

“Let Us
Do Together
What We
Cannot Do
Alone”

The *Evergreen* Postmaster

Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct 2012

Washington Chapter, No. 25, National Association of Postmasters of the United States

2012 Postmaster of the Year!!



Vic Rohret

Retired Postmaster Naches



The **Evergreen** Postmaster
PO Box 606
Omak WA 98841-0606
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Deadline For Next
Evergreen Issue:
November 23rd

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We have a lot of changes a head of us, new Postmasters changing offices, going into offices where they have city carriers, rural carriers or both, which they have not had before. They may become the administrating office for another office, all this without the proper training. As NAPUS members that's where we come in. I have been a NAPUS member for over 7 years and never been refused help by another

I would like you to welcome :
Elizabeth Schneider, Postmaster of Blaine and
Mark Skubinna, Postmaster of Deer Park.
They are our newest members in NAPUS.

Postmaster. Some Postmaster may not feel comfortable calling others for help, some may feel intimidated, shy or maybe that people will think they are not smart enough for the job. I've been there and know the feeling but it did not take me long to discover how important my NAPUS chapter was and how much knowledge and experience the members had to offer me. Our responsibilities have increase rapidly over the past few months and they are only going to increase. That is why NAPUS is here for you. NAPUS demonstrates integrity, respect, compassion and encouragement to help each other reach their goal and prepare

them for further advancement. Please contact your neighboring office ask them if there is anything you can help them with and let them know how they may become a NAPUS member so they can also get the training and help they need to succeed. To have a Postmaster or OIC join go to www.napus.org then to... join now at the top, go to form 1187 fill out the form and hit submit. Let them know the first year is free!!!

Service Rep
Teri Johansen
Postmaster Hoodspport

If you are not a NAPUS Credit Union member yet,
you are missing out on some great savings!!!

Share the LOVE!

Now is the perfect time to give your family members the gift of membership at NAPUS Federal Credit Union! Share your love of having an account at NAPUS FCU with those you love!

- *Spouse
- *Children
- *Sibling
- *Parents
- *Grandparents
- *Grandchildren
- *Step-children
- *Stepsiblings
- *Adopted Children

Even if your children or grandchildren are grown with families of their own, they can still join and so can all of their immediate family! It can grow from just you to your entire family! You will get \$25 for each referral that leads to an open account with a deposit of at least \$100*! In addition, if the referred family member signs up for an additional product or service with the Credit Union, they will also get \$25!

Make a SMARTMOVE!

Take advantage of our super low rates and finance or refinance your mortgage with NAPUS FCU today. We have several mortgage options available to you from fixed rate loans to ARMS and balloon loans, there is a perfect choice for everyone.

In addition to the low rates, take advantage of our SMARTMOVE® program for a win-win situation. SMARTMOVE® offers you:

- A CASH REBATE up to \$5000 after closing when buying or selling
- A knowledgeable, experienced, highly-trained agent
- A personal move coordinator who assists you every step of the way
- Personalized customer service throughout the entire transaction
- Real Estate related bundled services

Give the gift of membership today and become one of the NAPUS FCU family!
*Limit of 10 referrals per member.



Our SMARTMOVE® program provides you with professionals who are committed to meeting your expectations and it is all absolutely FREE! Let NAPUS FCU (with our excellent rates) and SMARTMOVE® (with their great rebates) make your buying and/or selling experience a great one!

Check out all the great rates and loan options at www.napusfcu.org and contact one of our knowledgeable real estate representatives at 800-336-0284 to get started down the path to homeownership at a rate that works for you!



WA State Postmasters attending the General Session at the Summer Convention in Ferndale



Doug Steven, MPOO Area 3 addresses the group during the MPOO panel at the Summer Convention in Ferndale

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Welcome,
We are a firm specializing in marketing and administration of group insurance products. We provide these services for federal employees and professional and trade associations, among others. MBC was incorporated in 1971. Our staff has an extensive and diversified insurance background. We established the first Voluntary Group Individual Retirement Account, Supplemental Retirement Plan, and Supplemental Health Benefits Plan for active-duty federal employees. Our firm is proud of its reputation for excellent customer service, and constantly strives, in a continually changing marketplace, to find the best insurance products available for our clients.



Many of you have opted to take the retirement and have left your posts; the figure is reported to be 78 or so. I am happy for, and envious of, you fine people who have given many years of your lives dedicated to the betterment of your communities and the US Postal Service. The recent past has been especially fraught with uncertainty and difficulty, but now you get to follow the pursuits that have the most personal meaning to YOU. Congratulations! We will miss you. It would be unwise to think that this newest transition that began in May will not have a significant impact on the functioning of NAPUS, both at the National and the State levels. There could well be major membership shifts which will impact our organization: loss of Postmasters through POSTPlan, loss of membership because the new retirees may not know their dues would only be \$3.50 a month after completing the 1187R that can be found at www.napus.org, and some loss of membership by active Postmasters who have felt disappointed by the events that have unfolded in the last of months. Not to mention a reduction in the number of Postmasters active in NAPUS, which was al-

ready dealt blows by loss of convention leave and lack of staffing. I CANNOT ENCOURAGE YOU STRONGLY ENOUGH TO RETAIN YOUR MEMBERSHIP, RETIRING OR NOT. If our numbers decrease, so does our voice. To be blunt, if you feel NAPUS has not done enough for you, that situation will not improve with a smaller, less active membership. In fact, though I have not been very vocal in the past regarding the issue, it is now absolutely imperative that at the very least NAPUS and League combine forces by uniting our organizations. It can and should be done. We have been collaborating in Headquarter consultations for some time now, but we would be more effective to not even appear to have division just by the fact that there are two separate organizations. Let us STOP dividing our resources through multiple and overlapping state and district meetings. Let us get more District support at those meetings since the staff won't have to attend multiple meetings themselves. Let us give our voices more weight. There is no practical reason to maintain two Postmaster organizations. The State Convention in Ferndale was by most accounts a fruitful gathering; shall we describe it as "short and sweet" or "fast and furious"? Spanning a 4 day period, with only two full days of speakers, classes, and business, I vote for the latter. National President Bob Rapoza shared a very illuminating presentation that outlined how POSTPlan came about and how much more devastating it could have been without the involvement of NAPUS. I am very

appreciative of the tremendous support by the District Manager and his staff who traveled to Ferndale to provide many hours of training. We had 3 of the 4 National candidates in attendance: Mike Quinn, Secretary -Treasurer (endorsed by the State body), Tony Leonardi, President (endorsed by the Executive Board), and John Sertich, President. With the postal world in such a great state of flux I was uncertain how it would affect Convention attendance~ would some people withdraw their registrations or would we see registrations coming out of the wood work? I was pleased to see that we had the highest number of First Timers in some time, a testament to the fact that members understand two portions of the value of a NAPUS membership: training and information. Welcome Bill Schnabel, Deborah Johnson, Brian Mouche, Robert Stockdale, and Beth Schneider! I need to thank and commend Osa for the tremendous job she has done as Legislative Representative this last year-and-a-half; her knowledge and organizational skills have been a god-send in this most legislatively complex of times. At the Executive Board meeting she handed in her resignation in light of the happy news of her retirement. Thank you from me, Osa, for your wonderful friendship and work, and thank you on behalf of the State of Washington for the many years of service you have selflessly given to our organization. Not to worry, we know you really aren't going anywhere, you just gave up the title! I have appointed Gordon Williams as Legislative Represen-

tative to fill out the remainder of the year. "Fill out" perhaps isn't the right phrase, too passive...and we know there's nothing passive about either the political scene nor Mr. Williams. Thank you, Gordon, you've already dug into your new position whole-heartedly. Please congratulate and give your support to your elected officers of 2013-2014: President-Bill Carlton, Vice President- Teri Johansen, Editor- Angie Hawley, Secretary- Wendy Allen, Treasurer- Kristen Luther, and Legislative Representative- Michelle Lee. You know, as President I've done two Mid-Winters and co-chaired the Tri-State in Boise last year, but I have to say, having full responsibility for a State Convention was a totally different animal even though it was the same length as the Mid-Winters. These meetings take so many hands and I won't go into details (not enough room!), but I do want to thank a handful of those that ensured its success: Diana, Beth, Jim, Dale, Mel and Char, Pat, Willie, Retiree President Louise and her retirees (great lunch!), Wendy, Mary, Jackie. Thank you! Now just recently passed as well is the National Convention in Oklahoma City. There is no way in my comparatively brief article to fully share all that took place. Our National website has good coverage in the blog at the "Latest News" link at www.napus.org. Meanwhile, "community letters" are going to the customers of vacant offices that are being reduced under POSTPlan. At this point, there are no communities in Washington that have letters going out to them asking them, basically, if they do want a Post

Office (as opposed to the alternatives of VPO or carrier delivery), and if they do, what hours would they like. There will be no entertainment of increasing hours over the POSTPlan-determined number of hours. The timeframe from mailing the letter to the date the newly-reduced office is officially managed by its Associate Office (AO) can be as little as two months; conceivably there could be Remotely Managed Post Offices (RMPOs) before Christmas. 2 NAPUS and League Postmasters are continuing to work on a detailed plan of what work is assigned to the AOs and what work is assigned to the RMPOs. A good rule of thumb seems to be if one doesn't have to physically be there to do it (i.e. myPO, eFlash, eMoves, ordering stamps) then the AO will have the responsibility for doing so for the RMPO. Also in Oklahoma City came the big push for the 2013 National Convention in Bellevue. How amazing to have it here! Angie Hawley, Convention Chair, and her committee are working hard planning an awesome convention for a 1000 or so of our closest friends to attend next August. Contact Angie to ask her how YOU can help; if you've never been to a National Convention this will be a perfect opportunity to see what so many are always raving about, without having to spend a lot of time or money travelling. I'm registered, are you?

WA State President
Michelle Lee
Postmaster Granger



I want to thank the Postmasters, Officers in Charge and guests for their attendance to the summer convention recently held in Ferndale. Diana Ehlers did a great job as Convention Chair and Michelle had a great

line-up of Speakers and training. The retirement luncheon was perfect and thanks to all that assisted in that event. I was pleasantly surprised at the turn out and glad to see some of the Postmasters that haven't been involved getting back in the swing of things. This is a very important time to know we have the network and support of each other. I welcome the first timers and hope that your experience at the convention encourages you to stay active with your district and state NAPUS organization. The changes that both the United States Postal Service and NAPUS is going through are sure to create some uncertainty to say

Navigating the uncertainty of change

the least. These changes also have brought a sense of emptiness and sorrow to some of us. It is comforting to see our fellow Postmasters reach their retirement and we are very happy for them. On the other hand, I cannot help but to be selfish. When I pick up the phone and call on some of my closest "friends," to ask them if they read the latest ridiculous e-mail some just will not be there. Sure we can keep in touch after the retirement celebration and many of the current active Postmasters become current active retired Postmasters, unfortunately we lose touch with others. Just another change to get used to I guess! As we wit-

nessed at the last few NAPUS events the retired Postmasters make up a very large portion of our events and I'm sure that I reflect the feelings of most when I say we greatly appreciate your participation. NAPUS will continue to be a strong viable organization providing we represent our members and their priorities. Ruthie Cauble's article in the Gazette definitely addresses some changes that should be put in place. The changes that we constantly go through with the USPS are not so clear. It is difficult to understand why we have so many deep cuts at our level at the same time we see promotions in the Vice Presidency ranks. The

USPS is going to ask us as Postmasters to do more and more with less. This will undoubtedly create situations that will put many Postmasters and OIC's in a predicament that is not favorable. Your MPOO should be advised of any discrepancies as soon as you are aware. If you are not sure of the course of action to take please call a State Officer and any of us will be happy to help. More info to come after National Convention in Oklahoma City...hope to see you there!

VP/PM Rep
Bill Carlton
Postmaster Elma



Teri Johansen, Postmaster Hoodspoor; Gordon Williams, Postmaster Hoquiam; Jackie Gurr, Ret PM Ocean Shores



Ann Dickey and Tom Runyan, Ret PM Centralia



Deborah Jordan, Postmaster Waterville and Claire White

Holding up the fort



Let me first start off by congratulating the many Washington State Postmasters that have been fortunate enough to join the ranks of the happily retired this month! I wish you all the best. For the rest of us left behind to hold up the fort, we are faced with the inevitable.....change. As an adult, there is nothing more troubling than change. Most of us will be

forced to move out of our comfort zones. While others will be faced with the decision to move in order to continue employment with the postal service. A lot of us don't know how the POST plan will end up but we do know it will change the organization as we know it and how it operates significantly. Through all this we must remain strong as a NAPUS organization and continue to fight for the rights of being a postmaster. I am asking that you all do your best to remain calm during this turbulent time. Continue to do your best and not be guided by the bad behaviors of others around you. Always remain professional. Most of all hold your head up high and never forget you are a POSTMASTER.

Secretary
Wendy Allen
Postmaster Castle Rock



Prior to my federal employment I had a choice. I had been offered two jobs one with Boeing and one with the Post Office Department. Yes it was before 1971. One offered a higher starting pay and full-time employment. The other was part-time with a flexible hours and a lower wage. I chose the one where I had never seen a picket line.

Through the years and many changes I was active in my union and eventually management organizations eventually ending my career with more than 20 years as a member of NAPUS. During my nearly 35 year career I did not give much thought to my benefits. I believed that much like a contract to purchase

a home as long as I made all the house payments fully and on time at the end of term I would hold title to my home. Similarity, I believed my benefits were something I earned paid for and somehow a contract that was inviolate. It was not an entitlement.

One has to do nothing more than read a paper or listen to the national news to be given a bleak picture of the US economy and our current financial condition. The interesting part is the variety of solutions offered. Federal active and retired employee wages and benefits are the first target. The suggestion to reduce or freeze wages, decrease benefits, increase benefit costs (including health and retirement) lengthen the number of years before retirement have all been offered. One suggestion included increasing employee retirement contributions to cover maintaining the low interest students pay on their federal student loans. Not all Americans – just active and retired federal employees.

Worst of all the U S Postal Service suggested its employees be removed from the FEHB, CSRS and FERS and moved to “new”

Protecting Preserving Your Benefits

programs created for their active and retired employees. Just how is that going to work when they funds the employees have/had paid to that point are in the hands of OPM with no method for refund. Do you really believe they can create a program for more than one million active and retire employee zero \$\$\$\$ in a brand new account?

Federal active and retired seem to have a huge red target painted on their chest.... but USPS employees have two. One painted by Congress and the other one by USPS Headquarters. It is possible? Could the benefits I worked, earned and paid for be taken away from me. The short answer is YES!

So that you do not miss one very important point.....With the stroke of a pen Congress can change, reduce or eliminate the retirement and health benefits for both active and retired employees. You have no guarantees even after retirement that your earned not entitled benefits will remain. Additionally, many in Congress identify our earned and paid for benefits as some unpaid for federal entitlement program.



Hello all, I hope this finds everyone happy, healthy and full of summer joy. The summer convention in Ferndale was a raving success as usual, great job President Michelle. I would like to congratulate all of those that were able to take the incentive and retire, I hope that you all will stay involved in NAPUS, and keep in contact with all of us

that could not take that leap as of yet. Enjoy, you all deserve it!

I wanted to make sure that I got an article out, with the upcoming elections we need to be diligent to keep our supporters in office and acquire new members that will support the United States Postal Service, and especially Postmasters. With your donations to PAC, NAPUS can afford to support those that support us. Any donations can help, and they all add up. Continue to be diligent with your calls to your representatives and promote the NAPUS agenda, as they are working for us, THE POSTMASTER. Hope to see as many of you as possible at Oklahoma in September, until then stay joyful.

PAC Lady
Wendy Morris-Heller
Postmaster, Brewtser

and personal. To that purpose the cover story for this month's issue of NARFE magazine is entitled “The Federal-Postal Coalition Launches America Counts on Us”. www.narfe.org

Think about the daily costs of your retirement and health benefits. Are they worth 12 cents per day? The cost of NARFE membership is \$45 per year...12 cents per day. For me it's the best investment I have ever made.

I am sincerely frightened. Many of us do not have the financial resources outside our federal retirement and health benefits to take us through to our final days. I hope you will join NARFE and help protect and preserve our present and future.

For additional information on NARFE including accomplishments and several informational brochures just drop me a note and I will be glad to provide them.

Karol Kusunose
Postmaster – Retired
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Auburn WA 98092-9244
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Rayetta Kenworthy, Postmaster Bayview and guest



Michelle Lee, Postmaster Granger and Keena Javier, Postmaster Baring

2012 Budget

	RECEIPTS	BUDGET		DISBURSEMENTS	BUDGET
1	Dues withholding	47000		HOSPITALITY ROOM	
2	Cash dues	760	40	MidWinter	300
3	Checking interest	100	41	State Convention	500
4	GMAC promo	100	42	National Convention	500
5	Pins	500		CHAPTER OPERATING EXPENSES	
6	Hospitality room		43	Notices, postage, etc	1000
7	Miscellaneous		44	Soft/Hardware	450
		48460	45	Transfer of \$1 Fund	3000
			46	Evergreen	7000
	DISBURSEMENTS		47	Website	50
			48	Nat'l Picture CDs	50
8	ANNUAL EXPENSES -OFFICERS			CONVENTION START UP	
9	President	1000	48	MidWinter	2000
10	Vice President	0	50	State Convention	2000
11	Editor	800		MISCELLANEOUS	
12	Legislative Rep	800	51	Misc (EB 10% line1)	4700
13	PM Rep	1000	52	Pins	500
14			53	Retirees @ \$10 each	2500
15	Retiree President	400	54	Service Rep promo	100
16	Secretary	800	55	PAC Postage	50
17	Service Rep	800	56	Scholarship postage	50
18	Treasurer	800	57	PM of Year Award	560
	LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE		58	President's Gift	150
19	President	1000			
20	Vice President	0			
21	Career Development	1000			48460
22	Editor	1000			
23	Legislative Rep	1000			
24	PAC Chairman	1000			
25	PM Rep	1000			
26	Secretary	1000			
27	Service Rep	1000			
28	Treasurer	1000			
29	NATIONAL CONVENTION				
30	President	900			
31	Vice President	900			
32	Editor	900			
33	PAC Chairman	700			
34	PM Rep				
35	Secretary	700			
36	Service Rep	700			
37	Treasurer	700			
38	Door Prize	100			
39	WA Hospitality Room	2000			

2013 Budget

	RECEIPTS	BUDGET		DISBURSEMENTS	BUDGET
1	Dues withholding	47000		HOSPITALITY ROOM	
2	Cash dues	760	40	MidWinter	550
3	Checking interest	100	41	State Convention	500
4	GMAC promo	100	42	National Convention	1000
5	Pins	500		CHAPTER OPERATING EXPENSES	
6	Hospitality room		43	Notices, postage, etc	1000
7	Miscellaneous		44	Soft/Hardware	450
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			46	Evergreen	7000
	DISBURSEMENTS		47	Website	50
			48	Nat'l Picture CDs	50
8	ANNUAL EXPENSES -OFFICERS			CONVENTION START UP	
9	President	1000	48	MidWinter	2000
10	Vice President	800	50	State Convention	3600
11	Editor	800		MISCELLANEOUS	
12	Legislative Rep	800	51	Misc (EB 10% line1)	4700
13	PM Rep	1000	52	Pins	550
14			53	Retirees @ \$10 each	2500
15	Retiree President	400	54	Service Rep promo	100
16	Secretary	800	55	PAC Postage	50
17	Service Rep	800	56	Scholarship postage	50
18	Treasurer	800	57	PM of Year Award	560
	LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE		58	President's Gift	150
19	President	1000			
20	Vice President	1000			
21	Career Development	0			48460
22	Editor	0			
23	Legislative Rep	1000		2013 Budget proposed	
24	PAC Chairman	1000			
25	PM Rep	1000			
26	Secretary	1000			
27	Service Rep	1000			
28	Treasurer	1000			
29	NATIONAL CONVENTION				
30	President	900			
31	Vice President	900			
32	Editor	0			
33	PAC Chairman	700			
34	PM Rep	700			
35	Secretary	700			
36	Service Rep	700			
37	Treasurer	700			
38	Door Prize	100			

2012 Summer General Business Session Minutes

General Business Session
June 29, 2012
Silver Reef Casino,
Ferndale, WA

The meeting was called to order at 3:55 p.m.
Pledge led by President Bob Rapos
Minutes were read by Secretary Wendy Allen.
No corrections were made.
Officers Reports:
President- Michelle Lee thanked Diane Schuler for all her support and help with the convention. She hoped the convention lived up to everyone’s expectations. There was discussion on the Seattle DM and what her protocol was with him. Vice President-Bill Carlton is coordinating mid-winter convention. He had Jackie Gurr introduce convention site. There will be a 3 day minimum because of the winter fest that will be going on in Chelan that weekend. Sign up now for discounted rates.
PM Rep- Bill Carlton reported that there are 7 active cases. Five are tied in with voluntary downgrades. They are the product of our current environment with intimidation. There are current level 22 postmasters that are requesting downgrades.
Secretary- No Report

Treasurer-
General Accounts
Regular Share Savings \$6565.66
Dollar Fund \$4526.72
Checking \$39564.53
CD \$10078.56
Scholarship/Convention Accounts
Regular Share Savings \$12.47
Scholarship \$1202.80
Convention \$6669.07
CD \$10050.86
Retirees- No Report
Editor Report-Angela Hawley announced the next Evergreen deadline is July 20th. Don’t wait until the last minute to submit articles to her. She will be fixing website.
Legislative Rep-Osa Siegner reported an excellent turnout at the Leadership Conference in DC. Nineteen people attended. We were successful at getting bill \$1789 passed. Keep hammering your senators.
Committee Reports
National Convention- We need to raise more money for convention coming in 2013. We will be selling 50/50 tickets and lanyards at National in Oklahoma City in September. She needs lots of help promoting convention at Oklahoma City. Fundraising goal is \$25,000. Hoping to raise \$10,000 at national convention.

PAC-Tom Runyon reported for Wendy Morris-Heller that a small amount has been collected, total unknown. Most people are ePaccers now. He gave a brief overview of what the PAC contribution money is spent on.
Registration- Jim Hamilton reported there were 53 total and 4 first timers.
Scholarship-Mary Christiansen reported that Betty Benton had the local school superintendent read applications and selected a recipient for this year’s winner. The organization needs to decide what to do with all the leftover 100 cookbooks. Fund raiser is the silent auction which will be ending at 9:30 Sat.
Old Business- None
New Business-
Constitutional Changes-Gordon Williams passed out copies of proposed changes. There was discussion on the changes. Gordon Williams made a motion to accept the proposed changes as read. Osa Siegner seconds. More discussion on for and against. Bob McPherson calls for the question. Motion passes.
2012 Budget- Diana Schuler makes a motion to accept the 2012 budget as presented. Angie Hawley seconds. No discussion and motion passes.

2013-Kristen Luther explained the budget and line differences. Bill Schnabel made a motion to accept the 2013 budget. Terry Johansen seconds. Motion passes
Elections-
Kristen Luther made a motion to endorse Mike Quinn for the NAPUS National Secretary Treasurer. Gordon Williams seconded. Motion passes.
Lisa Davis nominated Bill Carlton for chapter president because of his passion and dedication. Mary Christiansen seconded. There were no other nominations. Bob McPherson made a motion to close nominations. Linda Dillard seconded. Tom Runyan nominated Terry Johansen for chapter vice president by reading her bio. Dave Eberhart seconds. There were no other nominations. Mary Christiansen made a motion to close nominations. Bob McPherson seconded. Lisa Davis nominated Wendy Allen for chapter secretary. Ron Serafini seconds. There were no other nominations. Linda Dillard made a motion to close nominations. Angie Hawley seconds. Bob McPherson nominated Kristen Luther for chapter treasurer. Ron Serafini seconded.

There were no other nominations. Dana Fadden made a motion to close nominations. Linda Dillard seconded. Jackie Gerr nominated Angie Hawley for chapter editor. Jim Hamilton seconds. There were no other nominations. Ron Serafini makes a motion to close nominations. Donna McNeill seconds Osa Siegner nominated Michelle Lee for the chapter legislative rep. Lori Cleaver seconds. There were no other nominations. Linda Dillard made a motion to close nominations. Mary Christiansen seconded. Gordon Williams nominated Mary Christiansen for the chapters Membership/Services Rep. Pat Flores seconds. There were no other nominations. Linda Dillard made a motion to close nominations. Terry Johansen seconded. Tom Runyan made a motion to accept all nominations. Linda Dillard seconded. Motion passes. Linda Dillard made a motion to dismiss. Angie Hawley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Secretary Wendy Allen
June 29, 2012





Marjie Gallagher, Ret PM Nespelem wins the iPad in the NJ Drawing



Vic Rohret, Ret PM Naches; Marjie Gallagher, Ret PM Nespelem; Karole Kosonose, Ret PM Renton



John Borso, Ret. PM Blaine

Retired and Active



After attending the NAPUS State Convention in Ferndale WA, there is just too much to write about! There were about 17 retirees out of the approximately 55 people registered. And we were kept busy and having fun. VP Kerry Petre was missed due to a surgery but we expect Kerry will be jumping back in by midwinter. Retirees prepared a wonderful lunch on Saturday at the convention. It was a great fund raiser and even better team effort. Lon Posenjak, Vic Rohret, and Dale Pomeroy manned the barbecues turning out mouth-watering halibut and salmon. Set up and kitchen crew was Mel and Char Williams, Mike Lange, Laurie Fuller, Marjie Gallagher, Sue Stiritz, Louise Soles, Ramona Hoffman, Karol Kusunose, and Dwayne and Mary Kelloneimi. Deanna Nielsen was organizer, director and guide. I think everyone loved the chocolate fountain dessert. I did! The lunch was held at Pioneer Park in Ferndale where Chet Speziale founded

and maintained the Postal Museum. It was so good to see and it serves as an on-going tribute to Chet. (He was quite a guy.) Being at the park for lunch was the only time I got out of the Silver Reef Casino/Hotel. It was a fun venue, and the fresh air and sunshine did me good. It was very exciting to see my dear friend, Postmaster Retired Vic Rohret be named Postmaster of the Year! Vic is always ready and available to help NAPUS and Postmasters and it was great to see him so recognized. Karol Kusunose served a dual role as NAPUS retiree and NARFE representative. Karol presents some darn good arguments for active and retired Postmasters to join NARFE. As Congress looks at balancing a really tough budget, they are looking at having federal employees, who are 2% of the national population, make up 30% of the \$320 billion budget shortfall! This would be accomplished by a great reduction of federal pay and benefits. Scary? Stay vigilant, please. Oh, how our Postal Service is changing. In my last article, I asked Retirees to stand ready to help communities save their local post offices. Well, we are no longer being asked to serve in this capacity. Instead of closing post offices, many are being reduced in level and hours of service. Who would have ever thought there would be no more level 11, 13 and 15 post offices! Smaller offices are being either reduced to level 2 (2 hrs/day) or 4 (4 hrs/day) or 6 (6hrs/

day) or designated as level 18s! Those level 2s and 4s will not be run by Postmasters but by non-career employees! Level 6's will be part-time career. My-oh-my, it is hard to comprehend. It took NAPUS National President Bob Raposa a good hour to get all of this through my head. It is hoped that when the economy – and the postal service – recover, the infrastructure will be in place and these offices can grow back to sustaining a Postmaster and a higher level of service. Also want to be sure you all have heard that the law has been changed so that retired Postmasters may now work as PMRs with no penalty. The rate of pay is \$11.76 per hour. For many, the thought of going back to work is not enticing, but I believe there will be many who miss the community contact and will want this opportunity. And boy, do I believe the USPS will need these retirees! There is going to be another huge "brain drain" like we saw in '93. Of those 40 or so active postmasters at the convention more than a dozen are looking to retire on July 31st. Holy Cow! The ranks of retirees are swelling! We wish them all a wonderful new life. And to those postmasters remaining, I hope you are happy and successful wherever you land within this new Postal Service. I love Conventions. I always have the best time. I get to travel to new parts of the country with people I really enjoy. The hotels are beautiful and the food is wonderful. Retirees in

Oklahoma City were very busy and learned a lot. Those in attendance were Mel and Char Williams, Karol Kusunose, Vic Rohret, Marjie Gallagher, Karen Lemmon, Jackie Gurr, and new retirees Osa Siegner and Tom Runyan. And me. Oklahoma was another great adventure and we learned a lot about what it will take to host next year's National Convention in Bellevue. I heard much about how the Postal Service is changing. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe had a positive outlook on the future. He maintains there are opportunities to grow and I think he is right. It is NOT the beginning of the end! He noted that we may be going to 5 day mail delivery, but with 7 day parcel delivery. This tells us something about what's happening in the business world. The times, they are a-changin'. One unusual aspect of this last National Convention was that the RETIRED Postmasters actually outnumbered the ACTIVE Postmasters. How can that be? And what are the ramifications? So here is my take: Retired Postmasters, you are needed more than ever to step in and lend your expertise. Just as the USPS has been undergoing major changes, so will the NAPUS organization, and retirees are going to be counted on to take a larger leadership role. We have the skills, knowledge and time. All you recently retired, be sure to complete the 1187-Rs now. To file electronically, go to www.napus.org. At the top of

the page, click on join now. The middle of the page will show 1187 and 1187-R. Click 1187-R, complete and submit. Easy. However, current Postmasters who are not so active, YOU need to step up to the plate also. It is your employment and your future that is at stake here. The National NAPUS and the WA State chapter are both in need of new and energetic blood and you are that transfusion. Step up. There isn't much "district" NAPUS activity on the eastern side of the state, but that shouldn't keep anyone from attending state meetings and accepting some responsibility. Here's a quote I picked up at convention, "United we stick, divided we are stuck!" Hey everyone, be sure to vote. And check out how your congressional candidates, especially incumbents, support federal employees. According to Bob Levi, NAPUS Dir. of Government Relations, the Senate passed S1789 largely because of NAPUS activism. But if the House doesn't support this bill, and if HR2309 were to pass instead, it could be catastrophic for the USPS. Vote wisely. Hurray for those retirees helping with the Sept. Rural Route Count. The pay may be less than \$12 an hour, but I bet it will be the most fun they ever had during a RR Count.

Retiree President
Louise Soles
Ret. Postmaster Veradale



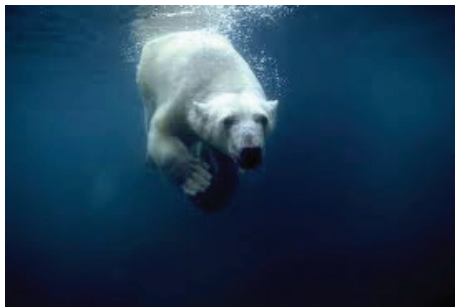
Karol Kusunose, Retired PM Renton; Marjie Gallagher, Ret PM Nespelem; Vic Rohret, Ret PM Naches; Louise Soles, Ret PM Veradale holding up their Red Solo cups at Toby Keith's in Oklahoma City



The Ladies of Washington State gather around Mel Williams, Retired Postmaster Othello to wish him a happy birthday. Happy Birthday Mel!!

Mid Winter Polar Plunge!!

TAKE THE PLUNGE!



2013 WA STATE NAPUS MID-WINTER CONFERANCE

WINTERFEST 2013 ACTIVITIES!!!

When: January 18-20, 201

Where: Campbell's Resort
104 W. Woodin Ave.,
Chelan, WA 98816
800-553-8225
www.campbellsresort.com

Registration
Full Registration \$70
Retirees / Guests \$65
(through 12-1-12)

Rooms (cut off 12-18-12)
Traditional \$98
Deluxe \$112
(use Group Res #257923)
Kitchenettes in every room!

Refund disclaimer: Registration refund requests will be honored if received in writing by the President or Secretary by Jan 1, 2013. Written requests received after that date must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Name

Email

Office / Title / Zip

Mailing Address

Retiree First Timer

Extra Meals: Banquet \$36 Sat Lunch \$15.50 Meal Choice: Flank Steak Salmon

Make Checks Payable to: WA State NAPUS Mail to: Dana Starfire
PO Box 6
Lopez Island, WA 98261

Currently Registered for Mid-Winter
Make sure to call Campbell's Resort to
make your room reservations
800-553-8225
mention Group Res # 257923

Retirees:
Louise Soles (President)
Marjie Gallagher (Treasurer)
Vic Rohret (Secretary)
Susan Stiritz
Pat Flores
Mel Williams
Karol Kusunose
Jackie Gurr
Tom Runyan
Cyndi Wiese
Osa Siegner
Debbie O'Keefe
Dave Eberhardt

Guests:
Ann Dickie
Bonny Trotter
Char Williams
George Schuler
Deena Serafini
Jodi Carlton
Gwen Hamilton

Postmasters:
Bill Carlton (President)
Danna Fadden
Teri Johansen (Vice President)
Bob McPherson
Kristen Luther (Treasurer)
Dana Starfire
Wendy Allen (Secretary)
Ron Serafini
Angela Hawley (Editor)
Jim Hamilton
Mary Christiansen (Service/Membership Rep)
Paula Martin
Michelle Lee (Past President)
Gordon Williams
Wendy Morris-Heller (Pac Chairman)
Diana Schuler
Linda Dillard
Lori Cleaver

Hello everyone!

I hope you're enjoying your fall!
In light of all the changes we are seeing in the Postal Service it is even more important to stay informed and to be connected with your fellow Postmasters.
Where else might you find out what offices will come open, where you can go and get on hands training to better position oneself for one of those higher level offices. By this I mean to OIC or detail into a role you've never thought of before.
It is not to soon to think about coming and joining us for the next NAPUS Mid-Winter Conference in beautiful Chelan WA. Look for the registration form in this edition of the paper as well as on the NAPUSWA.COM web site.

We will be staying at the Campbell's Resort on the lake. They have given us great room rates of \$98.00 & \$112.00. There is a large " Winter Fest Festival" going on in Chelan during our stay so there will be a 3 night minimum and please use the Group Reservation code #257923. Our banquet will be on Sunday night.
The town of Chelan blocks off main street and creates a stage for music, vendor area, features ice sculpting contest, wine walk, polar bear plunge into the lake and many other fun things!!!!
Check out the list of who's already registered to attend and come join in the fun and fellowship that NAPUS has to offer.

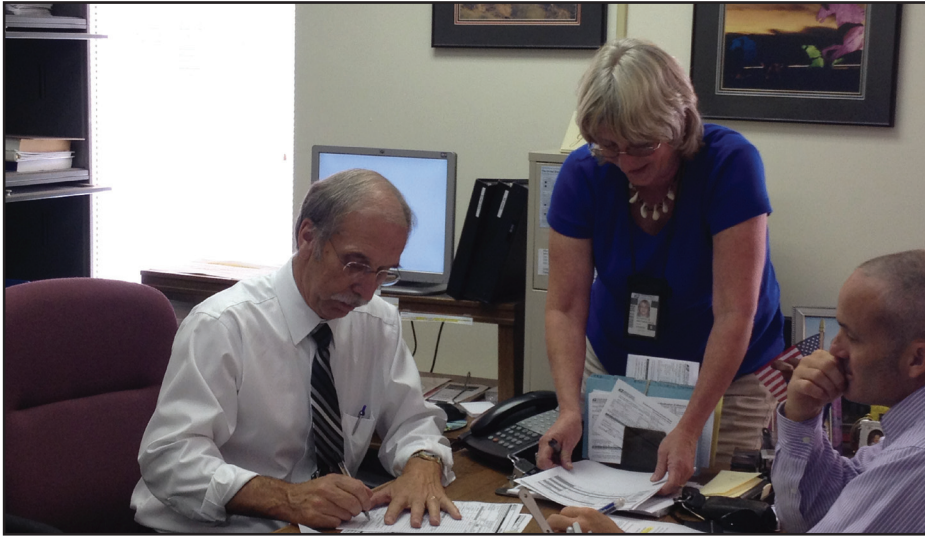
HOSPITALITY ROOM 101

What does it mean to you??
Here is what it has always meant to me.....
A great place to catch up with friends and meet new ones.
Network, laugh out loud, network some more.
Talk about work, promotions, your last vacation, kids & grandkids.
The next National Convention and what candidate you are most impressed with.
It's a wonderful place to share as much or as little as you'd like. Reminisce about the old times....."good old days."
Enjoy a cocktail, beer, soft drink and snacks.
There is a donation bucket that you can throw a few bucks in if you like. The dollars that it generates go to the Retirees to help their members attend Leadership Conference in DC and National Convention.
At Mid-Winter 2013 in Chelan we will provide a hot breakfast Saturday and Sunday morning for everyone to enjoy in the hospitality room.

So stop in a check it out you won't be disappointed!!



Mike Rosenow bids USPS farewell with 46 years 8 months of service



Mike Rosenow, now Retired Postmaster Ephrata signs the final paper work turing his office over to incoming OIC Jeff Miller, Postmaster Othello



Mike Rosenow, now Retired Postmaster Ephrata shakes hands with incoming OIC Jeff Miller, Postmaster Othello

Don't wait for them to help you, help yourself



"I haven't been trained in that." "I don't know how." "No one has ever showed me how to do that." "I've never heard that before." "I don't have time." -- Sound familiar? We hear this all the time; we've even probably uttered similar things ourselves. Now I am the first to admit that the Postal Service doesn't have a good track record in the train-

ing department, especially the last few years. Personnel are being depleted at all levels of the Postal Service, from the top down to your level. However, the work load hasn't decreased, just the number of folks performing that work. One of the first things to go is always training. So we have two choices: We can lament the loss, sit back and moan and groan about it, bitch, wail and holler, or we can take it upon ourselves to do something about it. There are hundreds of resources out there, just waiting for you to access them (see my articles in the upcoming NAPUS Alaska Postmaster newsletter). There is one new resource that I want to address here; it is new, it is cool, and it is now available. John Galera, Postmaster (now retired) from Pearl City, HI, has

been active in NAPUS for a long time, and is the National Chair of the Education and Development Committee. For quite some time now he has been working on what he calls the "Postmaster Survival Disk", a CD chock full of links, programs, forms, manuals, and articles on how to do just about everything a Postmaster needs to know or do in his/her office. Hundreds of these CD's have been given to Postmasters during training sessions the past few years. However, as we all know, not everyone makes it to a National Convention, much less partakes of the excellent training opportunities available there. Well, you have just run out of excuses! The program is now online at our website, <http://www.napus.org/>. There are only two require-

ments to access the THOUSANDS of links, forms, manuals and articles on the site: One, you must have internet access (and since you are reading this, I know you do); and Two, you must be a NAPUS member. Here are step-by-step instructions for accessing the site: Log on to <http://www.napus.org/> On the home page, on "NAPUS Knowledge Base Now Live", click on "On October 1, 2012..." Register by typing in your last name and your NAPUS membership number (the five-digit number on your Postmasters Gazette mailing label) On the account information page, fill in the blanks and click "Register Now" That's it. When you access the site, there is a search bar. Type in whatever you are interest-

ed in, and the search engine will list all the links and references available on the site for that particular subject. For instance, I typed in "1412", and the site came back with over 300 different documents available addressing this topic. What an awesome resource! And, it is available ONLY for NAPUS members. So the next time you start vocalizing some of the phrases that opened this article, turn on your computer and, instead of waiting for 'them' to help 'you,' help yourself!

Thanks,
Jerry Nassen
Area 21 VP
Postmaster Seward AK

Once a Postmaster, Always a Postmaster



Hello Everyone ~ Please read this segment with the knowledge that we must care and support our fellow Postmasters. The message I want to parlay is to listen, support, and encourage one another. Our fellow Postmasters are going through a life changing time. There are so many that have been or are going to be affected by the PostPlan. There are very hard decisions being made with very heavy hearts. Some don't have the option to continue being a Postmaster any longer, some will choose to retire because it's their only option, for some they will not be able to justify driving 40, 60, 80 miles one way to continue being a Postmaster. These Postmasters are trying to decide what is best for them,

their families and their career. They are not choosing to not be a Postmaster: the choice has been made for them. I have spoken to a few of these Postmasters in this very hard point in life. They are devastated. They HONOR and cherish the title of Postmaster, they have given their HEART and SOUL to their community and daily serve with dignity and respect. If they end up taking a supervisor, manager, clerk, carrier or any other position within the USPS, it is because this is what is best for their life and for their family. They need us to listen to them, comfort them, empathize with them and not judge them for their decision. They are going to survive this and it will end up as our almighty God has planned for them. But please, pick up the phone and give them a friendly call to just say "hi, I was thinking of you." Once a Postmaster, always a Postmaster and they will always be part of our NAPUS family. Blessings to all,

Treasurer
Kristen Luther
Postmaster Mabton

You can do anything, you just can't do everything



Hello Fellow Postmasters~ Congratulations to all of you who were able to retire and those of you who recently promoted. With all the negativity and uncertainty around us it is important to recognize the positives. Sometimes that is more difficult than other times.

The National Convention in Oklahoma City was a huge success. I want to thank all of the Washington Postmasters who attended and took the time to assist with our fund raising effort. We were able to raise over

\$6000 towards our Bellevue 2013 fund. Planning for the Convention is going well. President Bob Rapoza and Gerri Swarm will be coming out in November to tour the Hyatt Regency and firm up more details for the agenda. I will have a more detailed update for everyone at the Mid-Winter Conference in Chelan this January. I hope everyone is planning to attend.

Recently I was driving through town and noticed a local reader board. I would have to admit that usually I hate reader boards but this particular message jumped out at me. It was perfect timing as I had just learned my office was becoming a "Mystery Shop" office and I was concerned with how I was going to be able to pass a shop. I was overcome with negative thoughts of failure. How can I possibly ensure compliance with the Mystery Shop program when we are already struggling to meet existing goals? This reader board was like an epiphany... a message from God... wake up Angie "You

can do anything... You just can't do everything!" That's right, I can do this! I can pass a Mystery Shop, I can ensure my lobby is stocked correctly and my clerks are asking the hazmat questions, pushing our premier services and offering additional items. I can even ensure we keep that wait time in line down below 5 minutes. Unfortunately prioritizing our window service will lower the productivity on our distribution side and ensuring the wait time is down might sometimes mean that we don't meet our box up times, carriers have to wait for their mail, and clerks work over time. I'm not suggesting this is wrong, in fact, I agree our window service should be a priority. I am just accepting the simple fact that although I can do this I cannot do everything. Now that I think about it this is probably something I need to consider for life in general.

Editor
Angela Shapley
Postmaster Omak

Check out our President's Blog
www.napuswaprez.weebly.com