



FIRST CLASS LEADER

Volume 8 Issue 5

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President- Jim Stewart
V President-OPs1-Jermey Blow
V President-OPs2- Jeff White
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V President-Plant-Ruth Rusk
Secretary-Nancy Mcvicker
Treasurer-Nancy Mcvicker
V. President-Legislative-Dan O'Donnell
Editor-Perry Weinberger
Sgt-of-Arms-Lynn Yut

Legislative Training

April 2-5, 2006 in Wash DC
Five State Convention
June 9,10, &11
Spokane 2006
National Convention
Aug 7-11, 2006
Las Vegas--2006

IMPORTANT DATES

General Membership meetings
May 10, 2006
Jun 13, 2006

Our next meeting will be in the banquet room at Denney's Restaurant at 15815 SE 82nd Drive. I believe they have beer and wine in addition to their regular menu. The resolutions committee will meet at 4:00 pm with the General Membership meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. Hopefully this is a good location.

The resolution committee will review past submissions and offer suggestions for new resolutions. These resolutions are wishes or suggestions Branch's offer for consideration at National Conventions. At next month's Northwest Area convention we will present our resolutions and vote whether or not to present them to the NAPS National resolution committee. Resolutions adopted at the National Convention are then presented to and discussed with Senior Postal Officials at regular consultative meetings and are hopefully acted upon to improve compensation and working conditions for EAS employees.

Welcome to new members Rickey Pullen, Jeffrey Loeffler, Melissa Huffman, Lance Gordon, Nicol Metz, Gwen Koski, Ryan Chasteen, Ivan Annis, and Steven Black.

Your Branch Officers have been very active lately, much time is spent representing members having difficulties dealing with work situations or facing disciplinary actions. Questions keep arising about when it is appropriate or required to "Make the Call". Without knowing specifics, I can assure you if you're even wondering you should be making the call. District Manager Dallas Keck continually assures us that he has never felt his time was being wasted by someone reporting potential sexual harassment or inappropriate behavior that turned out to be

without merit. Additionally, if you're even thinking about dating a peer or subordinate employee, let your boss know so you don't get yourself into an unmanageable situation. It is never appropriate to date a person who reports to you.

This year's Safety Summit was a great experience. I took my NALC Steward and he's become inspired to help and to get other carriers active in our Safety Activities. If you attended and felt the experience was worthwhile, or if you didn't get to attend and would like to go next year, let me or your boss know. We'll be lobbying Mr. Keck for invitations for more offices, especially bigger offices that have not yet had a chance to send their entire Safety Committee (Teams), to attend next years summit.

The fund our Branch established for the family of murdered Branch 66 member Lori Hayes-Kotter has generated over \$7,600 dollars. Our Branch voted to donate \$1,000 at last months meeting. On behalf of Lori's family I'd like to thank all who felt moved to contribute to her family. Anyone wishing to contribute should send a check as below.

In memory of Lori Hayes-Kotter
NW Priority Credit Union
PO Box 16640
Portland OR 97292-0640.



Attentive delegates to the Legislative Training Seminar



Executive Officers Ted Keating, Louis Atkins, and John Aceves



Michael Dunn, discussing how to lobby a legislator



Congresswoman Susan Collins, Postal Reform Bill Author, discussing reform with interested delegates.



Dr. Bodai signing copies of his book about the Breast Cancer Research Stamp

Jim Stewart

NAPS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 4/11/2006

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

Roll call of officers: Nancy McVicker, Perry Weinberger, Dan O'Donnell, Jeff White, Cindy Baker, Ruth Rusk, Jim Stewart, Lynn Yut, Kathi Clapp, Ben Clapp

Excused: Jeremy Blow

MINUTES: Motion made by Perry Weinberger to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Seconded by Ruth Rusk. The minutes will be posted on the web.

Treasury repost: SHARE ACCOUNT =	3121.23
CHECKING ACCOUNT =	14085.39
1 YEAR TERM ACCOUNT =	11537.92
<u>18 MO TERM ACCOUNT =</u>	<u>12214.52</u>
TOTAL =	40959.06

Report accepted.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: The legislative training was generally felt to be one of the best ever. Texan Michael Dunn, whose company specializes in helping organizations make effective use of their Political Action Committee funds and help with grassroots lobbying efforts, gave a very entertaining and inspirational speech.

Branch 82's delegation spoke with legislators and had good conversations regarding postal reform. All legislators and their staffs were well versed in provisions of both the House and Senate bills and they indicated we had their support. We discussed differences in the two bills and encouraged them to support provisions of one bill or the other that NAPS feels best benefits our members.

During the convention we got news regarding the death of Supervisor Lori Hayes-Kotter. The legislators and their staffs, especially Senator Wyden who spoke with us directly and with great compassion, gave their condolences. Senator Smith's office requested information to contact the family directly and discussed the possibility of the Senator contacting the family directly to offer his personal condolences in the same manner he does with fallen military persons.

The BUZZ at the convention was the worries about downsizing and consolidation. Ten plants have consolidated and the USPS is looking at forty more.

Dr. Bodai spoke regarding the Breast Cancer Stamp. He is a surgeon and Head of Cancer Research for Kaiser Permanente and the creator of the idea for the first ever Semi-Postal stamp. The Breast Cancer Stamp is now offered in 100 countries using the same design and worldwide has risen over \$65 million dollars for cancer research. Dr. Bodai's story of his selfless and relentless action in lobbying Congress and the Postal Service was very moving and inspirational; his stated life's dream is to be part of the discovery of a cure for cancer.

WESTERN AREA VP REPORT: After the convention the executive board met.

Why does Postal Reform appear it will pass this year? The house and Senate have each passed their Postal reform bills, in the past their bills have never gotten out of committee. The house voted overwhelmingly to pass, 410 to 20. The senate voted to pass by unanimous affirmation. Now that the bills have passed they go to conference. Ten senate and ten house representatives negotiate provisions of the two bills and come up with one bill. This is expected to be completed sometime in June. The bill would then go to President who will either sign it into law or veto the bill. With such strong bi-partisan support, no one expects the President to go through with his threat to veto the bill.

EAS Pay

The national board has not signed off on a pay package due to title 39. Title 39 stipulates that the Postal Service must consult with NAPS but this time they announced the pay package without consultation. This pay package only allows for a top grade pay increase of 2.25% so if you're at top grade and receive a pay increase in excess of that, you will get a lump sum payment for the balance. NAPS oppose this action because it does nothing to increase your high three year salary average when computing you're retirement benefits. NAPS is also very concerned that the goals have been raised to such a high level many are unattainable.

NAPS have two options 1) file a law suit 2) fact finding. NAPS chose to file a suit and the lawyers are preparing a statement that the USPS failed to consult. Lawyers for both parties are talking which is a good thing.

The plant consolidations are causing problems because employees are being reassigned under rules explained as repositioning. NAPS believe affected employees fall under the rules of reductions in force (RIF) where veterans get preference over non veterans. "Repositioning" gives veterans no preference; all employees are treated the same. There is a loophole in title 39 to do this and not grant special rights to veterans. NAPS are an advocate for veteran rights and legislation is being drafted now to close this loop hole in title 39.

The NAPS Executive board also voted to provide funds for Veterans assistance in the amount of \$2500.00. Funds were also approved for a charity that flies family members to veterans that are hospitalized in the amount of \$5000.00.

Other legal action is being taken regarding headquarters employees that are not granted representation and are told they cannot be NAPS members. The Postal Service changed the finance number for Sales employees and the Postal Service now states the EAS employees within this finance number cannot be represented by NAPS. The legal action will give formal discussion regarding representation.

Again supervisor work load credits (SWC's) were discussed, NAPS has made a proposal to USPS. A proposal was made to appoint a committee to represent NAPS regarding SWC's.

OLD BUSINESS: Resolution committee will meet two hours prior to the next meeting in May to work on resolutions that must be complete and voted on at the NW Area convention.

New resolution committee member: Jeanine Lerten.

The NW Area convention will be attended by eleven members, and room rates will be funded at ½ the room rate, each member.

The National Convention is coming up in August, motion made by Kathi Clapp that if delegates want their own room they will pay for the 6th night, and if they share a room NAPS will pay for all nights. Second by Nancy agreed by all.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion made by Kathi Clapp for the branch to donate \$1000.00 to the memorial fund for Lori Hayes-Kotter at the Priority Credit Union, second by all.

The State branch asked for branch 66 dues, Perry Weinberger will send a bill.

Not all members have had a chance to read the constitution and by laws, Perry Weinberger will place them on the web.

Kathi Clapp made a suggestion that we raise money for the political action committee, suggestions are: 1) 50/50 drawing 2) one bingo game.

Lynn Yut recommends a review of the budget, Jim and Nancy will review the budget.

Motion made by Dan O'Donnell to adjourn at 8:45 PM