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It seems unbelievable to me that we are again in a new year as I reflect on the challenges we met last year. I would like to take the time to relax and breathe for a few days and think it through. Oh no, we can't do that in light of the work that we have in front of us. Not only are we going to have even more challenges this year, but they are sure to be challenges that we have not faced before.

The challenges stem from the loss of mail volume and some of our employees not wanting to acknowledge this fact. Through the district, I have been tasked with the Minor Route Adjustments and believe me, it has not been easy. When I am looking at the data produced by this process, the pressure that the frontline supervisors and managers are under has never been clearer to me. As in most things, one new process breeds about ten more. In this case, we are lucky we are not looking at ten new processes; we are only looking at using the ones that we currently have. However, regardless of the number of processes we face, the problem still boils down to one thing: T-I-M-E.

Recently, I was asked the best way to get my job completed each day. Here is the answer; I don't. I prioritize my day with what my manager would like to see me accomplish. Too many times we feel overwhelmed with the tasks in front of us and feel there is nowhere to turn. If you are not able to get everything done in a day, which most of us are not, communicate with your manager. Let them know what you can get done and what you are not going to get accomplished. Ask what priority the tasks hold, which must be accomplished that day/week/month, and then get them done as best as you can. We are not able to get it all done every day and no one expects that. However, what is needed is good communication on what is getting accomplished and what is not.

On the legislative front ... When I was on my way to work this morning I heard that today is the first day for Congress to begin session for the New Year. We have many friends in Congress and we need to help support them. SPAC is one of the best ways to provide this support. By now, everyone should be aware that the Northwest is raising funds for SPAC through the sale of raffle tickets. Last year, tickets sold for \$20.00 each. In the hopes of selling more tickets, and thus raising more funds, the ticket prices for this year have been reduced to \$10.00. I challenge each and every member to purchase at least one of these tickets.

The proceeds from the raffle can directly help support our causes being brought forward on the hill. For more information go to www.napsnw.org and click on the legislative link. I will be placing monthly articles on what your monies are accomplishing and what direction our legislation is taking.

I also ask that each of you take a few minutes to visit the legislative page on the national website at www.naps.org. There are several ways to donate directly to SPAC including payroll deductions. At the last State meeting, all of the State Officers challenged ourselves to a minimum donation of \$5.00 per paycheck. For just six people, this totals a whopping \$780.00 per year. Imagine if this challenge was accepted by 10% of the statewide membership. Just think of the tremendous support we could provide to SPAC. The officers have challenged each other; I challenge you with the same level of support. Together we can influence change; not only in our individual workplace, but throughout the country.

At the end of March, I will be attending the Legislative Training Seminar (LTS). Look for my article on the NAPS NW website regarding this upcoming event. I will have the privilege of representing the State of Oregon, along with other NAPS branch members, as we meet with lawmakers. Now is the time for you to bring forth any topics that you feel our congressman and senators need to be aware of. All of our issues and concerns will be reviewed by the Legislative Team to be communicated to the appropriate folks on the hill.

Thank you again for your support and have a safe and Happy New Year.

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