

**Branch 105 – General Meeting
September 17, 2008
Kelly-Gazzerro VFW Post**

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Attendance: 43

Pledge of Allegiance led by Rick Laporte.

Roll Call: Present: Dean Ambrosino, Michaela Saccoccio, Norma Johnson, Sue Evans, Pam Thurber, Joanne Keeling. Absent: Alan Conca, Gail Gagne and Al Poli. Excused: Cu Dumas

Guests: Don Spirlet (Branch 118 – Southcoast Branch)

Treasurer's Report: Sue Evans Expenses for August - eboard meeting supplies for mailing of meeting announcement, health and welfare totaling \$299.93 giving a Year to Date total of \$22,724.16. Total income YTD from DCO, associates dues and special deposits totaling \$25,014.81. minus expenses \$22,724.16. We are ahead of the game by \$2290 and are in pretty good shape right now.

Motion made to accept the Treasurer's report by Skip Delsesto, seconded by Peter Wood.

Secretary's Report: Rose Russo Number of Branch 105 regular members – 258; number of associate members – 24 making a total membership of 282

Correspondences – Thank you from American Cancer Society in Warwick for the donation made in memory of Steve Rodowitz's mother and sister. Thank you from Jay Killackey for our generous support. Appreciation note from William Young for our contribution to the DAV in honor of his father. James Falvey sent a thank you for the get well basket and another thank you from Gary Laprocina for the mass honoring his mother.

Notes from NAPS National Convention: Final Report of the national convention – total number registered 1,395.

Elections resulted in the following:

Ted Keating re-elected as President

Louis Atkins – re-elected as Vice President

Jay Killackey – re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer

Cy Dumas - re-elected as Area Vice President for the Northeast

The location selected for the 2012 NAPS National Convention is Reno, NV.

At a dinner meeting Deputy Postmaster General and Chief Operating Officer Pat Donahoe complimented us on the great service we are providing. He mentioned the new revenue generated through Customer Connect and Business Connect. He called us the key people in the organization since we have direct contact with so many. He pointed out that we expect to end the year with more than \$2 billion deficit. It was interesting to note that the added fuel expenses we experienced this FY was more than \$700,000, about a third of the deficit.

In response to a question, he promised more support to reduce the "redundant paperwork" that will enable us to manage employees. He said that we need to look differently at what we do.

About the job freeze - The best thing to do is use your best judgment. They do not want to force people to move – they are trying to create landing spots.

On five-day delivery – he said that there are two considerations. 1. Businesses consider mail delivery imperative. 2. Mail delivery is still a government service. Does it make sense to spend on fuel etc. to deliver 6 days a week? Congress may need to get involved with making that decision.

He thanked us saying we are the key people and reminded us to communicate with the employees.

Area Vice President Megan Brennan - said that supervisors are a large part of why this great organization is successful. She said that front line supervisors have one of the most difficult jobs. She said that the new pricing structure that recently went into affect has given us pricing flexibility and the ability to compete. She said that there has been an accelerated decline in workload that is not self induced and requires us to reduce costs and predicated

end-to-end service. She reminded us to focus on our core mission – service, service, service. She said that we must grow the business– growth and efficiency.

Jack Potter – With a history of 200 years the USPS has proven that we can change. They said that email, Faxes and even the telephone would put us out of business. But we practice metamorphosis - we change. Yes, housing is down, the economy is not where it should be etc. but it is our job to react to the customer's needs. We are there for them and we are coming from a position of strength. We are the most trusted government agency, not only that but we are one of the top ten most trusted organizations in the country. We make a huge contribution to the economy. We deliver value to those who use us. We must continue to deliver value and focus on growth.

With a future focus we are upgrading the flat sorting equipment to improve efficiency.

IMB enables people to track their Mail and fix mailing lists.

We are working on fixing the call center.

There are debates about what the mail volume will be next year. If we don't tighten our belts and grow, we are doing a disservice to future of the organization and the public. We will adapt and make changes and continue to provide service to America.

Potter congratulated all on Business Connect. He pointed out that station managers have brought in an average amount of \$1,000 per account while postmasters bring in \$300.

Three points he drove home include tightening belts, growing the business and investing in the future

He encouraged us to continue doing what we have been doing to keep the USPS the number one postal service in the world.

No questions. Motion made to accept Secretary's report made by Pat Bennett, seconded by Rick Laporte.

Dean introduced and congratulated Pam Monroe, formerly known as Pam Thurber, who married since the last meeting.

Legislative Report: Pam Monroe - Covered Legislative Council Bruce Moyer's presentation. Bruce has been very helpful with keeping us informed on what's happening on the Hill. We are looking at troubled times. We need to push these issues.

NAPS questioned the Postal Service's plan for contracting out in realigning its mail processing and distribution network and has encouraged Congress to ask the Postal Service where it is headed on private contractors to process and transport mail.

Ted Keating challenged in a letter the Newtwork Plan the Postal Service recently sent to Congress and the Postal Services lack of explanation of the role it intends outsourcing to play in modernizing mail processing and transportation activity. Ted pointed to the USPS efforts to contract-out processing and transportation operations at the BMC as raising significant policy concerns that "could represent a significant step toward the privatization of postal operations."

Pam said that on July 1st the USPS issued a draft request for proposal to create a "Time definite Surface network" that envisions outsourcing all mail processing and transportation. Activity currently performed by the 21 BMCs within the USPS mail network.

Ted also took aim at the USPS Network Plan, criticizing the USPS for providing few new details to Congress, which mandated in the 2006 postal reform law that the USPS provide a comprehensive report on how it intended to modernize the processing/transportation backbone of the postal network. He called the plan sent to Congress a "strategy without a destination." It is just a continuation of the zigzagging we've witnessed since 2001.

Keating encouraged the Postal Service to provide answers to the Congress and postal stakeholders, including the Postal Regulatory Commission and explain.

At a July 24th hearing of the House Subcommittee on the USPS Network Plan, Subcommittee Chairman Danny Davis in his opening remarks focused on the need for USPS to adopt a smarter approach toward downsizing the postal network, saying, "for this effort to be successful the Postal Service must do a better job of realigning its processing and transportation networks, improve the data used in its computerized and statistical modeling, and

minimize service disruptions. Failure to prevent and predict service problems will result in poor mail delivery, which in turn will anger the public and trigger political considerations.”

NAPS tells the PRC that we must preserve the Universal Service and the mailbox Monopoly, and encouraged them to affirm the value of six-day mail delivery. Unless the Commission finds that there are cost savings and collateral merit so significant as to convincingly demonstrate the viability of an alternative delivery schedule, 6-day delivery should remain the norm-the public expects no less.

The PRC study on Universal Service and Mailbox Monopoly is due out in December.

Go to www.NAPS.org and click on legislative issues for further details. Issues – Vote by mail; retirement, GPO and the windfall elimination plan and premium conversion, veterans’ rights, involuntary reassignments, do not mail.

Pam encouraged members to send letters to your representatives and continue donating to SPAC. The 2009 LCS will be March 29th - 31st. Pam extended an invitation to members that may be interested in filling her position as Legislative Rep for 2009 since she expects to move on. Motion to accept the Legislative report made by Dan Guenette; seconded by Joe Murdock.

Guest Speaker: SENE Senior Plant Manager Ric Quental

Dean gave a brief Bio of Mr. Quental then thanked and welcomed him.

Ric said that he appreciates this performance cluster including the level of professionalism sense of teamwork by employees. He is impressed thrilled and appreciative to be here and grateful to be here.

Tough assignment in Burlington VT.

He talked about being in CT during Anthrax incident. How the experience was baptism by fire. He recognized then the true dedication of postal employees and their responsibility to the community by keeping the mail moving and keeping economy going. Of nearly 1,400 employees only 6 said that they cannot work in that building. When everything was set they went back to worked without missing a beat. I like what I am doing. It is a lot of work and responsibility.

Ric pointed out that our EXFC is #1 in the NE Area. It is a great accomplishment.

Expansion of the plant to double its size is 25 percent complete and the project is moving along well. Three FSSs are coming to this building that’s a \$30 million investment in this area and represents one of the top ten projects of the USPS. Some automation equipment will be brought in from the field to centralize the work. The building will be a cramped as it is now. Cancellation and 010 equipment will be going in the mezzanine. All this is due by 2010 the 50th Anniversary of the building, the first automated facility.

Ric said that another big change is the EXFC expansion – every 3 digit zone will be tracked, including the Cape. Another new scoring is coming to track packages, 1st Class parcels, standard letter volume, and periodicals volume generating an incredible amount of data. First year scored and judged then the second year it will be part of the NPA. Indicators show us to be in good form in that regard.

Ric emphasized – We are approaching the best year. There is an opportunity for us to be number 1 in NPA all indicators show more productivity accomplished safely. We have never achieving competitive and better than any of the other Performance Clusters. He thanked us for a job well done.

Ric answered questions from members

He went on to stress the importance of properly prepared dispatch mail and encouraged those in the field to report irregularities through IOP.

Dean asked about staffing realignment at the plant. Ric said that in Providence we are looking about decreasing the amount of work done on Tour 2. Weekend operations are being looked at.

Rough drafts have been drawn but we are not finished - we’ll work through it.

Dean thanked Ric mentioned that changes will impact EAS and as an organization we are here to help. We want to make smart, effective changes.

President’s comments: Dean Ambrosino Thank you to Bob McCall and Joe Murdock for organizing the golf tournament.

Dean reminded us that CFC Season is coming along congratulated Sue who is now the Vice Chair of our local Federal coordinating committee. He encouraged members to contribute.

He said that there is a freeze on positions. Many changes are ahead, administrative positions are being looked at. The most important thing is to have a landing spot for the persons impacted. Hopefully this won't go on for too long. Computer usage and emails. What is sent through a government computer must be for business purposes. And it is not only what you send but what is being received. This information is being looked at and even by the OIG. If you have anything in a folder just delete it. If someone is sending you something that is not Postal related, have them send it to your home email address. Be aware of if someone sends you something on a regular basis and it is not work related the Postal Service has to protect the work environment.

Ann Mailloux added that you can use Postal computers incidentally, but if there is an email that is sexually explicit it has no place in the work environment.

If you are getting inappropriate emails at work tell the sender to stop, and if it does not, notify your manager.

Vice President's comments: **Michaela Saccoccio** reported that she was on the Resolutions Committee at the National Convention and that there were 81 resolutions. We vehicled (combined) some, we sent some back to constitution and by-laws and about half of them passed. Highlights of those passed: Postal Supervisor's magazine dedicated to the convention. As the next year goes by issues will feature the progress of the resolutions to see if they have made any headway.

Some pertained to NAPS headquarters - One was to establish an ethics committee while another was to reallocate some of the money towards training of advocates and officers.

Eliminate the five day waiting period for higher level pay.

MDOs 22 to 1 ratio

Change legislative training from 4 days to 3

NAPS to write a position paper on NAPS positions on details so the field would have something to use

NAPS sending letters to employees that are promoted.

Presentation was made by National Active Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) they have a lot of good information on retiree benefits. Michaela says membership fees to this organization is money well spent. When they go to the capitol they will have their membership numbers behind them.

Sciella Associates made a presentation and a message they made was - you won't get fired for a carrier returning after 5:00. They strongly suggest not changing clock rings - you will get fired for this.

Michaela relayed a message on eRMS from Colleen Goyette. Colleen could not attend this meeting but says that the NEA is looking at unanswered messages on home page screen and everyone should be answering their messages daily and entering unscheduled leave into the home page first. Also, if a supervisor has access to multiple units when one person answers the message, it wipes out all messages.

Dean Finance Audits are going on throughout the district related to Sarbanes Oxley. This is a very important issue. Financially we are struggling Post Office is looking at every penny to make sure we are collecting it in a timely manner. Because of that act when Jack Potter signs financial statement they have to be accurate.

Out of the whole nation there will be 104 audits in Post Offices and a total of 101 at the BMEUs. So a total of 205 audits will determine if we are in compliance with the law. There will be much pressure on EAS employees that have financial responsibility to be sure that it is being done correctly. Pay attention to the message so we are in compliance.

Social Committee: **Brad Fish** is coordinating the Christmas Party Venus DeMilo. Date yet to be finalized. Good food. He encouraged everyone to attend

50-50 Raffle \$95.00 ticket number 3979523 picked by Mike Zuba The winner John

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Joanne Keeling, seconded by Pat Bennett. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Rose A. Russo

Secretary

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