS Legislative Training Seminar held in Washington DC from April 1 to April 5. Our time in Washington was used productively to promote the NAPS legislative message to the members of the Oregon Legislative Delegation.

The Oregon NAPS delegation was lead by the new NAPS State Legislative Chairman Joe Lahmann from Eugene. The Oregon NAPS delegation included myself Dan O'Donnell, Jim Stewart, Ruth Rusk, Perry Weinberger, Jesse Soto, Kathi Clapp and Ben Clapp. All of us were assigned a portion of our Legislative Agenda to present to our Legislators. Each member did an excellent job of presenting a professional message.

The afternoon on Sunday 4/2/06 was spent in a training session that was presented by the NAPS Executive Board and Bruce Moyer that NAPS Legislative Counsel.

We all attended an all day training session on Monday 4/3/06. This training was highlighted by a very motivational discussion titled "NAPS, Power and Politics" presented by Michael Dunn a professional Texas lobbyist. This presentation was followed by a round table discussion mediated by Anthony Conway of USPS Headquarters that included some of the most powerful Postal Lobbyists in Washington DC. This group included George Gould from the NALC, Jerry Cerasale from the Direct Marketing Association and Ben Cooper from Williams and Jensen PLLC.

The Highlight of our trip was to attend a Legislative Rally held on Tuesday morning on Capitol Hill. This rally was addressed by the most powerful Postal supporters in DC. Speeches by Senator Susan Collins, Senator Tom Carper, Senator Lieberman, Congressman Danny Davis Congressman Tom Davis and others predicted that Postal Reform with our help would become a reality during this congressional session.

The rest of Tuesday was spent lobbying our 5 House members and their staffs with the NAPS agenda.

Wednesday 4/5/06 was used to speak with the 2 Senate members and their staff promoting the NAPS message. On both days we used the following NAPS Executive Summary to prepare our individual presentations:

NAPS supports Congressional action that:

- Modernizes the nation's postal system and assures its financial viability;
- Protects the veterans' preference employment rights of postal and federal employees;
- Changes the tax laws to permit federal retirees to pay their health insurance premiums with pretax earnings; and
- Repeals laws that unfairly reduce Social Security benefits for public employees or their spouses.

### **1. Postal Reform: Assuring a Viable Conference Agreement**

House and Senate conferees will soon meet to resolve the differences between legislative measures passed during the 109th Congress to assure that the nation's postal system remains healthy and stable. The House and Senate-passed bills represent the culmination of legislative efforts over the past decade to modernize the nation's postal laws. Without reform, the nation's postal system, the anchor of the nation's economy, risks inevitable crisis. NAPS urges the Senate and House conference managers to craft conference legislation that ensures the financial viability of the Postal Service and preserves high-quality postal service for the American people.

### **2. Protecting the Veterans' Rights of Postal and Federal Employees**

NAPS supports the enactment of legislation that will prohibit federal departments and agencies, including the U.S. Postal Service, from implementing personnel policies that circumvent the application of veteran preference appeal rights.

### **3. Improved Tax Treatment of Health Insurance for Postal, Federal and Military Retirees**

NAPS supports legislation (S. 484 and H.R. 994), introduced by Sen. John Warner (R-VA) and Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA), to allow federal civilian and military retirees to participate in "premium conversion" through payment of their health insurance premiums with pre-tax earnings. This will help federal and military retirees to pay for their health care coverage.

### **4. Repeal or Modification of the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision**

NAPS supports passage of legislative proposals to repeal (S. 619, H.R. 147, H.R. 1714) or modify (S. 1799, H.R. 1690) the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination provisions in federal law that sharply reduce Social Security benefits for public employees or their spouses.

On a somber note, the Oregon NAPS delegation was able to experience how well connected our elected officials are to our Postal family in Oregon. During our Legislative visits with the offices of Senator Wyden and Smith on Wednesday morning, it was clear to us that the Senators and their staff members were truly concerned about the tragic loss of our fellow supervisor Lori Hayes-Kotter and would make and extra efforts to make sure that Lori and her family would be well taken care of.

Dan O'Donnell