

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

We Should all Pay Attention

Happy New Year fellow NAPS Members. As we venture into this coming year, I hope everyone is looking forward to the challenges and possibilities the future offers. Just as we met the challenges, and celebrated the victories of 2023, we will face the hurdles of 2024 with enthusiasm knowing we will all face them together. Some of the more challenging issues of the previous year will undoubtedly carry over into this year, and perhaps beyond.



As active and retired postal employees, we usually focus on the issues and concerns that directly affect our day-to-day lives relative to the wages, hours or working conditions of our active members, and the issues pending in the country that could impact the retirement of those of us in that status. Those challenges will forever be important, and we will always maintain our focus on them. However, if the events and tenor of 2023 is an accurate indicator, politically, 2024 could prove to be the most pivotable year in the history of this nation.

As leaders of organizations that directly engage in the political process, I think we would be remiss if we did not express our opinions on the current political climate in our nation. NAPS, as an organization, maintains a political action committee (PAC), and asks our members to contribute generously to it if possible. Therefore, we make decisions daily as to how we wish to contribute those funds relative to politicians we believe supports the interests of the Postal Service and/or NAPS. Consequently, we are a politically active organization in the truest sense. We do not make distinctions between political parties. Our leadership has taken the position, and rightly so, that we support the representatives and senators who support postal and NAPS issues. I agree, to a point.

For those of you who do not know, the democracy that we live in, and are so proud of, is actually an experiment in the annals of human history. When Abraham Lincoln uttered these words in the Gettysburg Address, “the United States was founded on the principle of government of the people, by the people, for the

people”, this phase became a cornerstone of American democracy and is often used to describe the ideal of a government that is accountable to its citizens. Most nations of the world are not undertaking such an experiment. Unless you have been living in total obscurity for the last few years, you must know that this year’s elections are being touted as potentially threatening our democratic experiment.

The threat to our experiment came on January 6, 2021, when armed insurrectionists stormed the capital in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, that was not the end of that threat. It has been clearly determined that numerous congressmen and senators were involved in the effort to circumvent the orderly transfer of power from one administration to another. In addition, some are still not willing to acknowledge that the current president was fairly elected. Coming from those in such elevated positions in our country, that is not healthy for our democracy.

This is not a partisan issue. It wouldn’t be beneficial regardless of the political party involved.

As active postal employees we are limited in our ability to actively participate in partisan campaigns and/or elections. Those of us who are retired are not so restricted. We can campaign, solicit, vote, and any other activities that non-government citizens can do relative to the electoral process. However, I would not use this forum to suggest to anyone who or what to campaign, solicit, vote, or take any other initiatives in the political process, or not to. I will, however, suggest that we all pay attention to what is happening in our country. As active and retired government employees, we all raised our hands to protect and defend the constitution of the United States of America. Therefore, I will urge that we all at least participate in the process.

At our 2020 National Convention, we as Branch 23 introduced a resolution to deny any political contributions from NAPS to any congressman or senator who participated, directly or indirectly, in the insurrection. Based on the current political climate, I think we were right. What do you think?

Ken Bunch, President