

# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

## Stop Dragging This Out

Everywhere I find myself in a room with numerous EAS employees, a consistent question comes up. Whether I am at one of our stations with 3 or 4 EAS, at the Bellingham facility while EAS are being trained, or in Washington, DC during our Legislative Training Seminar, I am hit with the same question.



There could be numerous issues that I think our members would be interested in getting additional information about. In fact, very few have even heard about the changes that are going to occur next year with all our health benefits. There seems to be little interest in understanding the consolidation of offices into Plants under the Postal Service's S&DC initiative. No one has asked me about the modification to the EAS pay schedule that recently occurred that raised the minimums and maximums to the pay ranges. The question that comes up regardless of where I find myself is what is going on with the lawsuit.

We have always maintained that while many issues are important to our members, the number one issue has

always been our compensation. And since NAPS HQ big announcement "VICTORY" on February 23, 2022, in reference to the appeals court siding with us, our members want to know where the money is, or at least what is going on.

Truthfully, I have been wondering. During our National Convention last year in August, from the convention floor I asked NAPS lawyer two probing questions, did the Postal Service appeal the appeals court's ruling? And, has NAPS initiated the lawsuit following that ruling? The answer to both questions was no.

For our members who do not spend a lot of time following every issue that confronts us, I understand them not being as abreast of the issues as some of us who are supposed to know. However, when I am in DC and I get approached by some of those who clearly should know, asking the same question, then I begin to wonder even more.

When I heard the Dominion Voting Machine Company settled their lawsuit with Fox News on April 19, 2023, the day opening arguments were to commence, it perked my curiosity. I recall thinking why is it taking NAPS so long to get to court. I recall thinking

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their lawsuit was initiated only two years earlier, specifically March 26, 2021.

Our initial lawsuit was filed July 26, 2019. We are quickly approaching four years and we have not started depositions. Sure, we did not get the appeals court ruling until February 22, 2022. However, we as an organization did nothing with that ruling until November 29, 2022, when we finally filed a motion for discovery, which is an initial step in a lawsuit. We wasted a full nine months not using the victory we fought so hard to get. Currently, it is five months since we filed our last motion to compel discovery, which was in December of last year. At this pace, this lawsuit could drag on for years. The question that we as leaders of this organization must begin asking is why.

Does this lawsuit have to drag out this long? How is it that the Dominion Voting Machine company can get into court in two years, and we cannot get to discovery in four? Why does it appear that neither NAPS, nor the Postal Service seems eager to move this case forward expeditiously? Has either party made a genuine effort to come to a settlement?

My concern is that the longer this lawsuit drags out, the more complicated the issues become. This lawsuit covers the period from 2016-2019. Many EAS have retired since that period. Some retired during that period. In the event a settlement is reached, how does everyone, working and retired, get made whole or compensated?

I hope that we are not dragging this out with the hope that we as members will become so despondent that we will accept anything that is offered.

Years ago, I heard a saying that went like this...the monkey and the lion was playing Chuck Your Luck. The monkey won the money but was scared to pick it up.

NAPS, we won! Pick up our money.

Ken Bunch