

APPROPOS OF NOTHING...

Four of your Branch 43 Officers (Ed Raleigh-Massachusetts Legislative Chairman, Al Ciccone, Billy DiSisto and myself) just returned from the annual Legislative Training Seminar in Washington DC. I will explain this process along with letting you in on some "Beltway Gossip" at the end of this article.

The purpose of this trip was to meet with our Congressmen and Senators to ask for support for resolutions or bills that will help both NAPS and the Postal Service in general. This year was a little more challenging since in Massachusetts we have two new Congresswoman and we needed to educate them on the Postal Service and what we do. Would it surprise you to learn that many of our newer members in Congress have no idea that we are independent and do not take tax dollars from the government? Keep in mind, this new freshman class are mostly younger Americans who sometimes view the Postal Service as unnecessary. Many of their aides have never even set foot inside of a Post Office in their lifetime. They don't use the Postal Service; they only use email and Social Media. Their bills come to them online and they pay them online. The only interaction they have had with the Postal Service is when a guy in a blue uniform brought them cookies when their mothers mailed them to their collage. So, it's a scary time down in Washington these days when it comes to the future of the Postal Service. A lot of the younger Congressmen think we are antiquated and there is no longer a need for the USPS as presently constituted and most of these Reps are Democrats who now control the House.

When we do down to DC, we are going as Management Representatives from the Postal Service. We are not there as Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians or Independents. We keep our individual political views to ourselves. We took a big loss when Congressman Mike Capuano lost his seat in Congress. He was a big backer of the Postal Service and always supported the bills that we asked him to back. His place was taken by Ayanna Pressley. We got off to a rough start with Congresswoman Pressley and only got an appointment with her office in the "11th hour." This was since, coincidentally, the APWU was in town and had an appointment and she thought we were all the same. Again, it goes back to educating our Legislators about the Postal Service. Only time will tell if Ms. Pressley, along with our other new Congresswoman, Lori Trahan, will be on our side or not.

We try to team up and go as a group along with as many of the other Massachusetts delegates from other Branches to each office. We are at the mercy of the appointment times that the Congressmen and Senators give us, so sometimes we may attend in a group and other times we may be alone.

Postmaster General Meghan Brennan came to speak to us asking for our help when we went to Capitol Hill. These are the bills we spoke to our Congressmen and Senators about sponsoring:

H.R. 597, Postal Employee Appeal Rights Amendments Act Primary Sponsor: Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA-11), introduced January 16, 2019 Contact: Kristine Lam, 202-225-1492, kristine.lam@mail.house.gov The bill confers to approximately 7,500 non-supervisory managerial postal employees the right to appeal significant personnel actions to the Merit Systems Protection Board. Non-supervisory postal personnel currently may only appeal such actions through an internal USPS process that lacks impartial third-party review. Postal supervisory personnel and nearly all federal civil service employees already enjoy MSPB appeal rights.

H.Res. 23, Resolution to Maintain Door Mail Delivery Primary Sponsor: Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA-53), introduced January 4, 2019 Contact: Lisa Sherman, 202-225-2040, lisa.sherman@mail.house.gov This non-binding resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that residential and business door mail delivery should be continued.

H.Res. 33, Resolution to Oppose Privatization of the U.S. Postal Service Primary Sponsor: Stephen Lynch (D-MA-8), introduced January 9, 2019 Contact: Bruce Fernandez, 202-225-8273, bruce.fernandez@mail.house.gov This non-binding resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should ensure that the U.S. Postal Service is not privatized and remains an independent establishment of the federal government.

H.Res 54, Resolution to Maintain Six Day Mail Delivery Primary Sponsor: Rep. Gerry Connelly (D-VA), introduced January 16, 2019 Contact: Kristine Lam, 202-225-1492, kristine.lam@mail.house.gov This non-binding resolution urges the U.S. Postal Service to take steps to ensure the continuation of its six-day mail delivery service.

Now let's take this full circle and talk about SPAC. SPAC stands for Supervisor Political Action Committee and basically, we raise money...and then donate it...to the campaigns of various Politicians who will support the Postal Service regardless of which party they belong to. On same rare occasions we have given money to both a Democrat and Republican who are running for the same office since both supported our issues and we wanted to "cover all bases."

Each year we have our Annual Brunch in November. This brunch is to honor that year's retirees and we give out 10 scholarships to our member's children who qualify. But, another purpose of that Brunch is to raise money for SPAC...to **PROTECT YOUR JOBS!!!!** Read that again. Now, more than ever, the Postal Service, as we know it, is in jeopardy. It is amazing me how many of our members don't come to the brunch which only costs you a donation.... yes, you read that right...it is a FREE brunch and in return all we ask for a donation of only \$10 which goes directly to SPAC. Additionally, we sell a page of raffle tickets for \$25 which the proceeds go entirely to SPAC. You really can't afford a donation which equates to about 7 cents a day to SAVE YOUR JOB? Do I sound like the next thing I am going to say is "Get off my lawn?" Seriously, I just don't get it.

Now for the gossip. Most of you know Congressman Elijah Cummings of Maryland since he chairs so many important committees. Congressman Cummings is a great friend and supporter of NAPS. He was expressing his concern over this new class of Freshman Congresswoman. They are not seeking a mentor as is tradition. In fact, they do not want advice and are becoming a clique of their own and only consulting each other. That is why you are seeing them make announcements which may seem out of step with the more traditional Democratic platform and is causing chaos within the party.

However, we have seen this in the Republican Party with the Tea Party movement of 4 years ago. You don't hear too much about them anymore. Why? Because they were too extreme for the mainstream Republican Party. Only time will tell if the Democrats will circle the wagons and push back against these new Congresswoman or if the party will continue to move to the extreme left and a more Socialist position. If that is the case, as stated earlier in this article, the Postal Service may be in trouble. If you live in the districts being represented by Congresswoman Pressley or Trahan we urge you to reach out to them to continue to educate them on the Postal Service and how vital it is to America. We also ask you to take a moment and contact your Congressman or Congresswoman about the resolutions we are asking them to support. The contact names and phone numbers are listed in this article. It DOES make a difference. When a vote is upcoming they ask their staff for the documentation on where their constituents stand on an issue. If you don't call or write, they assume it is not an important issue to you and will vote the way they choose; not the way you may want them to.

On another topic, in March another term will have come to an end for your Branch officers. There was no need for an election since all officers ran unopposed and the only change is that Dominic Russo did not run for office again, so Jay Killackey ran for the position unopposed.

Your officers for the next two years will be as follows:

President: Vinnie Ignoto

Vice President: Jay Killackey

Treasurer: Al Ciccone

Corresponding Secretary: Ed Raleigh

Recording Secretary: Keith Dinsmoor

Sergeant at Arms: John Russell

in May we will have our annual New England Area Convention. Usually the District Manager of Boston along with Senior Management from the Northeast Area attend. We split into breakout groups and this is great format to ask questions since it is in a more informal setting. If you have any questions, general in nature which would apply to all please let a member of the board know or use the Tell it To NAPS feature on our website: www.napsboston.org
Please be sure to leave your name and phone number in case we have any questions.

Finally, it will be my pleasure to serve you on this board which will be my 26th year. I am tired...get involved!

Sincerely,

Keith Dinsmoor