

Branch 105 – General Meeting
May 6, 2007
Crowne Plaza Hotel

Meeting called to order at 10:38 a.m.

Attendance: 51

Featured Guest Speaker Senator Whitehouse was unable to attend this morning's meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Dan Guenette.

Roll Call: Present: Dean Ambrosino, Michaela Saccoccio, Norma Johnson, Sue Evans, Pam Thurber, Joe Murdock, Al Poli, Joanne Keeling, Gail Gagne, Peter Wood, Eric McCarthy.

Absent: Frank Halm, Alan Conca.

Dean recognized NEA VP Cy Dumas.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Evans

Financial report as of March 31: Checking account balance: \$5,181.01, Savings account balance: \$188.01, Money Market account balance: \$12,233.93. Total assets: \$17,602.95. Total Income: \$9,696.58, Total Expenses: \$11,321.07, Balance: (\$1,624.49).

Cy commended the branch for our treasurer's report and the work of the budget and audit committees.

Motion made to accept the Treasurer's report made by Gail Gagne, seconded by Pat Bennett. Motion passed.

Secretary's Report: Norma Johnson

Regular members on the rolls 266, associate members on the rolls 16. No correspondence received since our last meeting.

Motion made to accept the Secretary's report made by Dan Guenette, seconded by Cid Blanchette. Motion passed.

Legislative Report: Pam Thurber

Pam discussed the highlights of the LTS. The Postmaster General spoke briefly at the LTS. Currently on the NAPS website you can send letters to the congressmen. Congressmen very receptive to the LTS delegate's visits. Unfortunately, did not meet with Congressman Langevin. Guests speakers at the LTS included ME Sen. Susan Collins (she introduced the Postal Reform bill), HI Sen. Dan Akaka (committee member on Veterans' Affairs), VA Rep. Tom Davis and IL Rep. Danny Davis. First learned of the states introduction of the Do Not Mail Bill at the LTS. This bill was being introduced in RI and Dean successfully represented NAPS in saying "NO" to this bill. Dean was nationally recognized by NAPS in his efforts to get this bill tabled in RI. One of the four issues brought to the hill during the LTS was the right to vote by mail in Federal elections. Twenty eight states have already adopted vote by mail. This is HR281 and we are seeking support of this bill by our representatives. The second issue was the Veterans' Reassignment Protection Act which is HR728. The postal service is trying to circumvent veteran's MSPB protection rights by calling "RIF's" "Repositioning". Next issue was the Fair Tax Treatment of Health Insurance Premiums. While we are working, we get to pay our health benefit premiums with pre-tax dollars. This same benefit is not afforded to retirees. We are looking to get this same benefit for retirees. S773 and HR1110 both need co-sponsors. The last issue was the Social Security fairness. The repeal or modification of two provisions in Social Security law will hurt federal and postal employees. NAPS is sponsoring a table for Senator Reed at his May 20th breakfast at the Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. There are still seats available for this event. SPAC – important to support. Pam thanked Al Poli for his donation to SPAC. Any donations to SPAC can be given to Pam.

Cy commended Pam's efforts as Legislative Representative.

Motion made to accept the Legislative report made by Pat Bennett, seconded by Steve Lallier. Motion passed.

Scholarship Committee: Joanne Keeling and Gail Gagne

Winner of the scholarship was Charles Hodkinson, son of Kenneth Hodkinson.

President: Dean Ambrosino

Dean spoke briefly on the Do Not Mail bill. This bill has been introduced in 18 states thus far. Dean spoke at the hearing for this bill in RI. This bill would restrict the amount of advertising standard mail people would receive. People would be able to go a Do Not Mail list similar to the Do Not Call list. Standard mail brings in about 53% of your revenue. This bill would severely impact our ability to provide universal service to the US public. It would impact our ability to maintain small post offices and our ability to deliver mail six days per week. When the AFL/CIO came into the hearing, the bill was tabled for discussion.

Regarding the LTS, there were two bills in Congress that impact retirees. Dean spoke on these issues. At www.naps.org web site, writing to your congressman is as simple as clicking on REFORM and inserting your name and address into the letter. Dean spoke regarding SPAC. You can now do Electronic Funds Transfer for SPAC donations.

Guest speaker: Area VP Cy Dumas

Branch 105 is by far the best branch in New England however we fall behind Boston as far as dollars to SPAC and Maine who does well in per capita for SPAC donations. As President of Branch 105 Cy felt he did not do well as far as the social and family aspect. Cy encouraged the spouses of NAPS members to read the Postal Supervisor and pay particular attention to the Auxiliary section of the magazine. The Auxiliary in particular helps to raise money for SPAC. Cy asked that spouses talk up today's event. Cy brought Greeting from the National Offices! They are working diligently at headquarters. They are in the process of pay talks with 35 items. In addition, once per month they meet with L'Enfant Plaza on hot issues. Question raised by member: Is PFP going away? Cy's answer: For the 2008 goals, NAPS will be involved. NPA will be here for 2008. The 2007 mid-years are underway – any problem, see your E-Board.

President: Dean Ambrosino

Mid-years should be done by now. We should all be familiar with the Administrative rules of NPA. The appeal process is now done on-line. Dean spoke on the NE Convention indicating that it was informative. Dean spoke regarding the OIG presentation at the convention. As far as the OIG, you should do the right thing and follow procedures of the post office. Dean spoke regarding the District Managers Leadership Meeting. Things in the PO are difficult. We need to reduce work hours and overtime. Volumes are declining and rates are increasing. In some cases, standard flat rates are going to increase by 40%. Supervisors are currently under a lot of pressure. The Postmaster associations along with NAPS have spoken to Postmaster General Potter regarding the atmosphere in the post office. Dean asked that you let him know when and where things are not being done correctly, i.e. supervisors needing to do craft work on an extensive basis.

Cy recognized Dean for doing a good job as president.

Dean thanked everyone for coming today. Dean gave special thanks to Michaela for organizing this meeting.

Pawtucket Red Sox tickets are still available for June 15th.

Golf Tournament: Joe Murdock

A golf tournament will be held on Friday, August 31, 2007 at the Quonset Country Club. Cost is \$90.00 per person. Sign up sheets are available on the tables and you must send in your form and money by July 31, 2007. For more information, contact Joe Murdock or Bob McCall.

T-shirts are still available for \$25.00.

SPAC Raffle (\$82) won by Joe Murdock – Ticket #036977. Joe donated \$50.00 to SPAC.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Cy Dumas, seconded by Eric McCarthy. Meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Norma J. Johnson
Secretary, NAPS Branch 105

