

NAPS Branch 915 Meeting 5-19-09

Meeting began at 7:15 pm at the Boise Plant.

Dinner was provided from Pizza Hutt. \$42.16

Present: Brian Gardner, Michelle Audette, Len Kolbet, Ken Christianson, Bill Terry, Marc Boyer, John Valuet, and Dan Day.

John talked about the 5-State Convention that was held in Bend, OR May 15th and 16th. John discussed the situation with impacted employees and described what will be taking place during Phase 2.

Phase II:

Postings: June 16, 2009 - July 1, 2009

Selections: July 14, 2009 - July 23, 2009

VER: April 10, 2009 to June 19, 2009

Phase 2 is for all (nationally) employees that are impacted. IMPACTED Employees ONLY. There is no new information other than there may possibly be a Phase 3. No news on the Maintenance positions at the Boise Plant yet, on whether or not they will be posted in Phase 2. The Plant SDO position will be posted in Phase 2. It appears that even Headquarters doesn't know the answers to everything yet. Which is why NAPS gave the Postal Service until May 26th to have answers and solutions to all these situations nationally or NAPS will finally file a lawsuit. NAPS is filing against all the changes that the Postal Service has implemented and has not consulted with NAPS before implementing all these changes. There is also a dispute over NAPS not having the ability to represent employees assigned in Headquarters positions.

Louis Atkins (VP of NAPS) was shocked at the 5-State to hear about what is happening to our positions locally. He was surprised to hear how many openings were available compared to how many employees were impacted. This being a result of the District "freezing" the positions for so long.

Steve Juhl (Manager of Finance WA) reminded us to never make things appear different than they actually are. For example: If you have carriers after 1700, never try to make it seem that they returned before 1700).

Ben Clapp (NW Vice President) mentioned that it was possible that Headquarters was using the first deletion of the 6 Districts as a "template".

Len Kolbet shared that the 5-State convention was great! Especially the Advocacy Training. Everyone should try to attend.

There will be no ASP classes.

There was a lot of discussion between Marc Boyer, John Valuet, and Ken Christianson about Supervisor/Manager compliments. Marc wants John to find out what the actual formula is for determining the compliment ratio. Louis believes it is 25:1. Marc will

send all the employee information to John so he can use it in a report from NAPS to the Area President.

Additional information on Organizational Changes – March 20, 2009

- The Postal Service is closing 6 of the 80 district offices, eliminating 521 positions across the country and offering early retirement to nearly 150,000 employees nationwide (excluding Electronic Technicians, MPE Maintenance Mechanics, Part-time Postmasters)
- For the remaining 74 districts across the country, there will be a 15% reduction in administrative staffing.
- More than 1400 mail processing management positions are also being eliminated in nearly 400 facilities around the country.

District Closings

- Massachusetts District – 116 impacted employees (105 are eligible to retire)
Boston District and the Connecticut District (Hartford CT) will assume the operations.
- New Hampshire/Vermont District – 75 impacted employees (68 eligible to retire)
Northern New England District (Portland ME) will assume operations.
- Erie District – 63 impacted employees (44 eligible to retire)
Western Pennsylvania District (Pittsburgh PA) will assume operations.
- Central Florida District – 104 impacted employees (79 eligible to retire)
South Florida District (Miami FL) and Suncoast District (Tampa FL) will assume operations.
- Spokane District – 71 impacted employees (52 eligible to retire)
Seattle District and the Salt Lake City District will assume operations.
- Central New Jersey District – 92 impacted employees (63 eligible to retire)
Northern New Jersey District (Newark NJ) and the South Jersey District (Bellmawr NJ) will assume operations.

It will take approximately 5 months to close down the functions performed at the impacted districts. We expect this to be finalized by the end of August 2009. Impacted employees will be given 5 months notice to look for a placement within the Postal Service. If unable to do so, the employee will be given a RIF notice on June 24, 2009. Once the RIF notice is received, the employee then has 60 days before their employment status with the Postal Service will end on August 28, 2009.

Function 1 – EAS positions

In excess of 1400 EAS positions in more than 400 facilities will be eliminated in mail processing operations.

These positions are being eliminated based on a mathematical computation designed to readjust our management-to-craft employee ratio to factor in the thousands of craft employees who have left the Postal Service in the last several years.

An employee who is impacted by this decision will be given 4 month's notice to look for placement within the Postal Service. If they are unable to do so, the employee will be given a Specific RIF notice on May 27, 2009. Once the RIF notice is received, the employee has 60 days before their employment status with the Postal Service will end on July 31, 2009.

Additional information on the elimination of these positions will be provided.

John mentioned that it is a potential that we may have to restructure the boundaries of the Branch in result of the deletion of Spokane District. It was motioned by Len that we contact those individual members impacted and ask them which Branch (915 or 60), they

would like to be a part of). It was seconded by Henry. John will contact these individual members. (Aprox. 4). We also discussed that we need to get Eastern Idaho involved. John will work on getting together with members in the Eastern part of the State later this summer. John will organize another meeting with the members of NAPS in Eastern Idaho after June 13th. He will invite members and non-members to a dinner, probably in Pocatello. We all agreed it was important to be able to reach our members in Eastern Idaho and would like to see a member to become the second Vice President.

John also explained SPAC and how important our contributions are to that fund. He encouraged all of us to go online and sign up for deductions. Without this fund, we may not be as dominantly recognized by the House and Congress. It is this fund that generates financial monies to give to our Representatives for support to fight for things important to NAPS.

Michelle reported our current bank balance after reimbursements for the 5-State is \$7945.35.

We currently have 79 members. We have voted to have a debit card, which we will attain after switching to Key Bank once all our checks clear from 5-State.

It was motioned by John that we post our minutes on the napsnw.org website. It was seconded by Michelle. We will also consider looking into a newsletter mailing.

We voted on NAPS dues increasing to \$10.00. Michelle received 15 votes for yes, and 5 votes for no. Michelle will contact Headquarters to fill out the form to have them increased.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The following information is the House of Representative Bills that we took to Congress in March.

H.R.22

Title: To amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to allow the United States Postal Service to pay its share of contributions for annuitants' health benefits out of the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund.

Sponsor: [Rep McHugh, John M.](#) [NY-23] (introduced 1/6/2009)

[Cosponsors](#) (314)

Latest Major Action: 2/24/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Post Office, and the District of Columbia.

H.R.958

Title: To amend title 5, United States Code, to make unused sick leave creditable, for purposes of the Federal Employees' Retirement System, in the same manner as provided for under the Civil Service Retirement System.

Sponsor: [Rep Moran, James P.](#) [VA-8] (introduced 2/10/2009)

[Cosponsors](#) (65)

Latest Major Action: 2/10/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

H.R.1604

Title: To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections.

Sponsor: [Rep Davis, Susan A.](#) [CA-53] (introduced 3/19/2009)

[Cosponsors](#) (46)

Latest Major Action: 3/19/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.

H.R.1203

Title: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

Sponsor: [Rep Van Hollen, Chris](#) [MD-8] (introduced 2/25/2009)

[Cosponsors](#) (153)

Related Bills: [S.491](#)

Latest Major Action: 3/31/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

H.R.1157

Title: To amend title 5, United States Code, to establish certain protections for preference eligibles selected for involuntary geographic reassignment.

Sponsor: [Rep Herseht Sandlin, Stephanie](#) [SD] (introduced 2/24/2009)

[Cosponsors](#) (4)

Latest Major Action: 5/4/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Post Office, and the District of Columbia.

H.R.235

Title: To amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

Sponsor: [Rep Berman, Howard L.](#) [CA-28] (introduced 1/7/2009)

[Cosponsors](#) (281)

Related Bills: [S.484](#)

Latest Major Action: 1/7/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.