



First Class Leader

**NAPS Branch 66
Portland OR**

www.napsnw.org

January 2009

QUARTERLY STATE NAPS NEWSLETTER

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From the President's Desk

By DeeAnn DeSimini
President, Branch 66

As I write this we are in a new year and already facing many challenges in our jobs and personal lives. Listening to the nightly news is downright scary these days with the statistics on layoffs, the rising unemployment rate, and the number of large businesses going under. The Postal Service is not immune from the troubled economy. We all know that our revenue is down along with the retail revenue throughout most of the world. With these uncertain times come some very high, and sometimes impossible, expectations. This is a lot of pressure to bear so I urge you to prioritize your daily job duties. Ask your boss to determine what should be on the top of the list. I firmly believe that we can't do it all. I also believe that we all want to do a good job. Why else would we be in these positions if we didn't want to affect the success of the

Postal Service. We don't do these jobs for the money or for the accolades, which are few and far between. Be kind to yourself. However, if ever there was a time for all of us, management and craft alike, to go that extra mile, *it's now*.

I'd like to cordially invite all of you to our annual member appreciation dinner. This is a fun evening event, with good food and a chance to network with your peers in a non-work setting. Dinner is free to you, our member, and one guest/spouse. We will be honored with the attendance of the national NAPS Secretary/Treasurer, Jay Killackey, and NAPS Western Region Vice President, Marilyn Walton. Portland District Manager Kim Anderson and Portland Plant Manager Lisa Shear have also graciously accepted our invitation. This will be a time to hear updates and a few words from our NAPS representatives. You will also meet your past and present Branch 66

officers who so graciously volunteer their time to represent you.

Last year we had an auction to benefit SPAC (Supervisors Political Action Committee) which was a lot of fun, so we're doing it again. It's a great way to clean those unwanted, unused Christmas presents out of the closet. Instead of listing it on eBay, why not donate it to the auction? I need to compile a list of items to be auctioned, so give me a call ASAP if you have an item or two that you would like to donate. Raffle tickets for the drawing in May will also be available for purchase at the dinner.

February is just around the corner so if you are planning on attending the Membership Appreciation and Installation Dinner, please take a few minutes and RSVP to the email addressees or phone numbers listed on page four. Hope to see you there. Happy New Year!

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, January 13th
6:30 p.m.
Membership Meeting
Izzy's Pizza
Buffet dinner for just \$6.00!
1307 NE 102nd St, Portland
(Gateway Shopping Center)

Saturday, February 21, 2009
7:30 p.m.
Membership Appreciation
and Installation Dinner
Milwaukie Elks Club
13121 McLoughlin Blvd
Milwaukie OR 97222-7115

R.S.V.P. Required

SAMPLE

NW AREA SPAC RAFFLE

First Prize: \$1250.00
Second Prize: - \$500.00
Third Prize: - \$250.00

Total of 1000 tickets sold • Drawing to be held on May 16th, 2009

Each Ticket \$10.00

Need not be present to win



New Year, New Challenges

By Kathi Clapp

President, OR State Branch 940

Happy New Year. Welcome to the quarterly State NAPS Newsletter. In an effort to communicate with our members, we will publish a quarterly state newsletter with information from each NAPS branch in the State of Oregon.

As the title of this article implies, there are many new challenges we are facing this year. You all just faced the challenge of the "Artic Blast 08" and how to continue to provide service to our customers. Some had the additional challenge of not receiving mail destined for their facil-

ity or receiving it too late for delivery. Yet through it all, we still did better than our competitors. We need to remember that. We faced the challenge, had to think outside of the box, plan, plan, and plan again to do whatever it took to get the job done.

This was a good drill for what is coming down the road. We will face the loss of craft and management personnel to voluntary early retirements (VERA) and planned retirements and will not be able to hire replacements for all of those positions. Are you ready to step up and continue to provide the outstanding service our cus-

tomers expect from us? Do you believe you can be successful in spite of the obstacles? We need to find a way to make this company succeed so that we can also retire from here. What are you doing to plan for your future and the future of the organization? Part of your planning should include becoming active in NAPS and encouraging others to do the same. Think about it. Do you want to be on the outside looking in allowing others to plan your future or – do you want to be a part of it? NAPS provides you the opportunity to be involved at a local, regional, and national level. Active NAPS members can, and

do, make a difference at each level of the organization. We are a partner to the USPS, not an adversary. We do not exist without each other. There is strength in numbers and we need everyone to join us to help march into the future and keep this company operating successfully. I hope you will attend your next branch meeting and get involved. It is also an opportunity to network and discuss the pressures you face and the success you have had with your peers.

I look forward to the challenges and the chance to make a difference and I hope you will also.

Not Enough Time

By Joe Lahmann

*VP Legislative Affairs
OR State Branch 940*

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.

(Continued on page 6)



News From Salem Branch 275

By Richard Ainsworth

President, Branch 275

My fellow NAPS members of Branch 275, I look forward to serving you as your president this upcoming year. We have several events this year, and I will be encouraging our members to help and/or participate. The most important upcoming event is the Five State Convention being held in Bend, Oregon. We will be jointly hosting this event with Eugene Branch 276 on May 15-17, 2009. Four Branch 275 members are needed to assist with the convention activities. The branch will pay your expenses. If you are interested, please contact me at

5 0 3 - 9 9 9 - 9 9 4 2 o r
rcjcrij2@msn.com.

The Postal Service is still having a problem with its expenses and making budget. Revenue is down and operational expenses continue to rise. Do not allow the Postal Service make budget at your personal expense. You should not work off the clock; make sure you take your breaks; do not be forced to take 2 hour lunches; do not use your personal vehicle for Postal work; and make sure that you get paid for all the hours you work.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings.



George Sieveking, a former Salem Branch 275 officer, attended the Alaska Statehood Stamp Celebration and wasted no time cozying up to Governor Sarah Palin as well as overseeing the sale of over \$10,000 in postal products in 3.5 hours.

News From Eugene Branch 276

By Bob Mann

President, Branch 276

Clarification of the EAS Higher Level Waiting Period

We continue to receive information requests on what the higher level waiting period is. As stated by the TACS office, there is a five day waiting period (excluding a break for normal days off). There are exceptions from the five day waiting period for the following:

- Craft employees detailed to EAS positions.
- When entering the first 16 weeks of the Associate Supervisor Program.
- Detailed as an ad-hoc EEO Counselor - This is limited to short-term details (a partial day to a few days). The 5 day waiting period does apply when a person is detailed into the EEO unit on a "non-ad-hoc" basis, or on a long term or non-intermittent basis.
- For short term assignments of a SDO to cover for a MDO if the following criteria are met:
 1. The facility only has one MDO position on a tour and there are no other means of coverage during the MDO absence.
 2. The assignment extends in regular intervals over a considerable length of time and, as such, is built into the employee's assignment.
 3. The individual is accountable for all aspects of the higher level position's responsibilities.
 4. The assignment is for a full tour of 8 hours or more.



Question of the Month ... What is LTS?

By Ranae Wittenburg

Editor, Branch 66

In the United States, almost every organized labor group is somehow impacted by federal lawmakers. The House and Senate are responsible for legislation that runs the gamete from making loans to the automotive industry to mandating six day delivery service. In the spring of every year, Washington D.C. is overrun by individuals from various labor groups who wish to influence and/or express concerns about issues that are important to their industry. NAPS has taken a very proactive role in this process and has named the annual event the Legislative Training Seminar (LTS). The purpose of LTS is to meet with legislators to gain their support for pending legislation that is important to

the Postal Service and more specifically - NAPS. Nearly every NAPS branch in the nation sends at least one representative to this annual event.

LTS typically occurs over a three day period and planning by local NAPS branches generally begins months prior to the trip. This year's event is scheduled for Sunday, March 29th through Tuesday, March 31, 2009. Participants will arrive in Washington D.C. on Saturday. All day Sunday and the first half of Monday will consist of a series of training seminars. During the training, speakers will explain the legislative process, identify major issues that are important to NAPS members, and prepare the attendees to effectively communicate with members of Congress. Monday afternoon and all-day Tuesday will be de-

voted to attendees meeting with the congressional members representing their own geographic area. It is through LTS, in conjunction with SPAC (see the November issue of the First Class Leader), that ideas and concerns important to NAPS members are transmitted to those who are responsible for actually making the laws.

Often times, LTS attendees meet with the congressional aides and not the actual elected official. Meeting with an aide makes it very difficult to ascertain what impression and/or impact was actually achieved. However, the local branch can derive benefits long after LTS. Examples include attendees taking a more proactive approach on educating their fellow members about the legislative process; staying current on legislative issues

and alerting other members to legislative activity that affects NAPS; being an active participant in local town hall meetings to ensure that a NAPS voice is heard; and taking an active role in SPAC fundraising events such as the sale of raffle tickets.

The 2009 NAPS Branch 66 budget, which was approved at the December meeting by the general membership, provides funding for two members to attend this year's LTS. Dan O'Donnell, Legislative Vice President, and Aleks Navarro, Vice President Plant Operations, were selected to be the 2009 attendees. It is hoped that they will have the opportunity to meet directly with Oregon's newly elected Congressman (Schrader) and newly elected Senator (Merkley).

**YOU MUST R.S.V.P. BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009
IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION AND INSTALLION OF OFFICERS DINNER

Dinner is free for each NAPS member and one guest

R.S.V.P. by sending an email to: napsnews@comcast.net or siminide@msn.com

**You may also R.S.V.P by phoning DeeAnn DeSimini at 503-294-5716 (work)
or 503-645-5249 (home).**



Minutes in a Minute

September 2008:

The September meeting was held at the Beaverton Izzy's at 6:30 p.m. on September 16, 2008. There were 21 officers and members in attendance.

Standard business included the reading of the treasurer's report and the minutes from the May and June meetings. Topics discussed at the meeting included the annual golf tournament expenses, convention expenses, pay for performance, changes to constitution bylaws, the upcoming election of officers and ASP classes. Additionally, National Convention attendees reported on their experiences at the convention. New business included the resignation of Perry Weinberger as editor, the election and installation of Aleks Navarro as Plant Vice President, and the appointment of Nancy McVicker, Sarah Link, Michele Grigoroff and Aleks Navarro to the Membership Appreciation/Installation Dinner committee.

October 2008:

The October meeting was held at the Gateway Izzy's at 6:30 p.m. on October 23, 2008. There were 21 officers and members in attendance.

Standard business included the reading of the treasurer's report and the minutes from the September meeting. Topics discussed at the meeting included the Membership Appreciation/Installation of Officers dinner, NW Area President's meeting, SPAC raffle tickets. Ben Clapp reported on an Executive Board Meeting that he had attended. New business included the discussion of a possible hostile work environment at the Portland Plant, and the possibility of terminating monthly payments to Minihan and Shapiro for legal retainer fees.

November 2008

The November meeting was held at the Gateway Izzy's at 6:30 p.m. on November 13, 2008. There were 20 officers and members in attendance.

Standard business included the reading of the treasurer's report and the minutes from the October meeting. DeeAnn DeSimini reported on the NW Area meeting that was held in Bend and Dan O'Donnell gave a legislative update. Other topics discussed included the reissue of Mr. Keck's letter regarding the discipline of EAS employees, the purchase of a color laser printer, the budget for 2009, and the upcoming Legislative Training Session.

December 2008

The December meeting was held at the Gateway Izzy's at 6:30 p.m. on December 9, 2008. There were 18 officers and members in attendance.

Standard business included the reading of the treasurer's report and the minutes from the November meeting. The ballot committee tallied the election results and announced the outcome. Your new officers are: President - DeeAnn DeSimini; Legislative Vice President - Dan O'Donnell; Area 1 Vice President - Jeremy Blow; Area 2 Vice President - Reece Steelman; Associate Offices Vice President - Doug Stephens; Plant Vice President - Aleks Navarro; Secretary - Bill Wittenburg; Treasurer - Michele Grigoroff; Sergeant-at-Arms - Sharon Blackburn; Editor - Ranae Wittenburg. New business included the proposed 2009 Budget, the upcoming Legislative Training Session, and the election results.

Copies of the official meeting minutes are available at the meetings and online at www.napsnw.org

Start the New Year Off With A Bang!

NW Area SPAC raffle tickets are still available for only \$10.00 each! That \$10 bucks not only buys you a chance to win a cash prize of \$1,250.00, \$500.00 or \$250.00; it's also good for monthly drawings at the NAPS 66 branch meetings. Your odds of winning are way better than the lottery. One simple rule applies—you have to buy a ticket to win. So what are you waiting for? Get yours today by contacting any Branch 66 officer.



Not Enough Time ...continued

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 state-wide 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

NAPSNW 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.

Volunteers Wanted!

Are you laying awake at night wondering how you can help your fellow NAPS members loosen up a bit? Well, here's the solution! Volunteer for the NAPS Branch 66 Recreation Committee.

The committee will be given a budget and creative license to plan and organize the annual golf tournament and other fun events. This could be your 15 minutes of fame. So volunteer now by contacting a branch officer, attending a membership meeting, or sending an email to: napsnews@comcast.net

IS YOUR ADDRESS CORRECT?

If your Postal Supervisor magazine or NAPS Branch 66 newsletter are not being sent to the right address, please send an email to napsnews@comcast.net and let us know the correct address. You may also call any of the officers listed below. Thanks!



Your Branch 66 Officers

President	Dee Ann DeSimini	503-294-5716
Legislative Vice President	Dan O'Donnell	503-650-8725
Secretary	Bill Wittenburg	503-261-5474
Treasurer	Michele Grigorioff	503-774-3009
Vice Presidents	Doug Stephens (Associate Offices) Reece Steelman (City Operations 1) Jeremy Blow (City Operations 2) Aleks Navarro (Plant)	360-992-5020 503-591-9822 503-968-2991 503-282-0912
Sergeant-at-Arms	Sharon Blackburn	503-525-5380
Newsletter Editor	Ranae Wittenburg	503-294-2295
Oregon State President	Kathi Clapp	503-294-2235
NW Area Vice President	Ben Clapp	503-663-4508

The NAPS Newsletter

"First Class Leader" is the official publication of NAPS Branch 66, Portland, Oregon. It is published monthly and is intended to inform, educate, and entertain members of Branch 66. All members in good standing receive this publication as part of their membership dues.

Any member may submit an article for publication but submissions should be limited to 300 words or less. The decision to edit or publish submitted articles remains with the Editor, Branch 66.

Please notify the Newsletter Editor of any changes in address or send an email to:

napsnews@comcast.net