

The Gopher
Postmaster



Volume 57, Number 7

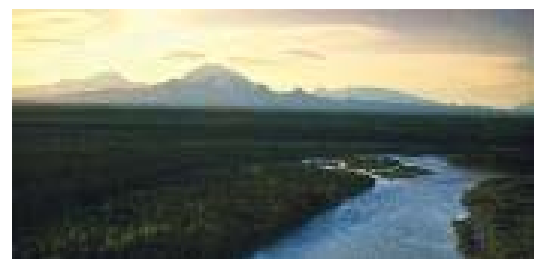
July 2009



North to Alaska
North to the Future



Join us in
Anchorage
Sept 12-17





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President

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Thanks for a Great Convention!

I want to thank the 96 Postmaster, Retirees, and Guests who attended the NAPUS 74th Annual State Convention at the Holiday Inn in International Falls. Even without Convention Leave you felt that it was important enough for you to attend to network with your fellow Postmasters and friends. You will never know how proud I am of all of you who attended to make this convention another successful event.

I was truly amazed at the generosity of the people in attendance. We raised over \$2000 during the silent and live auction that benefited both the PAC and Scholarship funds. It is a testament to everyone who attended that you feel these two funds are very important to you that you would spend your hard earned money for these causes. For the week we raised \$3456 for PAC. I want to thank everyone who helped with the PAC table, especially outgoing Retiree President Aleta Nybakke for making sure that the retirees would be there throughout the convention.

It takes lots of people to put on a successful convention. Each and every committee is important to that success. I will not name each of you for fear of forgetting someone, but I want to thank everyone who participated on a committee. Thank you to Margie Jacobson for putting together the daily bulletin. It contained timely news and great pictures.

I may be the President of this association but I am not the one who makes sure this chapter runs smoothly. Our Secretary/Treasurer Anita Pfieler puts in countless hours each month to make sure our chapter finances are in order. They were audited again during this convention and were found to be in perfect order. Knowing Anita, she would expect no less. She deserves every kind word you may have. So please, drop her a line and thank her for the work she does for this chapter.

Kirby Shofner, the Host Postmaster has more talents than most of us every realized. He brought his guitar and entertained the executive board just prior to

the banquet with some great songs. Kirby was the perfect host and the staff of the hotel were very accommodating. The meals were great and any time we needed anything General Manager Steve Fox and his staff were right there.

As for the business that was discussed during the convention, we passed a By-Law change that will allow us to make changes to the constitution more easily. In the past you had to have 50 active Postmasters in attendance for a quorum. This convention we had 60 active. To make sure we can meet this requirement in the future, Postmasters who are members and registered for the convention will constitute a quorum. This change is necessary because of the loss of Convention Leave.

During the Monday night board meeting, we discussed future conventions. When do we want to hold our convention and do we want to centralize the location. The consensus of the board is that we would now begin our conventions with the board meeting on Wednesday evening. The convention would convene on Thursday morning and end by 3:00 p.m. on Friday. The board felt that they didn't want Postmasters to have to use too much Annual Leave to attend and they wanted to keep the weekends free. No one will have to take more than three days of annual to attend, depending on where the convention will be and where you are coming from. They also felt that we needed to keep it moving around the state. This way we get to keep seeing more of this fantastic state.

To that end, we are going to Treasure Island Casino in Red Wing next June. The dates will be the 16 - 18 of June. In 2011 we will be heading to the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud. Those dates will also be during the third week of June.

We discussed these changes with everyone at the convention and the people who were in attendance felt that they were willing to give up a couple of days to attend our convention. Almost everyone there wanted to keep our Rolle Bolle tournament and eliminate the banquet. So next year in Red Wing we will be playing Rolle Bolle on Thursday evening.

The Executive Board will discuss the convention agenda at the winter board meeting in January. Newly elected President Dan Heins has said that he will bring a proposed agenda for the board to discuss then. The other Officer that was elected during this convention was Executive Vice President. That title now belongs to Tony Terwey of St. Joseph. We also voted to have Tony

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

assume those duties immediately since that position is currently vacant.

It was great to have Wayne Orshak, our National Secretary/Treasurer in attendance. Wayne is another officer who got a chance to participate in Rolle Bolle. Right after this year's tournament, he was in touch with National President Dale Goff and Dale knew all about Rolle Bolle.

It is not too late to go with us to Alaska. It promises to be a great adventure. Right now there are over 1,250 Postmasters, Retirees and guests registered for the National Convention. I hope there are plenty of Minnesota Postmasters and Retirees in attendance.

The last thing I wanted to tell you about this convention is that we again endorsed Bob Rapoza of Hawaii for the next National President. As of today, Bob has enough votes to be elected in Alaska. Even though we endorsed Bob last year, our endorsements only lasts one year and we needed to endorse Bob again so that we could vote for him in Alaska.

I again want to thank everyone who attended our convention this year. I hope that maybe next year more Postmasters will be able to attend. Our organization is there to work on behalf of Postmasters and we will continue to work very hard for all of you.

The Mission of NAPUS

- *To promote, protect and represent all Postmasters,**
- *To foster a favorable image of public service,**
- *To assure all users of the mail the best possible service,**
- *To be an advocate with the Congress of the United States, and**
- *To work closely with the United States Postal Service in the development of strategies for the enhancement of the Postmasters and the Postal Service.**

<i>In This Issue:</i>	
<i>President's Update.....</i>	<i>2-3</i>
<i>Secretary-Treasurer Report</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Nat'l VP Area 14 News.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>PAC Info.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Membership Report</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Legislative News.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>State Convention happenings.....</i>	<i>8-9</i>
<i>Services Report/Golf Report.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>7th District Director Report</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Rolle Bolle Results.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Editor's Notes/Sample Letter.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>NAPUS FCU.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>PM Representation.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Retirees Picnic/Letter to Editor.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Post Office Closing Info.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Area 9 PM Retired Report.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Convention Training Sessions.....</i>	<i>16</i>

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checking, savings and certificate of deposit accounts. They ensured that a voucher and receipt matched each deposit or withdrawal made. The Audit Committee reported to the convention floor that the MN NAPUS accounts were reviewed and found to be in order with no discrepancies. Thank you to the Audit Committee for the time and diligence that you took to verify that the MN NAPUS monies are being handled accurately.

MN NAPUS Financial Statement
 As of June 30, 2009

Regular Checking	\$ 8,395.45
Regular Savings	\$22,139.48
State Conv Savings	\$13,267.33
Legislative Savings	\$ 3,686.89
Conv 2000 Savings	\$ 562.26
Cert of Deposit	\$10,987.11
Cert of Deposit	\$15,630.45
<u>Gopher balance</u>	<u>\$ 484.08</u>
TOTAL	\$75,153.05

Change is happening in our work life everyday as our company struggles with external and internal forces, including the economy, competition, technology, employees' skill sets, shortage of employees in the right places and organizational restructuring. At this time, it is your personal responsibility and challenge, as Postmaster, to continue to communicate positively and treat your employees respectfully. It is also a challenge to expect that same behavior from your employees. Continue to talk to them over and over again about changes and your expectations.

'When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.' ~Victor Frankl

You Missed a Great State Convention at International Falls

If you did not attend the 2008 NAPUS Minnesota State Convention – then you missed an opportunity to learn about financial information that will help you with the correct processes for protecting Postal Service monies. There are many new protective processes in place as a result of being in compliance with Sarbanes Oxley (SOX) rules for maintaining transparency with our financial revenues and expenses. Dawn Zimmerman and Judy Kerr had an excellent presentation for us – and we thank them for their time and dedication to helping us in this area. Sharon Oppegard gave a presentation on the current steps to hiring. There are many new steps to take when hiring these days. Don't think you can get through this process by yourself – call her or one of the hiring specialists. And a HUGE thank you to all the Postmasters that helped to make this year's State Convention a GREAT SUCCESS !!

The Audit Committee, consisting of Mary Wels of Nicollet, Chair; Patty McManimon-Moe of Spring Grove, Lorna Hemmes of Lancaster and Bruce Nelson (retired PM of Alexandria) conducted an audit of the MN NAPUS Chapter accounts from January 1, 2009 through May 31, 2009. They reviewed each transaction in the



Home Page Officers Membership PM Reps Legislaive Leadership Events The Gopher Contact

Visit our Minnesota website: <http://mnnapus.org>



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Membership Chair**

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Let's Sign Up those Non-Members

Greetings to everyone and I hope you are all doing well. I received a message from our National Membership Chair explaining how low our membership percentage is getting due to the VERA, and because of the state of the economy several members have cancelled their membership. I cannot do this alone. I need everyone involved in a group effort to talk to your neighboring offices and explain our benefits to them, especially the credit union benefits. With banks and other lending companies struggling we have some of the best rates around. Curt Tabbert, Postmaster in Carlos would be glad to share any of this information with you if you get a hold of him.

Because of our declining membership we as a board have decided to give you some incentives to help me.

Have I got a deal for you! We are having a contest beginning now until December 31st, 2009. Every time you sign up one new member, be it a Postmaster, OIC, or PMR, you will get your name put into a drawing. If you sign up 10 people your name will be in the (hat) 10 times. If you sign 20 people, you have 20 chances to win. You could end up winning \$500.00 because there are TWENTY, yes TWENTY winners. We will be giving away \$25.00 each time we draw your name and we are drawing 20 names! If you have signed up several new members your chances will increase each time. The drawing will be held at the Executive Board Meeting in January in St. Cloud MN.

You can get an 1187 off the NAPUS web page by going to - napus.org. Click on the second bullet that says "join us". It will open up and the third one down is an 1187. I will also send you some if you contact me. You can fill it out online and submit if you like, or if you are not comfortable with that, simply print a few out and after the new member has filled it out, mail it to me and I will enter it. If you submit it online be sure and let me know though so I can get your name entered into the drawing. I am attaching a list of open offices and offices that have non-member Postmasters. We have so many benefits to joining NAPUS so lets get out there and share this with all the non-members.

**NON-MEMBER
MINNESOTA OFFICES**

District One

Vacant Beltrami
Grygla
Vacant Greenbush
Vacant Kelliher
Jodie Holthus Middle River
Vacant Mahnoman
Joyce Brown Ponemah
Lynnette Pearson Puposky
Vacant Shelly
Arden Laberson Roosevelt
Dan Whipps OIC Solway
Vacant St. Hilair
OIC is member Baudette
OIC is member Flom
William Hoppe Deer River
OIC Vicki Stortoan Climax
OIC is member Virginia

District Two

Vacant Angora
Lory Keranen Aurora
Marvin D Pirala Barnum
Caron Lukken Beaver Bay

Eb Schmolling Babbitt
Lynn Bogie Brimson
Vacant Buhl
OIC K. Peterson Cohasset
Vacant Finland
John Weisinger Cook
Annie Heaser Cromwell
Arby Humphrey Duluth
Sarah Royseth Hoyt Lakes
Vacant Knife River
Mary Waller Kettle River
Joh Groth Lutsen
OIC I. Blumerich Carlton
Margaret Lehet Sawyer
Tracy Thun Schroeder
OIC D. Gunther Spring Lake
Gail Francette Wremshall
OIC Kelly Wright Wright
Vacant Hibbing
Jim Lukken Silver Bay
OIC Dianne Lax Tofte

District Three

Dan Kerkvliet Ashby
Paul Ruegemer Browerville
OIC K Harris-M Eagle Bend
LueAnn Duda Clarissa

Evelyn Brown Comstock
OIC Lois Nickell Barrett
D. Van Amber Evansville
Holly Glade Garfield
OIC Randy Myers Hawley
Vacant Henning
OIC M. Pilgrem Sebeka
Vacant Holmes City
Vacant Breckenridge
John Herd Miltona
Marnee Herd Burtrum
Vacant Moorhead
OIC Deb Maus Perham
OIC Itzen-M Pelican Rapids
G. Schunamon Richmond
Bill Barbanik Underwood
Phyllis Nyberg Vining
Vacant Ulen
Vacant Wendell
Vacant Bertha

District Four

Joann Carlson Askov
Judy Nelson Bock
Arnold Benusa Bowlus
Daniel Narog Bruno
OIC A. Birge Hackensack

Vickie Oetterer Finlayson
June Cormican Hinckley
Vacant Jacobson
Jerry Smith Palisade
Pillager
Margaret Keillor Pine City
Patricia Schmidt Randall
Vacant Brook Park
Gene Miller Isle
OIC Rick Pilantz Little Falls
Vacant Longville
Vacant Nisswa
OIC Frick member Remer
Jody Johnson Royalton
Pam Jenson Flensburg

District Five

Brian Tofte Boyd
Robert Kinny Lake Benton
Norma Renkin Porter
OIC Steve Hennes Olivia
? Norwood-Young America
OIC is member Grove City
OIC is member Graceville
OIC is mem Granite Falls
OIC Jeff Frank Revere
OIC Dawn Wichern Tyler



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Action on H.R. 22

There has been some action on H.R. 22, the bill to help the USPS to use some of the trust fund that has already been saved in the Trust Fund to help pay current retiree health benefits. The bill has come out of committee and should be going to the House floor for a vote very soon. We will need to make sure that we come through with support for the bill before it comes to the House floor.

Also, the House approved legislation this past week that includes a provision which would give FERS employees the opportunity to bank their sick leave hours and receive credit for their unused sick leave hours. The bill is H.R. 2990 and has been put in another provision H.R. 2647. We will keep you informed as this legislation moves forward.

Congratulations 2009 Recipients of NAPUS Scholarships

Jonnica Norell
 St Peter

Eric Elleby
 Albert Lea

Rachel Mathiowetz
 New Ulm

Keni Zenner
 Belgrade

Scholarship Contributions Collected at State Convention Were \$1,776—Thanks to all!

OIC is member	Wilmar	Vacant	Kimball	OIC Jill Thiesfeld	Hamburg	Barbara Sveen	Plainview
		Junette Forslund	Lindstrom	Vacant	Lester Prairie	Vacant	Sargeant
District Six		Corey Wielke	Mound	OIC is member	Plato	Vacant	Peterson
Vacant	Buffalo	Vacant	Rockford			Joyce Wagner	Taopi
L. Vanerbroken	Albertville	Vacant	North Branch	District Eight		John Cutting	Claremont
Janis Jablonski	Bethel	Vacant	Wyoming	Vacant	Benson	Vacant	Byron
OIC John Teichroew	Dalbo	Craig Blake	Circle Pines	OIC is member	Blue Earth	OIC C. Bell	Clarks Grove
Sherry Shore	Dayton				Kenneth	Vacant	La Crescent
Larry Matson	Delano	District Seven		Vacant	Minnesota Lake		
Cindy Maas	Grandy	Marcia Musta	Afton	OIC is member	Butterfield		
Joyce Bergman	Hamel	Linda Giesen?	Arlington		Steen		
Shirley Marshall	Harris	Cathy Fries?	Brownston	Melvia Nelson	Trimont		
Gary Hoese	Hopkins	Vacant	Elysian	OIC Lana Morris	Ceylon		
Donald Hoag	Isanti	OIC Suzanne Miller	Elko	OIC Jen Luhman	Granada		
Thomas Byers	Montrose	Vacant	Chanhassen	OIC is member	Sleepy Eye		
Peggy Korf	Rockville	Vacant	Faribault	OIC is member	St James		
Deb Ehrich	St. Bonifacius	Vacant	Lake Elmo	Vacant	St Peter		
Kathy Horner	Stacy	Pam Ellen Theis	Webster	OIC Christy Ference			
Sarah Kendall	Taylor's Falls	Vacant	Waconia		Beaver Creek		
Terry Knoll	Wayzata	Gerald Berent	Shakopee				
Nancy Thielke	Zimmerman	William Watson	Savage	District Nine			
Vacant	Clear Lake	Colleen Rieck	Scandia	OIC Lori Miller	Alden		
?	Elk River	C. Galloway	South St Paul	Vacant	Kasson		
Vacant	Elrosa		Burnsville		Hayfield		
Vacant	Foley	OIC P. Denver	Zumbrota	OIC Lorraine Thiele	Hope		
OIC Joy Rau	Hanover	Vacant	Forest Lake	Vacant	Kellogg		
OIC S. Trocke	Holdingford	Vacant	Goodhue	Judith Sleight	Lansing		

SIGN UP NEW MEMBERS

- Contact and visit Non-Member offices
- Talk to new OIC or non-member Postmaster
- Explain benefits of being a NAPUS member
- Complete 1187
- Either submit online or send to Denise in Park Rapids
- Get entered into drawing





First Timers recognized at First Timers Lucheon



**Speaker, Wayne Orshak
National Secretary-Treasurer**



**Sec/Treas Anita Pfiefer gave
Aletta Nybakke a check
for \$2,794 for Retiree
membership.**



**Northland District Manager, Tony Williams
"Right People, Right Place, Right Time"**



**Postmasters and Retirees
Enjoying the Banquet**



Sessions were well attended by all.



**Memorial Service
Honoring Deceased
Postmasters**



**Dan Heins, NAPUS Area 14
National Vice-President
Banquet Speaker**



**MN NAPUS Choir
Directed by
Linda Magnuson**





Past Presidents of the Minnesota Chapter



Rick Swanson Sings



Dancing to DJ, Dan Olson

Dan Heins—2003-2007
Bruce Nelson—2001-2003
Linda Magnuson—1998-1999
Aleta Nybakke—1990-1991
Yvonne Albrecht—1989-1999
Dean Swanson—1977-1979
Mike Rooney—1973-1974



President
Mel Miller



Banquet Entertainment-Sloughgrass Band

Marlene Vos
Recording
Secretary

Anita Pfeifer
Secretary-Treasurer



Installation of Officers by Wayne Orshak, Nat'l Sec/Treas: Gayle Ozment, Bruce Nelson, Tony Terwey, Dan Heins



Entertainment by Host Postmaster
Kirby Shofner



The Auctioneers, Rob Havnes and Ron Windels
Auction for PAC and Scholarships



\$500 PAC Donation
Bruce Peters, Retired PM



Curt Tabbert
Service Officer

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 Carlos MN 56319
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Great Credit Union Offerings

Another outstanding State Convention is done. Good training and lots of old friendships renewed and more new friendships made. We wish more of you could have been there, but with our Convention Leave taken away, lots of things have to be looked at.

The NAPUS Credit Union is going strong. It is a great benefit of being a NAPUS member for yourself and family. The Credit Union did not get into the sub-prime lending fiasco, so is as healthy as ever. Their lending rates have remained excellent. I would like to give you a few examples:

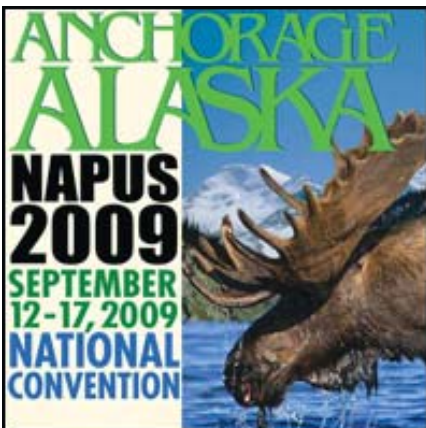
Auto/Truck/Boat/Cycle/ATV	100%	1-24 Months	3.25%
Auto/Truck/Boat/Cycle/ATV	100%	25-36 Months	3.75%
Auto/Truck/Boat/Cycle/ATV	100%	37-48 Months	4.25%
Auto/Truck/Boat/Cycle/ATV	100%	61-72 Months	5.25%

All can be gotten over the phone or on-line. The Credit Union people are extremely easy to work with and make it an enjoyable experience to procure a loan. I have always been treated as a respected customer.

The Credit Union website: napusfcu.org has excellent information and resources to help with financial dealings. They feel the more information you have, the better decisions you can make.

Last, one new scam—Jury Duty Scam!! What will they think of next? How could jury duty be a scam? Someone calls pretending to be a Court Official claiming you didn't show up for jury duty. Now there is a warrant out for your arrest. You say you never got a summons to report. They ask for your Social Security number and date of birth with the intention of verifying the information

and canceling the warrant for your arrest. It sounds official. The Judicial System does not contact people by phone to ask for personal information.



**Check out the
 NAPUS National
 Website
napus.org
 For more
 Information and
 Registration**



Golf Tournament results

Thirteen golfers enjoyed an afternoon of great weather for the 2009 Golf outing at the International Falls Country Club.

Winning the Special Events were Kirby Shofner for Men's Longest Putt and Closest to the Pin on Hole #16; Bruce Nelson for Men's Longest Drive; and Rick Swanson for Closest to the Pin on Hole #6.

Anita Pfiefer for Women's Closest to the Pin on Hole #6 and Hole #16; Mary Wells for Longest Drive; and Carol Schmitz for Longest Putt.

Anita Pfiefer, Bruce Nelson, and Mel Miller came in first with a score of 70 and Denice Phillips-Kunze, Rick Swanson, and Kirby Shofner came in second with a score of 71.

Thank you to all who participated.



Retiree President Elect Bruce Nelson and President Mel Miller on the golf course.

Rolle Bolle Results



“CRS” took first place in the Rolle Bolle tournament. Team members included Kirby Shofner, Curt Tabbert and Rick Swanson.



“Indirect Leaners” took the consolation title in Rolle Bolle. Team members were Jim Klitze, Sheila Bodell-Hoerner and Dan Hellerud.



“The “Mavericks” team took second place included Rob Havnes, Cindy Havnes and Ron Hanson. This was their first time playing rolle bolle.



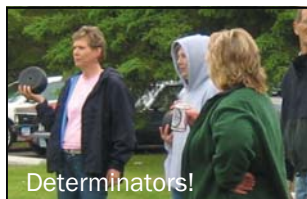
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Convention Leave?

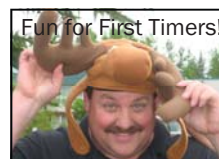
As we are all aware by now, the USPS has suspended Convention Leave for the remainder of 2009 and all of 2010. The current economic situation the Postal Service is in was the reason for the suspension. Postmasters more than anyone understand the current financial woes we are in as a company. It is a possibility that this benefit enjoyed by Postmasters will be gone for good.

What are we to do? Exactly what we did last week in International Falls at the State Convention. We need to show that despite having to use annual leave, the convention is important to NAPUS and its' members. The training, friendships, networking, hospitality, sightseeing, entertainment, and the list goes on. The State Convention and sessions were well attended which was appreciated by the Chapter President and Executive Board.

So what's next? Anchorage of course! What better way to see Alaska than during the National Convention in September. Registration information is published in the Gazette monthly. If you have any questions, anyone on the Executive Board would be glad to help. Once you attend a National Convention, you will understand that it is a family affair, a family of Postmasters. After attending the National Convention last year in St. Louis, I've got the bug. Hope to see you there.



Rolle Bolle Styles





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at the State Convention regardless. That is the right attitude. We need to continue our quests no matter what changes we need to adapt to. It was a great State Convention in International Falls. Thanks to all!

I want to especially thank Greg Geheren and Mary Wels for taking photos and also thanks to Deb Avery for submitting them.

It is now time to look forward and make plans to attend the National Convention in Alaska. It is shaping up to be another great convention. Now more than ever NAPUS members need to stand up and stand tall. We need to work together and assist each other in our endeavors. As our motto states "Let us do together what we cannot do alone."



Informal meeting of the minds held at Sha Sha's.

Change, Change, Change

It seems that is the buzz word this year. Everything around us continues to change—our jobs, the economy, the way we live, and the list goes on. How we react to that change makes a big difference too. A lot of how we perform is based in our attitude. Do you bring energy, passion and a positive attitude to your job each day? Does your attitude rub off on your employees? How did you react when you heard the decision of no Convention Leave? It was good to see the number of Postmasters

I am trying to create an E-Buy list so it is easier to find the supplier for the particular item we as Postmasters or OIC's need to purchase. I was curious if any POOM areas or Postmasters has such a list and if they would be willing to share it. If you have one or wish to have input into the list, please email me at margiepm@yahoo.com.

CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSMAN or WOMAN (Sample letter submitted by Dan Heins, MN Legislative Chair)

Dear Congressman/Senator,

Postmasters across the country have served as leaders during this period of economic decline to support Postal Service measures to cut waste and save costs. However, effective May 31, 2009, the Postmaster General suspended postmaster's convention leave, which is a breach of Section 1004(e) of Title 39 of the United States Code. This action was not taken as a result of pay and benefit talks, but was unilaterally enacted by personnel at the USPS headquarters, and is a direct violation of federal law.

Convention leave benefits Postmasters throughout the nation by providing training opportunities, clarification of new programs, networking, and other measures which serve to help them perform their jobs more effectively. It is a benefit which has been agreed to by the USPS, and its rescission will be very costly to Postmaster organizations, necessitating contract changes, re-scheduling of events, and many other factors.

In lieu of this action, perhaps the USPS should examine other cost saving alternatives, such as cancelling the contracts with outside agencies such as Price Waterhouse (EXFC program), Maritz Research (Mystery Shopper program), or Synovate (Employee Survey program), which would be a fair and equitable action for all employees. Or, perhaps the PCES employees of the USPS could pay for their health benefits and life insurance coverage as all other postal employees must do, and eliminate all bonus packages (which are not available to other postal personnel). For more detailed information of these benefits which are still being paid out by the USPS, your office can contact Postmaster General Jack Potter at (202) 268-2550.

On behalf of Postmasters throughout the State of Minnesota, I thank you for your attention to this matter. I would appreciate your support to get this action repealed, and have convention leave reinstated.

Sincerely,

Dear NAPUS Federal Credit Union member,

I am seeking reelection to the Board of Directors of our Credit Union and would be honored to have your support. During the past three years we have witnessed the toughest financial times since the great depression with many of us seeing our investments cut as much as 50%. Banks, credit card companies, insurance companies, and others are seeking, and receiving bailout money from the federal government because of poor operating practices and mismanagement.

I am proud to be part of a team that is weathering this storm by "taking care of business", and making the tough decisions to insure that our assets have been protected. We have maintained approximately 13% in reserves and capital, we have never engaged in the sub prime lending market, and we have managed our investments to insure maximum safety. The over \$2,000,000 in our investment portfolio are insured. Our assets are approximately \$219,000,000 and we expect to grow by 5% this year.

The coming few years are going to be a challenge for the country, the financial community and our NAPUS Federal Credit Union. If reelected, I will continue to be your voice on the board, help make decisions to protect our investments, and insure that our lending practices are sound while helping our members through these trying times. I would appreciate your vote.

Ted Carrico
Retired Postmaster
Palisade CO 81526-0001

SEEKING THE SUPPORT OF NAPUS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION MEMBERS

Dear NAPUS Federal Credit Union member,

Please allow me to use your fine publication to solicit the support of you and the Postmasters of your State for my candidacy for re-election as a member of the NAPUS Federal Credit Union Board of Directors.

I have worked for our credit union members since 1990. Since 1995, I have served as Chief Financial Officer and Chairman of the asset/liability committee. In 2001-2002, I served as CEO where I learned the internal working of our financial institution and the credit union industry as a whole.

During my 19 years as a member of the Board of Directors our credit union has grown dramatically, and our capital position is one of the strongest in the credit union industry. I have been extremely fortunate to work with a highly dedicated group of Postmasters both active and retired. Together, along with a hard working credit union staff, we have introduced many new products & services for our member Postmasters and their families. By thinking outside the box and planning well into the future, we have positioned ourselves to continue to be one of the best financial institutions for many years. This is very important during these uncertain economic and financial times.

I am proud to have been a part of this tremendous success and there is still much more we can accomplish in our rapidly changing financial & technical world. I would deeply appreciate the opportunity to continue working on your behalf. You can make that possible by casting your vote for me when you receive your ballot in August. I assure you that the best interest of our NAPUS Credit Union members will always be considered in any decision I make.

Bob Arsneault, Director NAPUS FCU
Chief Financial Officer
Postmaster Retired
Kalamazoo MI 49001-9998



Buzz Snyder,
Postmaster Rep
Retired PM of St. Cloud
Home: 320-253-3516
Cell: 320-250-4414
Email: bsnyder@charter.net

need a lawyer. Like, now.

A "Garrity Warning" is the advisement most often given by the OIG agents. It is to document that the interview is "voluntary", and to advise of the right to silence if answers may be incriminating. But it also includes this: "Anything I say or do may be used as evidence in administrative or civil proceedings, or any future criminal proceeding involving me." Without a representative present, would you sign that and thus give up your right to silence under those conditions? Flustered and fearful, many do. Don't you.

A "Kalkines Warning" is given to immunize a subject from criminal prosecution, as long as he/she answers fully and truthfully. The OIG lawyer who devised this form must have had a sense of humor. The last of four points states, "YOU ARE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS UP TO AND INCLUDING DISMISSAL IF YOU REFUSE TO ANSWER OR FAIL TO RESPOND TRUTHFULLY TO QUESTIONS." The next lines state, "I have read the above warning and understand my rights....No promises, threats, or coercion of any kind have been made against me."

The NAPUS Postmaster Representation program is not in the business of trying to get Postmasters "off the hook" for violations of their oath of office, or of defending clearly unethical breaches of trust in their performance of their duties. It DOES exist to assure protection of the legitimate rights of our members, and to hold the Postal Service to its own standards of due process and just cause in investigative and administrative actions with Postmasters. So we end with one more Warning: please, conduct yourself at all times according to the highest ethical standards – not because of fear that the OIG might knock on YOUR door, but because you have sworn to do so, and because it is right.

A Few Warnings About Warnings

Two OIG agents appear at your office. You remember reading in the NAPUS Gopher and Gazette, that you should always ask visiting OIG agents if you are a potential target of their investigation, so you do. They hem and haw, mutter and mumble, and finally say, "Well, maybe." or "We can't rule that out." They then place a document in front of you. It's not a confession, they say; just sign it to acknowledge that you have been advised of your rights, they say. Just routine, they say, so we can then ask a few questions. What do you do?

The NAPUS website has the answer. Go to www.napus.org, click on "postmaster representation", then on "The Inspector General - OIG". DO NOT SIGN OR INITIAL anything. NAPUS advises you to say the following: "I will cooperate with you fully, but I do not waive any of my rights, including my right to remain silent. I will not sign any waiver-of-rights form, nor admit or deny any allegations, nor make any written or oral statements unless my attorney and/or a NAPUS representative are personally present and so advise me."

There are three types of warnings, also called Advisements of Rights, used by the OIG. The first, Miranda warnings, are only given to subjects when they are placed under arrest. If you are "mirandized", you

Letter to the Editor:

I would like to thank you and all of the Minnesota Postmasters for making my visit to your convention so enjoyable. You had a nice turnout despite the recent loss of our Convention Leave.

I sincerely appreciated the hospitality extended to me during my stay in International Falls. Rolle Bolle was a lot of fun! I look forward to seeing many of you in Alaska this September.

Have a great summer.

Sincerely,
 Wayne Orshak
 National Secretary-Treasurer

Retiree's Picnic
Nester Park, Olivia MN
August 12th, 2009

12:30 Dinner
Chicken and Sweet Corn
\$10.00

Contact: Bill Miller 320-523-2834
1307 W Bayberry, Apt 14, Olivia MN 56277

Mike Rooney
Postmasters Retired
Post Office Closings Chairman
judyann@venturecomm.net
605-596-4281

Post Office Closings Chairman and do not take “NO” for an answer.

National Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Orshak’s remarks lamented the loss of Convention Leave, but questioned What is Next? In response to that question I asked Bruce, “Do you know how to stop a tornado?”

SOUND THE SIRENS!

Upon returning from the State Convention my thoughts have been concerned about NAPUS and the USPS. A friend of mine made the remark that the USPS can do anything they want to. Terminating Convention Leave in the middle of the convention season is proof of that. Bruce Nelson, our PM Retired President Elect told Secretary-Treasurer Barb Barrett to put me down for



I look for mass closings of Post Offices in the near future. Postmasters should contact their community leaders and warn them of the possibilities and for them to have their ducks in a row and have a legislative plan in place. The rush of closings might be compared to an approaching tornado. It is time to SOUND THE SIRENS!



JudyAnn Barnard
Postmasters Retired
Area 9 Rep
judyann@venturecomm.net
605-596-4281

Wisconsin Postmasters were fortunate to have Convention Leave and had good attendance. The letter suspending Convention Leave arrived on that Friday they returned home. South Dakota and Minnesota had small numbers but enjoyed good conventions (*both in speakers and training*). I feel suspending Convention Leave was a very unfair decision by PMG Potter—I doubt if he saved the USPS much money, and he definitely caused hard feelings from his most loyal employees. However Postmasters are resilient and will continue to serve their customers to the best of their ability.

Thanks for your Convention Hospitality!

Thank you, *President Aleta, Secretary/Treasurer Barb and MN Retirees* for my warm welcome to your State Convention! It was good spending time with all of you!

Thanks also to State Officers *President Mel, Secretary/Treasurer Anita, Editor Margie and MN Postmasters* for your hospitality!

Congratulations to new *Retiree President Bruce Nelson and Executive Vice President Gayle Ozment!*

It is always interesting to see how other states conduct their conventions. I found we all follow a similar pattern.

Lack of help and loss of Convention Leave definitely affected two of the three Conventions I attended.

We are now looking forward to the National Convention in Anchorage. As quickly as June is disappearing, September will be here before we know it. If you haven’t registered yet, there is still time to do so. I’m registered but don’t have my plane ticket yet—must get that done! National Convention is a great time to renew friendships and keep current on NAPUS issues.

Please continue to read the *Postmasters Gazette*, our publication “*In the Mail Box*” and check online at www.napus.org for breaking news to keep informed on what’s happening in NAPUS. *Bob Levi*, NAPUS Director of Government Relations, does an excellent job on Capitol Hill and reports legislative information online.

Enjoy summer!

Article Deadlines

For the Aug/Sept Issue
Of *The Gopher Postmaster* is

August 15, 2009

Periodicals

Dates to Remember

State Conventions

June 16-18, 2010—Treasure Island
Red Wing
2011—Holiday Inn
St. Cloud

National Conventions

Sept 12-17, 2009—Anchorage AK
Sept 11-16, 2010—Grand Rapids MI
TBD, 2011—Puerto Rico

Leadership Conference

Washington DC
March 20-24, 2010
March 12-16, 2011

Retiree's Picnic

August 12th—Olivia



Dawn Zimmerman, Financial Control



Buzz Snyder, Ethical Conduct



Larry Bock and Gina Hellerman
Phase 3 RIF & Postings

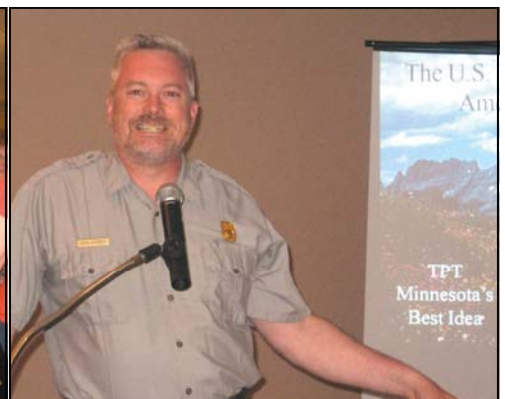
Training Sessions '09 State Convention



Sharon Oppgard, eCareer



Don Hagen, Dance



Chris Holbeck, Voyagers National Park