

“Let Us  
Do Together  
What We  
Cannot Do  
Alone”

# The Evergreen Postmaster

Mar/Apr 2012

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

## Once again WA State NAPUS storms the Hill

### Upcoming Events

2012 Summer  
Convention  
June 28th-30th  
Ferndale, WA

2012 National  
Convention  
Sept 1st-6th  
Oklahoma City, OK

2013 National  
Convention  
Bellevue, WA

2014 National  
Convention  
Atlantic City, NJ

**2012 Postmaster  
of The Year  
Nominations  
should be  
submitted to  
Kristen Luther  
by June 1, 2012**

**Do your share,  
contribute to PAC.**  
Contact Wendy  
Morris-Heller  
morris98812@  
yahoo.com  
PO Box 614  
Brewster WA 98812



President Bob Rapoza welcomed NAPUS Postmasters to the Leadership Conference. He said the speakers may tell them what they want to hear, but make no mistake: Postmasters' titles and future employment are at stake—and the stakes are much higher than they were 12 months ago.

He said NAPUS must change with the changing times; some of the organizational changes will require constitutional amendments. Rapoza urged Postmasters to attend their chapter conventions to consider the proposed changes and participate in NAPUS' future. He said adapting to the new environment is not like being on a diet, rather, it will require a change in lifestyle.

He said the unknowns, rumors,

the inaction of Congress and the changes the Postal Service is trying to make at an accelerated speed have affected the USPS brand and are a distraction to customer service, as well as taking a toll on all postal employees.

Despite all that, Rapoza pledged that job protection for Postmasters is his top priority. “Make no mistake,” he declared, “the Postmaster organizations are the only stakeholders left concerned about saving Postmaster jobs and the Postmaster title.”

He told Postmasters the message they need to take to Capitol Hill is it is time for our congressional leaders to compromise, make concessions, settle the prefunding issue, refund USPS overpayments, protect rural post offices and get out of the way and

let Postmasters do their jobs.

“NAPUS will continue to be influential in the decisions made for Postmasters,” he promised. “As we work through all the current issues, we have maintained a positive attitude with those we deal with—we have not lost hope. We will work through what has become the most challenging times ever and we will prevail!”

Postmaster General Pat Donahoe thanked Postmasters for the great jobs they do and acknowledged these are very tough times. “I know everyone is worried,” he said. “Keep doing what you’re doing; you do a wonderful job and your customers think the world of you. Over the next couple months, we will resolve what we need to resolve: fairness to the customers and employees.”

“The key thing is to get the issues behind us,” he vowed, “and then focus on growing the organization.” But some tough decisions need to be made. The PMG discussed some new marketing strategies the agency will pursue.

Donahoe said people trust the Postal Service more than anything else; then there is the security. A new ad out on First-Class Mail emphasizes that mail is important and mail is safe.

“We have to make a lot of changes,” he urged. “As we make these changes, there are plenty of opportunities to grow this organization.”

Taken from  
NAPUS Latest News  
March 26, 2012

The Evergreen Postmaster  
PO Box 606  
Omak WA 98841-0606  
Change Service Requested

Non-profit org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 241  
Wenatchee WA 98801

Deadline For Next  
Evergreen Issue:  
May 18th

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Please extend a warm NAPUS welcome to new members:

Nancy Avery PM Lynwood  
Karla Chaparro PM Concrete  
Tori Clifford PM Woodland  
Lynette Renea PM Marshall  
Scott Osmun PM Point Roberts  
Minhtrung Vo OIC Montesano  
Elizabeth Huges OIC Pacific Beach  
Michelle Nesary OIC Selah

Give them a call and let them each know we are here for them!

**Food for thought**



Well here we go to Washington DC, Mary Christensen stayed with me Friday night and Wendy Allen came over at 5:30am. We all went to the airport together. We checked in our bags and turned around to see Osa Siegner right behind us. As we reached our gate to board the plane we also ran in to Michele Lee and Al White with his lovely wife

Claire as well as Jerry, Marsha, Teresa and Laura all from Alaska. What a wonderful way to start our trip. When we arrived to the hotel we saw old friends from around the country that we had not seen since last year. It was great to catch up on what has been going on in their lives. There were some great speakers who believe in what we do, like Senator Joe Lieberman, who said we need the flexibility to expand our services like faxes, copies, notaries and even sell fishing licenses, especially in rural America where the post office is the life blood of the community. It was mentioned that the closing of post offices will only have an effect on the budget by 4 tenths of 1%. However, it will in fact affect more than just the budget if we close of-

fices because we all know everything has a trickle-down effect. It was also asked again, why do we have 65 districts when we only have 50 states? Because those district offices do not bring in any revenue and many of the people that work there are either too busy to help or feel put out when you call for help why don't we consider consolidating some district offices... like 57 of them? Maybe, just maybe this will help keep the post offices open that actually do help people and their community. And just for an added bonus, it might actually eliminate some of those annoying duplicate emails... just food for thought.

Service Rep  
Teri Johansen  
Postmaster Hoodspport

**NAPUS PAC For Postmasters**



Hello everyone, I am writing this article from a bus going into New York City with 3 other wonderful Washing-

ton Postmasters. We are on a short hiatus from the Leadership Conference in Washington DC, Having a wonderful time. Now with the business side of this article, our need for PAC at this time has never been greater. We need legislation to protect and secure our careers, one way to help ensure legislatures are working for our best interests us to give to PAC. All monies go toward supporting our supporters on Capitol Hill. This does include retiree issues, and active Postmasters. My goal for the year is to have everyone that regularly donates to PAC to

contribute \$12 more dollars this year, and to encourage at least 12 more Washington members to give to PAC that have not donated in the past, this year. Small amounts from all, build and make us stronger. If anyone has any questions or concerns about the PAC, please contact me, my information is located in the evergreen and I would love to hear from any and all.

PAC Chair  
Wendy Morris-Heller  
Postmaster Waterville

**National Credit Union Youth Week**

From April 22-28 any deposit of \$50 or more allows the youth to be entered into a drawing for a iPod shuffle. Additionally-each month that an automatic deposit is set up to come into the youth account of at least \$25, the youth is eligible to win a \$25 iTunes gift card.

It's never too late to get those kids, grand kids, nieces and nephew signed up.

Anyone looking for an auto loan Cloud nine is back 0.9% annual percentage rate during introductory period. 9 - Month of introductory period, 90- number of days until first payment (interest accrues daily) Loan is for a limited time only. So if you are buying a new car or want to refinance one give them a call.

If you are going to buy a house, call NAPUS Credit Union First to get pre approved.

If you are looking for or comparing prices of Insurance Don't forget to call LIBERTY MUTUAL. All NAPUS members get a 10% discount, If you car is totalled in an accident you will get a 1 year Newer or Better Car Replacement, Accident Forgiveness, Lifetime Repair Guarantee-car manufacture parts only Call 1-800-835-0894 or www.libertymutual.com/napus

**An opportunity for growth**



How do you grow in life experience, work knowledge, the Postal political scene and friendship base? How do you see the country

and learn to ride the metro? How do you visit New York at very little out of pocket expense? You come to the NAPUS meetings, conventions, become involved and apply for a scholarship to help you on your way. I have just received my third scholarship to the NAPUS Leadership Conference in WA DC and, to NAPUS, I give thanks. To be a part of this has changed me as a person and as a postmaster. I look to our postal leaders for guidance and encouragement and have an obligation to know enough about the job at hand to pay it forward.

We are in a changing environment and will only survive if we are willing to change with it. We must know what the options are and have the knowledge to make decisions that will benefit, not only our lives, but the postal service as well. Come join us, see the country, make the most of what is offered and reap the rewards of this wonderful organization. You will not be disappointed!

Mary Christiansen  
Postmaster Quinault

**Have you given to PAC?**



Once again it was a nail-biting venture getting myself out of my office to the Leadership Conference in DC~ three days before my flight I fitted the final piece of the coverage puzzle that would allow me to attend each of the crucial days. One Postmaster who helped me out very reasonably joked that I would “owe him”, then we both laughed when I said I have nothing to give! I was able to tack on the Portland District meeting to the front of my trip to Leadership. There was a wealth of information from the two, much of it overlapping and illuminating each other. Each of we State Officers at Leadership attend training sessions. There were four main themes in the President’s breakout:

1) Don’t believe rumors. There is speculation and rumors about everything from a VER to extreme consolidation of Post Offices. We will not truly know the facts until they are in print and go into effect,

everything else is speculation.

2) There is a need to re-align NAPUS and its finances as USPS downsizing will inevitably reduce membership. In DC the National Executive Board made several recommendations to reduce future expenses, most of which will take national votes to change our Constitution and By-Laws. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee will be crafting resolutions to be published in the June Gazette. These proposals should include the following changes: National Convention would be held in conjunction with Leadership every other year and remain free-standing the opposite years; The Executive Board would be downsized by reducing the number of National VPs from the current 22 down to 12 and eliminating from the Board the Past President, Past Secretary-Treasurer, and Editor. If these changes were to go through they would have the possible side benefit of reducing State Chapters budgets since there would be less funding necessary for officers to attend the national meetings (as well as loosen up a little annual leave!). A resolution to re-define a quorum is also in the works.

3) Ensure your SOV information is as accurate as possible. Though this was an important subject in Puerto Rico, it was highlighted once again with additional information. The data in the SOV is key to determin-

ing the earned time, or “value”, of a Post Office and therefore should be as accurate as possible. If you give me a call at my office, I will be happy to help you decipher your SOV; as well, there will be training on the subject at State Convention.

4) What value does NAPUS membership have? To some the answer to this question is obvious, to others, not so much. While it is true that we Postmasters are not allowed to be in charge of the USPS as we would like, we are much further ahead, now and historically, by banding together. There are 4 aspects of our organization that give USPS pause and provide us weight in our consultations: the NAPUS National office, our retirees, our attorney, and the Gazette. Additionally, the point was made that Congress is able to save the USPS, but only through consultation with NAPUS, etc, can the position of Postmaster be saved.

I know the hope for a VER offer is on the minds of many, but there is not yet anything definite. If one does come, you will have a very short period of time to decide and implement that decision. Your suggested course of action is to be prepared- do some homework as to what you would need from a VER in order to meet your retirement goals. Know that monetary incentives can be implemented by the OPM, but an incentive that adds years

of service would take legislative action. In the last week I have heard several different views and one glaring silence on the matter: From 2 of the District Managers that attended the same meeting with the PMG in mid-March, one shared that there would be no VER, the other said there would be a targeted VER for plant-affected employees; at Leadership the PMG made no reference to the possibility; NAPUS HQ has received a 4-disc set explaining a VER (you should be able to get a set through HR), though no mention was made of any specifics. Conclusion, there will be a VER if and when we see it.

There was an interesting juxtaposition of speakers at the conference, PMG Donahoe and PRC Chairman Ruth Goldway. Mr. Donahoe’s focus was in sharing with us our financial dilemma and the retail aspect in attempting to resolve it (mostly by tinkering with the products we already provide and through a digital mail product that he did not expand on). He also alluded to attempting to keep open small Post Offices through reduction of hours.

Chairman Goldway, who took the stage after the PMG, was, to put mildly, not optimistic with USPS plans to push through plant and post offices, seeing the irregularities and difficulties those plans present. The sheer volume of post office closure

appeals sure to come will be almost impossible for the PRC to review in a timely manner. More time is needed to fully assess the true savings of a switch from 6 to 5 day delivery. Goldway was particularly critical of the Retail Optimization Initiative, bitterly remarking that there is no optimization that she can see. She understands the dilemma and frustrations in the PRC providing advisory-only opinions. (the manager’s amendment to S.1789 seeks to render the PRC’s decisions binding).

I look at my notes from the last week and feel as though I have hardly scratched the surface with this article, but there’s only so much room in the Evergreen and you only have so much eyesight at any given time~ the plan is to put the balance in the blog. I do though want to share a couple of other tidbits here, both having to do with the OIG. The OIG should be publishing a report in April or May showing that the USPS can’t support its DUO cost-savings claims and, interestingly, if an OIG agent has been in your eOPF there will be documentation in there to that affect.

My best to you all.

WA State President  
Michelle Lee  
Postmaster Granger

## Don’t believe Rumors



The message sent out at the Legislative Conference in Washington DC this year was confusing to say the least. It brings one some satisfaction to hear the news, good or bad, straight from the source. I believe one tune everyone hummed was that there has to be change, and that a reduction of facilities in some sort is imminent. We heard rumors about early outs, maybe money, and maybe time. I believe that after Spring Break the wheels will be turning somewhat faster than at the current pace. That’s when the legislature goes back in session and we hope to hear some news that will definitely be geared around the Postal Service’s moratorium. The training for Postmaster Representatives has greatly im-

proved, which with the current working conditions was definitely an area that needed focus.

Who supports Postmasters? Well as I opened this article, that was one of the confusing points. It doesn’t seem as either the Postal Service or our Representatives do. Of course the bigger picture is the business, but after all we are NAPUS and our connection is Postmasters. We need to open our eyes and realize that sitting by and waiting for someone else to determine our livelihood and careers needs to stop. Participation in this organization is essential for our voice to be heard. Our PMG has consistently told us how much he appreciates what we do and keep doing it. Has any one that has been a Postmaster for more than three years seen the change in their workload? But there’s less mail.....Yeah. Postmasters are doing what used to be done by craft employees and look around, there are a lot more craft employees doing what Postmasters used to do.....humph. How many clerks are OIC’s now compared to just a few years ago. I did not get a warm and fuzzy feeling from our meetings with our Representatives. It may be they have

not had a chance to get fully acquainted with our issues and will focus on them after spring break. Maybe they will see the devastation and economic impact to their districts and states if the Postal Service is allowed to close all of the proposed facilities. I am however, being very positive that a small contingent of our Representatives and a few of our members of Congress will convince the masses that we can and will be successful as a Service to our communities. These few have a plan that would allow us to be creative in exploring new avenues for revenue generation and relieve us from the Postal Service’s prefunding responsibilities.

Recently Postmasters have gotten their behinds kicked by the Postal Service upper management. We have lost much more than we would like to admit and the trend seems to be spiraling in the same direction, downward. First, half of the Postmasters in the country received Convention Leave and the others didn’t. I never have figured out the parity in that decision. I wonder if half of the PCES employees got a bonus and the other half didn’t how they would feel. Let’s just mention Pay for Performance,

maybe we shouldn’t or should we? I like to relate this to telling my granddaughter that she will receive a treat or a prize if she attempts to do something well and she does. Sorry, but thanks for the effort. Alright, that’s the last that I mention my frustrations on those topics, I promise.

Many of NAPUS members in our state and others have joined our organization for various reasons, networking, training, fellowship, representation or just to keep up with “What’s Happening”. Since I have been a member, my sense of duty followed the representation of the Postmaster. I felt when I became the State PM Rep for NAPUS I would be there for my fellow members and do whatever I could to make them feel they had someone to listen and be in their corner supporting them. Sure I have been in some awkward situations when a Postmaster made a wrong decision, but I have also been in situations where the Postmaster and MPOO both benefitted from positive communication and mutual respect. In these uncertain times I would ask that you call a fellow Postmaster if you have any questions about what may or may not be an issue with your

MPOO. Most MPOOs in this district notify their Postmasters they may need to contact their representative but some don’t. That is where our networking and taking care of each other comes in. Representation, in my opinion, is one of the most important aspects of your membership, give me a call. In some cases NAPUS is just a support channel to assist; in others, it takes more effort. That’s ok, whatever it takes.

As we look forward to the upcoming spring and summer months, I just want to remind all of my fellow Postmasters and members of NAPUS to keep everything in perspective. Take care of yourself, your family and each other. This past year I have had the opportunity to meet many new Postmasters, learn about their lives and get an insight to their situations at work. The dialog and communication I have had with them has been “Priceless”.

Take care.....

VP/PM Rep  
Bill Carlton  
Postmaster Elma

## Confusing Times

Check out the NAPUS President’s Blog at  
[www.napuswaprez.weebly.com](http://www.napuswaprez.weebly.com)



Hello everyone,  
What a great trip to Washington DC. 19 Active, Retired Postmasters and their guests met with our Senators and representatives. The weather was great and the conference was very informative.

## WA NAPUS well represented in DC

We heard from the Postmaster General Pat Donahoe, Thurgood Marshal Jr and Ruth Goldway along with several others. Congressmen Joe Lieberman and Barney Saunders were among several Congressmen who came to a special Legislative forum and talked to us about S1789. A vote was taken to move S1789 forward and failed. The vote needed 60 to pass and only got 51. It is believed a vote to move forward will be taken again when Congress returns after the April recess. Even if S1789 moves forward a bill in the House of Representatives will also need to be acted on. Then the two bills

would be merged in conference. It is a lot that would have to happen before the May 15th deadline to move forward with closing Post Offices and Plants. We all need to stay in close touch with our Congressmen and women as votes come up and amendments are proposed. They very much want to hear from us. Each visit we made this was stated over and over. Take care and God Bless,

Legislative Rep  
Osa Siegner  
Postmaster Tracytown



I would like to announce my candidacy for the position of Washington State Chapter Service Representative.

## Candidate for NAPUS WA State Service Rep

I started my career as a PMR in 1996. In 2002 I was promoted to Postmaster of Moclips. Since 2004 I have been the Postmaster of Quinault, which is my home town.

My NAPUS involvement is as follows:

- ~ District #85 President
- ~ First Timer Chairman
- ~ Scholarship Chairman
- ~I attended Leadership Conference in 2010, 2011 & 2012 and attended the Membership Class all 3 years

My Postal involvement is as follows:

- ~ Officer in Charge in Elma, level 18
- ~ PMR Trainer
- ~ Certified Interviewer
- ~ Retail Revenue Generation Instructor
- ~ Bank Secrecy Act Instructor
- ~ Helped with Rural Route count for 3 yrs

I am also a Certified CPR Instructor. I would appreciate your support in casting your vote for me in June at the NAPUS Summer Convention in Ferndale WA. See you there!!



My final Article,  
This year as I was driving to the airport all full of excitement on once again meeting with our legislators at our nations capital and working once again with the wonderful members of the executive board as well as reconnecting with old friends I was involved in a vehicle accident. Although I totaled out my car I was not badly injured and will be if not as good as new, much better in six months or so with physical therapy. Keeping in mind that I will not be able to travel as per my commitment I thought it would be unfair to the membership to continue on as National VP until September when my term expires. I feel at a time period as critical as this we need someone that will be able to contribute 100% of their

## Down but not out

time and energy into the next six months. I am so thankful to Jerry Nassen Alaska State President and Postmaster Seward to have stepped up and taken over. With his duties as acting president I know his plate is already full and I appreciate that I can concentrate fully on my healing knowing that we are all in good hands. Jerry's knowledge and experience far out weigh my own so we are quite fortunate to have him. Although I have been laid low by circumstance I am certainly not far away from the mix. This day and age not one single one of us can afford to be. I keep in touch with my NAPUS family and keep up to date by reading the latest posts on the NAPUS website. As you will read from our members that went to DC we will be adding an area dedicated to education on the website. Thank God!!!! I recently was informed via email from my MPOO that I need to fill out a Function 4 review exit summary. I don't know about you but I am uncomfortable signing something I don't understand. After asking my MPOO for help I was directed to a canned report which of course explained nothing. While perusing the NAPUS website this weekend I noticed training on the SOV which in-

cluded nationwide benchmark numbers, and the times we are credited for each function we perform. There was also a log to track functions that you believe you perform more often than the national average for instance. Offices level 15 and below are credited with 25 priority mail scans a day. In my office I perform at the very least 200 a day. While your office may have 5 bulk mailings a week I have none so on and so forth. My point is that it has become our own responsibility to train ourselves on our own time at our own expense. That my friends is a sign of the times. But NAPUS has not let us down but has picked up the slack and strives to provide us with the latest and the best information to enable us to do the best job we can. Take the initiative and become involved and ask yourself, can you really afford to sit on the sidelines and do nothing. In my world it's not worth the gamble. It was a great honor to serve you and I look forward to meeting up with you in the future when I am all healed up. Until then take care and God bless.

Sincerely,  
Charlotte Devlin  
down but not out

## Candidate for NAPUS WA State Vice President



Postal background is as follows:

- ~Officer in Charge at Raymond, Elma & Omak
- ~Detailed as Manager Customer Service in Centralia
- ~Detailed as Supervisor in Shelton, Centralia & Chehalis

Postal Projects:

- ~ Function 4 Audits
- ~ Rural Route Counts
- ~ Peak Season Hiring
- ~ City Route Inspection
- ~ OJI Window Trainer
- ~ QWLI Facilitator

My name is Teri Johansen and I would like to announce my candidacy for the NAPUS Washington Chapter Vice President position. I started in the Postal Service in 1982 as a PTF clerk in Shelton. I was promoted to Postmaster in 2006 at Hoodport, a level 15. I have been the State Service Representative since 2006. I've attended 6 Leadership Conferences and 5 National Conventions.

I feel I have the necessary skills needed to fulfill this position and represent the members of the Washington State Chapter of NAPUS.

I would appreciate your support in June at the state convention in Ferndale. Looking forward to seeing you there!

## Candidate for NAPUS WA State Secretary



Hello, my name is Wendy Allen, your current State Chapter Secretary. I would like to take this opportunity to announce my intent to run again for the position of Washington State Chapter Secretary. Thank you!



General Session opened with a performance by the Marine band



WA NAPUS active and retired Postmasters wait in line for entry to a special session with 5 members of Congress



Vic Rohret, Ret PM Naches



Vic Rohret, Ret PM Naches; Deanna Nielsen, Ret PM Burlington; Lon Posenjak, Ret PM Leavenworth; Marjie Gallagher, Ret PM Nespelem and Kerry Petre, Ret PM Cle Elum



Lon Posenjak, Ret PM Leavenworth



Lon Posenjak picked me up at 2:30am Sat the 24th for our flight to Wash DC and we arrived in at 6:30 pm eastern time. The retirees' hospitality room had breakfast for us every morning. The retirees' meeting started at 10:00 on Sun. Jack Wilkins opened the meeting with introductions of head table and offices, Pledge of Allegiance, recognition of members of the military, recognition of first timers and past presidents. Jack has made some changes to streamline the meetings and to reduce expenses for

the retirees. Each officer gave a report and all audits were completed. Everything is in good order. At the Oklahoma City convention we will be able to vote on our national dues. There is a hope that we can get more members to sign up for dues withholding. Reports were given by the Audit committee, Budget committee, By-laws committee, there may be changes as NAPUS updates their constitution & by-laws. Last was the Historian's report. NAPUS president, Bob Rapoza, spoke to the group about concerns with the legislative battles we are having with congress. We may soon be fighting to save the title Postmaster. Reports were given on Hospitality, Legislative, Membership, Public Relations, Post Office preservation, and the 2012 Convention. Our active membership is 61.72%. We lost 587 members last year. Bob Levi spoke about the possibility of a bill for Medicare participants to participate in

### From the perspective of a First Timer

FEHB plans. The Postal service is possibly trying to create their own health plan. The meeting was informative and enjoyable. After lunch, Lon, Vic, Marjorie, Deanna and I toured the Postal Museum. Lon and I then toured the American museum of Natural History. Monday morning the retirees attended the NAPUS morning session. I will not cover this as I am sure it will be covered by the active Postmasters report. I will just say that these are trying times and we must all be involved in preserving the post office. Tuesday morning we had five Senators speak to us. They spoke of the importance of small Post Offices to rural America. Closing the Post Offices will only reduce the budget by .4 of 1 % yet will greatly impact rural America. At 11:00am we met with Doc Hastings aide, Justin Prosser. We made him aware of several issues: that the Postal Service needs legislation to Promote Postal Growth,

that we must develop innovative products and services to replace the lost first-class volume, of the need to enact legislation to safeguard Universal Service, that USPS efforts to shutter Post Offices is wrong, that Congress must enact legislation to financially sustain the Postal Service and provide fair Postmaster benefits. Last but not least, he should oppose any legislation that treats the federal workforce unfairly. We are working to ensure that legislation of a prospective new health plan would not disadvantage active or retired Postmasters. I would say that the aide was receptive to our presentation and was current on what is happening to the USPS. At 3pm we met with Senator Maria Cantwell. We gave the same presentation. I was impressed with the attention she gave us. Her aide was with the group and contributed to the discussion. She went to each one of us and shook our hand as we introduced ourselves and

told her where we were from. I do feel that the people we talked with were aware of our plight and showed an interest in helping. It was a worthwhile trip and very important. That night we had a group dinner as many were going home the next day. Lon and I were leaving on Thursday so we had a free day Wednesday. Lon, Vic, Marjie, President Michelle, and I took a tour on Wednesday where we saw many of the monuments. I was impressed. It was my first time in DC. I think my favorite was touring Arlington Cemetery. The history surrounding it is something else. The five retirees who attended the conference did a great job and participated in everything. I was glad that I was able to represent the Wash state retirees.

Kerry Petre  
Retired Postmaster Cle Elum



Kerry Petre, Retired Postmaster Cle Elum



Deanna Nielsen, Retired Postmaster Burlington



Marjie Gallagher, Retired Postmaster Nespelem and Vic Rohret, Retired Postmaster Naches



The Capital Building and cherry blossoms. It is unusual for the cherry blossoms to be in bloom during the Leadership Conference so we enjoyed them this year.



Several WA NAPUS Postmasters listen intently during a meeting with Senator Maria Cantwell



Tulips in front of the Library of Congress

# ALL TOGETHER NOW

Washington NAPUS Chapter 25 State Convention  
June 28-30, 2012

**ROOMS**  
\$77 Per night  
(1 king or 2 queens)  
Complimentary  
breakfast buffet (up to 2  
people)

**COME TOGETHER**  
To the  
**SILVER REEF**  
**HOTEL**  
**CASINO and SPA**  
in **FERNDALE**

**PLAN ON**  
being  
entertained and informed...you  
can bet on it.

**HOTEL GUESTS**  
Receive 25% off  
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**HOTEL INFO**  
4876 Haxton Way Ferndale,  
WA  
866-383-0777  
www.SilverReefCasino.com

**REGISTRATION:**

Full Registration (2 lunches/banquet)  
by June 9: \$80 thereafter: \$90  
Retirees and Guests: \$5 off full registration  
Friday only: (incl. lunch): \$25  
Saturday only (incl lunch/banquet): \$60

Refund disclaimer: Registration refund requests will be honored if received in writing by the President or Secretary by June 9, 2012.  
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 \$35 \_\_\_ Sat lunch \$20 \_\_\_ Sun lunch \$20 \_\_\_  
Make checks payable to: WA State NAPUS  
Mail to: Beth Slotterbeck PO Box 13 Troutlake WA 98650

## SEEKING POSTMASTER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS FOR 2012

Now is the time to nominate that special fellow NAPUS Postmaster that you feel deserves the honor of Postmaster of the Year. Fill out the information below and send it to the address listed or email the same to Kristen Luther at [lutherbunch@gmail.com](mailto:lutherbunch@gmail.com) by June 1st. Just a reminder, do not use penalty envelopes to mail your submissions.

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Why I feel this Postmaster should be Postmaster of the Year:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- (1) Service to NAPUS
  - (2) Service to the Postal Service
  - (3) Other Credentials
- Nominee and nominator must be an active Postmaster and a NAPUS member in good standing.

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send nominations to:  
Kristen Luther  
Attn: PM 2012  
PO Box 182  
Brownstown WA 98920-0182  
[lutherbunch@gmail.com](mailto:lutherbunch@gmail.com)



Most of you know me, but some of you might not. My name is Jackie Gurr (formerly Quinn) and I have been a member of Washington Chapter NAPUS since 1981. I'm the retired Post-

master of Ocean Shores WA. I was State President in 1993 & 2005. I represented AK, OR, ID & WA on the National Executive Board as Area 21 Vice President in 2009-2010. I'm running for reelection for the NAPUS Federal Credit Union Credit Committee position. This term is for 3 years and will be up this September at National Convention in Oklahoma City. I have held this position since 1997. I also have the responsibility of Secretary of the committee, which I've held for several years.

If you or someone in your family are members of the Credit Union I would appreciate your support in voting for me when you receive your ballot in August.



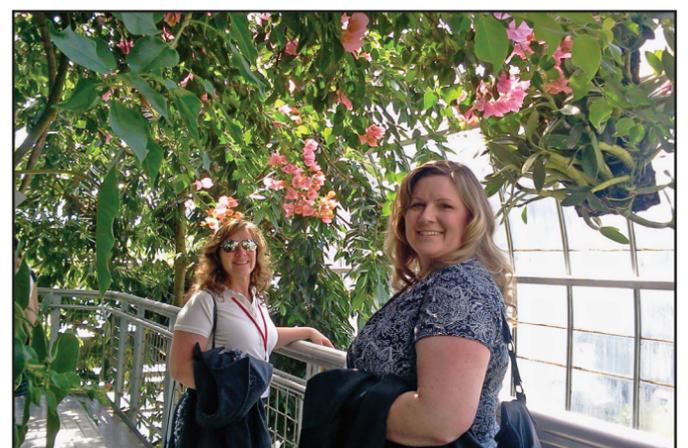
Tanya Slyter, PM Tokeland; Wendy Allen, PM Castle Rock; Bill Carlton, PM Elma & Teri Johansen, PM Hoodspport



Al White, Postmaster Conconully and Michelle Lee, Postmaster Granger join in during the dinner entertainment



Senator Maria Cantwell listens intently during meeting with NAPUSWA Postmasters



Teri Johansen, Postmaster Hoodspport and Wendy Allen, Postmaster castle Rock

**It's not too late to make plans to attend the  
2012 National Convention in Oklahoma City  
\$150 registration fee extended until 7/31!!!  
Don't wait any longer, register today!**



**Catch The Dream  
2012  
Oklahoma City**

**Registration Form NAPUS 108th National Convention  
Oklahoma City, OK September 1-6, 2012**

*Registration also available on line at [www.napus.org](http://www.napus.org)  
Please Note: one attendee per registration form*

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name (as it should appear on your badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office You Represent(ed): \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Time Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee:**

*(Please circle fee that applies)*

	9/10/11 to 7/31/12	After 8/01/12
<b>Postmaster / Spouse/Guest</b>	\$150	\$250
<b>OIC/Associate</b>	\$150	\$250
<b>Postmaster Retired/ Spouse/Guest (Postmaster Retired Luncheon Included)</b>	\$130	\$215
<b>Children (17 and under) (Includes child's meal at the Grand Banquet)</b>	\$75	\$75

**Are you planning on attending the NAPUS Annual Golf Tournament?**  Yes  No  
For \$90 per golfer, this will include transportation to and from the Coffee Creek Golf Course, range balls, cart and green fees. Provided with this offer is a Continental breakfast prior to the start and a lunch after the tournament. Prizes will be awarded.

**Payment:**

- Check payable to NAPUS # \_\_\_\_\_  Cash  
 NAPUS-FCU Visa  American Express  
 Visa/MasterCard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Convention Fee:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Tickets for the  
Postmasters Retired Luncheon  
@ \$25 each**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Golf Tournament Fee**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Included**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Check out the GREAT things Oklahoma City has to offer at  
[soonerpostmaster.org](http://soonerpostmaster.org)**



in the manner they deserve.

In addition to the Postmaster positions I have held, my diverse postal background makes me uniquely qualified to address all of the issues faced by Postmasters today.

The challenges and assaults on our profession are astounding. Countless Postmasters continue to contact to me on a regular basis with concerns about their future and the future of the Postal Service. Their one consistent message is they need NAPUS Leadership to be there for them.

I am convinced that under my direction as your National President we can obtain positive outcomes that mutually benefit all Postmasters, the Postal Service and "our customers" - the American public. You have my word that I am 100% committed to this endeavor should you honor me with your support to be your next NAPUS National President.

I seek your input on pertinent issues and ask for your support. If you wish to assist me in this journey, please email me at [Sertich4NAPUS@gmail.com](mailto:Sertich4NAPUS@gmail.com). Information regarding this campaign will be posted on a regular basis through a variety of media ([www.johnsertich.com](http://www.johnsertich.com)). Thank you in advance for your consideration. You can count on me and I hope I can count on you.

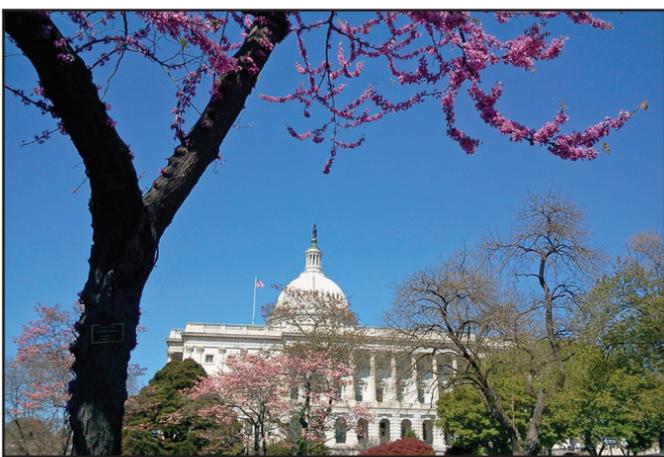
John M. Sertich, Postmaster  
Belleville IL 62220  
Candidate - NAPUS  
National President 2014-2016

Dear NAPUS Postmasters,  
With the support and encouragement of NAPUS Postmasters throughout the country and my Illinois Chapter, I am announcing my candidacy for the office of National President of NAPUS for the years 2014-2016.

Working for NAPUS Postmasters on the National, State and Regional levels over the past two decades has solidified my resolve to serve Postmasters at the next level as the leader of our great organization.

I tirelessly represent and promote the best interests of Postmasters of all levels to ensure the appropriate degree of dignity and respect is shown to them for the honorable positions they hold.

I understand the serious issues facing Postmasters and the Postal Service today. Thirty-four years in the Postal Service along with my educational, personal, and NAPUS experience provide me with the knowledge and skills necessary to serve NAPUS Postmasters



Capital Building and cherry blossoms



Michelle Lee, Postmaster Granger; Vic Rohret, Ret PM, Naches; Marjie Gallagher, Ret PM Nespelem; and Lon Posenjak, Ret PM Leavenworth

**Facing  
the Future  
Together**

**Anthony Leonardi**  
Candidate for NAPUS National  
President 2014-2016

**Postal Experience:**

- Postmaster, Colchester Level 20 - 2010-present
- Postmaster, Kensington Level 20 - 2009-2010
- Postmaster, Middlefield Level 18 - 2006-2009
- Postmaster, East Haddam Level 18 - 2002-2006
- OIC, Level 22 Post Offices
- OIC, Level 21 Post Offices
- Team Leader, Function 4
- Team Leader, Route Inspections
- DOIS Coordinator, 064 area
- BPI Team Leader

**NAPUS State Experience:**

- State President - 2011-present
- State Secretary/Treasurer (3 terms) - 2004-2010
- State Postmaster Representative - 2002-present
- State Membership Chair - 2002-2012

**NAPUS National Experience:**

- NAPUS National Vice President Area 2, representing the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, 2010-2011
- National Postmaster Representative, 2009
- National Membership Chair, 2007-2008
- Pay Talk Committee Member, 2011-2015
- Pay Talk Committee Member, 2007-2010
- Chair, National Audit Committee
- Chair, National Office Staffing, Salaries, and Benefits Committee
- Chair, National Housing Evaluation Committee
- Co-Chair, First Timers
- Co-Chair, Constitution & Bylaw Committee

**"We must face the future  
united, confident and with a  
common vision."**

I began this mission with a need to continue serving the Postmasters of this great organization - that is why I am declaring myself a candidate for National President. I want to give back to an organization that has given me so much.

Personal ambition is not what drives me. My goal is to continue to serve - and lead - NAPUS, which has become as much a part of my life as the Postal Service itself. It has always been - and continues to be - an honor to be able to serve the Honorable Postmasters of this organization.

The economic crisis facing the Postal Service will continue to drive operational changes that will permanently alter the number of post offices and their roles within communities. We need to work with our employer to help define that role - and, by extension, the role of Postmasters - and ensure the sustainability of the Postal Service.

I will constantly promote the value of Postmasters as the key component in transforming the Postal Service. Postmasters are the backbone of the Postal Service; we are the face of the business in every community across this vast land. In many places, as the only management representative - we are solely responsible for protecting service, providing a safe working environment and ensuring compliance with required financial controls.

Times are tough and the challenges ahead are daunting. NAPUS will require, now more than ever, a strong, experienced knowledgeable leadership team. We must face the future united, confident and with a common vision.

I believe in NAPUS, its strength and my promise to remain vigilant and steadfast in serving the Postmasters of this nation. That is why I am seeking the presidency of this great organization.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Anthony Leonardi National President 2014-2016, Linda Gurka, chair.

## Proposed Constitutional Changes

The following is a compilation of proposed changes to the National Association of Postmasters of the United States, (NAPUS), Chapter 25 – Washington State Constitution and Bylaws. These changes will be voted on by the body at the 2012 Summer Convention in Ferndale WA June 28th-30th.

### ARTICLE 5 --EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Immediate Past President, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Service Representative, Legislative Representative, the District Presidents, and one Retired Postmaster. Should a District President be unable to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee they may designate, in writing, a member from their District to stand as that District's representative. Each member shall have one vote.

If a vote is needed from the Executive Committee at times other than regularly scheduled meetings the President may call a special meeting by notifying all committee members by mail or email of time and place. Voting may also be done by mail or email. Those votes to will be kept on file until the next regular Executive Committee meeting.

### ARTICLE 6 --CONVENTIONS

#### Section 1.

The association shall hold annual conventions and mid-winter conferences. The time and place of these meetings shall be at the discretion of the President or President-elect for that the years of their term, with the concurrence from the Executive Committee

### BY-LAWS ARTICLE 1

#### Section 4.

Treasurer: As Treasurer he/she shall collect the cash dues of the Chapter and remit to the NAPUS National Office the portion of the dues required by the NAPUS National Constitution. The Treasurer will receive from the NAPUS National Office our Chapter's share of the dues withholding monies on a monthly basis. The Treasurer will disburse the funds of the Chapter in accordance with the previous convention budget and/or by direction of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall not disburse any funds which will exceed the approved budget, without approval of the members at a Chapter Business Session Meeting, at an Executive Committee Meeting, or if a vote is needed from the Executive Committee at times other than regularly scheduled meetings, the President may call a special meeting by notifying all committee members by mail or email of time and place. Voting may also be done by mail or email. Those votes to be kept on file until the next regular Executive Committee meeting.

Active Postmaster members of NAPUS Chapter 25 have \$3.00 additional dues withheld, of which \$2.00 will be put into the General fund for operating purposes. With the remaining \$1.00 the Treasurer shall rebate 25% semi-annually to the Districts. The remaining 75% will be disbursed for the following purposes as deemed necessary by the Executive Board: Guest speakers fund for Mid-Winter Conference and State Convention; First-Timers registrations; Leadership Conference; and/or reduction of State convention and Mid-Winter conference registration fees for all Postmasters, Retired Postmasters, and Officers-In-Charge in good standing.

The Treasurer shall keep all records pertaining to finance and complete a yearly financial report for presentation at the annual convention. The books shall be open for audit at any time, but at least once a year.

The Treasurer shall notify the President, Vice Presidents, and District Presidents as to the members and non-members in their respective territories, and keep them informed at least quarterly as to the membership status.

### ARTICLE 3 --QUORUM

#### Section 1.

A quorum of the Association at convention or mid-winter conference, shall consist of those active NAPUS Postmasters in attendance. (10) percent of the voting membership.

A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of fifty (50) percent of that committee. If a vote is needed from the Executive Committee at times other than regularly scheduled meetings the president may call a special meeting by notifying all committee members by mail or email of time and place. Voting may also be done by mail or email, those votes to be kept on file until the next regular Executive Committee meeting.



Tanya Slyter, Postmaster Tokeland with her husband Scott



Teri Johansen,  
Postmaster Hoodspport



Wendy Allen,  
Postmaster Castle Rock



Al White, Postmaster Conconully with his wife Claire



How many of you have been to the home of our first President, George Washington? A few years ago while attending the Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. I took an afternoon and traveled the short distance to Mt. Vernon to see for myself this National Landmark. Unfortunately it was too early in the spring to experience the gardens in their full bloom; but even still, I could recognize it was a beautiful estate. What I found most curious as we toured the property was how many of the features were not really as they appeared, they were a farce. The tour guide explained that in George Washington's day it was considered

prestigious to own a stone home. At the time, he could not afford such a home so he had his slaves construct a façade to the outside of his house that appeared to be stone bricks, they then painted the wood siding and threw sand against the wet paint thus giving the impression the house was made of stone. As we entered the house the tour guide continued to explain that during this period it was also very prestigious to display rich granary in the woodwork of the home. Again, George Washington could not afford the expensive wood this would require so he had his slaves stain artificial granary on to a lesser wood thus giving it a more quality appearance than he could actually afford. Was our first President a con man, or did he simply understand the importance of perception? I think few people would argue against George Washington being a great leader in our country's history, he did after all lead us in to victory over Great Britain in the American Revolutionary War as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army and preside over the writing of our constitution.

To have accomplished all he did he would have had to have been a very confident and persuasive man. I would presume that as he led the revolutionists up against the armies of Great Britain he hid any doubts of success from those following him. Why would anybody follow someone who didn't believe in the cause themselves or believe that success was at least possible? He would have wanted to appear confident even in those times he wasn't. It's all about the perception and George Washington understood that to those around us the perception is fact. It didn't matter if the house was built of stone as long as people thought it was. So although we are obviously not leading our country in to battle, we all knew going in to our positions as Postmasters that we had taken on a leadership role, as leaders in our offices and leaders in our communities. Little did we know at that time just how big of a role Postmaster would become? It is easy to lead thru easy times but it is the difficult times, the times like now, that test just how good of leaders we really are. It is our job to

## Perception is fact

guide our employees through the uncertainty of an unknown future, to maintain the trust of our communities and customers when what they hear from the media is how horrible we are doing and to inform our legislative officials about the truth in what we need to be successful. Our employees are uncomfortable if not scared about what lies ahead and how proposed changes will affect them personally. Our customers are concerned about how service changes will impact them and our congressman cannot agree on what needs to be done to rescue the USPS from disaster. It is now we must step up as the leaders we are and help guide those around us through these challenging times. Don't let your employees see you get swept up in the negativity that surrounds us; but instead, help them to embrace what is good about the USPS... and there is a lot of good in our jobs. Negativity is like a cancer, if you start to dwell and focus on those aspects of your employment it will spread so that soon that is all you can see and in turn all your

employees can see. Lead them away from the storm not to it. When it comes to your community, your customers assure them the USPS is still the safest and most reliable postal service in the world by ensuring they get good service each and every day from your office. Talk with them about the good things the USPS is doing to improve efficiency and how we continue to look for better ways to ensure they continue to receive the service they are entitled to. Most importantly, don't ever allow yourself to talk negatively about your employer, what USPS has done or what we should be doing. Our customers and our communities need to see that we are confident in our organization and what our organization is doing whether or not we are. If we are successful we will be remembered for helping to lead the USPS thru it's darkest hour, if we aren't... well, nobody will remember us anyway

Editor  
Angela Hawley  
Postmaster Omak