

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. I know for many it's an opportunity to gather with family and friends to celebrate with a spirit of caring and sharing. For some it's a time to reflect on the previous year, to rejuvenate and look forward to the coming year. If last year is any indication, we should be off to a great start to this year.

Real Raises for A Change

For the first time in too many years our members will see a substantive increase in their salaries over the same period last year. The percentage raise realized via the NPA ratings from last year, combined with the 3% increase all EAS received last October, many of our members will see 6, 7, and 8 percent increases in salaries going into calendar year 2023. It's about time!



As we venture into the year ahead, we should take a moment to congratulate our customer service team for finishing 2022 as perhaps the best PCES Postmaster group in the nation. Week after week they have been either 1 or 2 in the nation relative to performance. Again, congratulations and let's keep the momentum going.

NAPS HQ Ask to Start Pay Talks

Some of you may have read, NAPS HQ has requested of Postal HQ to begin pay consultations. This initiative was taken considering the fact the current pay agreement expires May 20, 2023. While I would normally view this announcement with a sense of positive optimism, unfortunately, I find myself feeling cautiously pessimistic. The last pay agreement was not encouraging for most of our members. Only 23% of Branch 23 members benefited from that pay package. The current agreement was heavily focused on customer service supervisors. While I agree they were much deserving of those raises, I think pay agreements should have some benefits for all the members it covers.

Your Vote Matters

I hope everyone took the time to cast your vote in our branch's officer and Executive Board election. There is little that is more important than you the members expressing your preference for those you want to represent you.

Passing The Torch

In my last article I shared with you all the intentions of most of our local officers to step down from our leadership roles. Our stated goal is to make room for the next generation of leaders for our branch. While that is still our desire, we realized there is still some unfinished business that requires our continued attention. Therefore, Vice President Delores Hunter and I accepted the unchallenged nominations for our current positions.

Congratulations to Marilyn Ice on her acceptance of the unchallenged nomination to the position of treasurer of branch.

On behalf of our membership, I want to publicly thank Rod Pack for the many years of excellent service to our branch as its treasurer. Rod has done an outstanding job for well over a decade, and his exacting control of our finances over the years will truly be missed.

This Organization Belongs to You

As we start this new year, I ask each of you to consider your role in this organization. Whether we're dealing with issues of salaries and benefits, working conditions, adverse actions or just policies and procedures, our success or failure depends on all of us. I encourage each of you to get involved and let your voices be heard. Lend some your knowledge, skills and abilities to the organization that works daily to get better outcomes for you.

I have said, and I will reiterate here, those of you who work every day are being directly impacted by those who don't. At our biannual National Convention, the percentage of retirees in attendance is increasing each year. This is where resolutions are put forth directing NAPS HQ to take our concerns to Postal HQ. However, even at the convention you must fight for your resolution. It has been said that decisions are made by those who show up.

PO HQ Propose Increase in Pay Ranges

While this sounds great on the surface, it really has little impact on most NAPS members. I urge each of you to read National President Ivan Butts letter to Postal HQ, dated December 21, 2022, in response to this proposal. It offers clear insight into this proposal that sounds great but does little.

Ken Bunch, President