

# From The Desk of The President

## Happy New Year

Welcome to 2022! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season despite the societal challenges we continue to face. For those who lost loved ones in 2021, our prayers are that you can find peace and hope in the continuity of life. Please take some comfort in knowing that you are not alone and let's lean on each other.



For those who continue to work to serve us all, on behalf of the leadership of Branch 23, THANK YOU. Your work is greatly appreciated, and you are truly American heroes.

I would simply remind you that we work to provide for a better quality of life for ourselves and our families. We should never lose sight of that. Therefore, take some time to take care of yourself. If you are not well then you can do little to help someone else.

As we close out 2021, we see that many of the issues that challenged us all year will continue going forward. Covid continues to ravage many of our offices, thereby lending to serious staffing shortages, which ultimately leads to more pressure to do more with not just less, but with not enough.

Last year was without question one of the most challenging years in postal history relative to accomplishing its core mission of delivering quality service to the American people. Just as in every other industry, the Postal Service was, and continues to be seriously impacted by the perils of this continuing pandemic. Federal legislation and postal leave policies contributed to unprecedented absences in our operations. While the public see marginal impacts on their service, we internally feel the pressures like no time before. However, you, our members, continue to step up and do your very best to deliver for your customers.

In 2021 we saw our organization enter into a pay agreement that was truly less than what the vast majority of our members truly deserved. While most of our customer service supervisors saw a substantive salary increase, few others were so endowed. The organization pledged in the agreement to continue negotiations with the hope of getting additional benefits for additional members. We must continue to monitor any progress made on that front going forward. My

sincere hope is that we are successful in that endeavor. All members deserve it!

## NAPS Submit Mitigation Factors for 2021 NPA

In a correspondence to postal headquarters dated December 13, 2021, NAPS HQs made a request that the Postal Service change its current National NPA rating due to numerous mitigating factors. The current rating results in a 2.5% salary increase for EAS employees. NAPS contends that due to the mitigating factors outlined in the notice, the rating should be changed and thereby giving EAS a 3% increase for calendar year 2022. (See the letter on NAPS website naps.org)

## Mail Your Ballot

By now each of you should have your ballot for the upcoming NAPS 2022 National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. I urge each of you to take a few moments to cast your vote for those you believe will best represent you at this convention. As I have said before, the convention is where decisions are made that directly, and indirectly impact the wages hours and working conditions of those who continue to work, and those retired. Due to challenges, we face with mail service, as president, I am urging the election committee to accept ballots until the Friday (January 14, 2022) prior to our scheduled general membership meeting.

## 2022 To Bring Impactful Changes

On the national level, NAPS will for the first time in modern history, hold a National Convention in back-to-back years. We will also hold back-to-back national elections of our National Executive Board. Also, the pay agreement from 2021 has provisions that pledge to bring about additional benefits in 2022.

On the local level, some of us in the current leadership have pledged to not seek reelection following the end of our current terms. Therefore, I am asking that each of you seriously consider the role you might want to play in the continuity of our branch in the coming years. Branch 23 has a rich and storied history in the National Association of Postal Supervisors. I, for one, would not like to see that diminished. We are in very serious times, and we need serious people to lead us.

Ken Bunch, President