

NAPS OF NOTE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

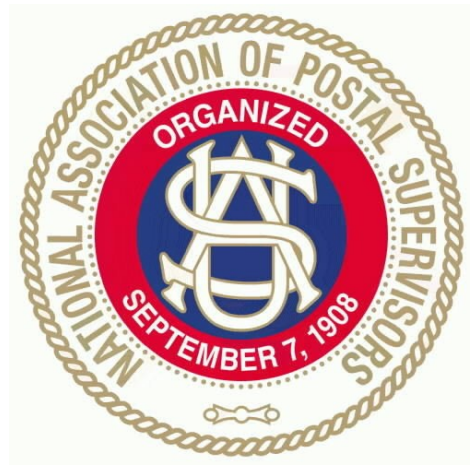
BRANCH 16

PO BOX 580333

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55458

<https://naps16.org>

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March 2025

Branch 16 President's Report

A Message from Branch 16 President

Curt O'Donnell

Dear Branch 16 members,

I want to start by thanking everyone who participated in the election process for Branch 16 and for those who have the confidence in me to continue in the Presidential role for another two years. Please stop by our Branch website to see the full list of Branch officers and board members at [Naps16.org](https://naps16.org).

It is great to see more and more participation from the branch members. Next month we will be going to Washington to meet with our legislators to talk with them about the importance of the Post Office and its EAS employees. There are six pieces of legislation that we will be meeting with them which would help us with COLA's, representation, and opposing privatization.

Ken Johnson, Minneapolis Postmaster, has returned from his detail assignment as Denver Postmaster and I would like to welcome him back to Minneapolis.

I also want to make sure you also know that the next Branch 16 meeting will be a week early May 8th as this year's State Convention will be meeting in Saint Cloud on our normal meeting date. If interested in coming we will be discussing attendees at our next meeting.

Curt O'Donnell
NAPS Branch 16 President
cpj012@gmail.com



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All Members



Welcome!

**Next Meeting is
Thursday
March 20, 2025**

Next Meeting Reminder!

Thursday

March 20, 2025

6:00 PM Social Hour / 7:00 PM Meeting

Crystal VFW

5222 Bass Lake Rd
Crystal, MN 55429

See you at the meeting!



Future Meetings NAPS Branch 16:

6:00 PM Social Hour
7:00 PM Meeting

Crystal VFW

5222 Bass Lake Rd
Crystal, MN 55429

Upcoming Meeting Dates

March 20, 2025

May 8, 2025

(State Convention May 15-16)



State President's Report

Gina Hellermann

NAPS Minnesota State Branch 926 President

Good Day, NAPS Members!

I hope everyone is surviving the winter. I want to remind everyone to register with the Duluth Branch for the MN State Convention being held in St. Cloud at the Holiday Inn and Suites on May 15th and 16th. Hope to see some new faces this year. The registration form is located in this newsletter and posted on the Branch 16 website.

Our annual trip to Washington, DC to meet with our Congressional House of Representatives and Senators is right around the corner. There is a lot of stuff going on and we need to make our voices heard. With the Postmaster General planning to step down we have got to get our voices out there.

The Postal Service is part of the Constitution and we need to ensure we are not just thrown out the door. It still amazes me how many people do NOT know that we take no tax dollars and we run completely off the price of our postage!!! The Board of Governors is sticking together and working to fight President Trump in his attempt to take over the Postal Service. We must stop them from attempting to Privatize the Postal Service. According to the Washington Post, the BOG is planning to sue the White House.

I hope to see many of you at the next Branch 16 meeting on March 16 at the Crystal VFW and at the State Convention. Again, I apologize that the Branch 16 May meeting date has to be changed due to a scheduling conflict with the State Convention (the new date is May 8th).

Hope everyone has a fun and safe St. Patrick's Day.

Respectfully,

Gina Hellermann

President, MN State Branch 926
612-239-9038



James Cavegn, Secretary

NAPS Minutes of 2025-01-16

Motion to accept minutes of last meeting from NAPS notes - motion passed.
Treasurer's Report: \$30,028.29. Move to accept as published - motion passed

Presidents Report: Reference to NAPS Note. One question - Asking about CSRS and FERS. Discussing recent legislation. The Newsletter should have had the dues increase. The State Registration. Discussion of attendees. We've seen the registration in the NAPS of Note. Anyone that goes to the State Convention would have had to attend at least 3 meetings into last November to be eligible. All eligible people are agreed to send to the State Convention.

Branch Meeting in May will have to change due to the State Convention. Will either be the Thursday before or the Thursday after the meeting. Will discuss on the next meeting in March. Will be announced in both the March and May newsletters. Supporting Auxiliary for the LTS. So we can have an Auxiliary at the LTS.

Discussed Training. Zoom training possible. Dan Mooney will be doing training in the Fall of 2025. Likely a two-day training. Discussed with WI and the Dakota's and they would be fine coming to the Minneapolis area. Possibly doing a training at the State Convention. Dan Mooney notes NALC Contract discussion. If it gets ratified, USPS has 45 days to submit something to NAPS. Deadline for ballots is the 27th. NAPS leadership has not reached out to anyone on the executive board. Send ideas up through the branch to Dan.

NAPS New Website. Complete overhaul to the website. \$15,000-\$20,000 in costs. Should be ready soon and going to be used for LTS registration. Raised DDF coverage from \$3,500 to \$4,000. Sponsorship up from \$25 to \$50.

Three Board of Governor seats put up by Biden were not confirmed in time so Trump will be able to appoint those three. Local Transportation Optimization. Delivering For America. Must succeed if we are to succeed. Service is going down despite rates going up. Downsizing the Airport LDC. Most craft have been moved out of LDC and into St Paul.

Election: Mark and Bruce met. Curt O'Donnell elected as President. Tashi Lama was elected as VP. Move to accept the ballot results as read. - Motion passed. Motion to have the ballots destroyed - Motion passed.

Audit Committee: Curt and Toshi volunteered.

Board Officers: President - Curt O'Donnell; Vice President - Tashi Lama; Secretary - James Cavegn; Treasurer - Bruce Kuiper; Sgt at Arms - Mark Hellerman.
Executive Board: Arica Sundstrom, Gina Hellermann, Elfresh Tassew.

Drawings: Large \$1,000: #27 - Loretta Blanchey. Small: Gina Hellerman

Motion to adjourn - Motion passed.

NAPS Board 2025

OFFICERS

President

Curt O'Donnell
cpj012@gmail.com

Vice President

Tashi Lama
naps16vicepresident@gmail.com

State President

Gina Hellermann
bgmn10@hotmail.com

Sergeant at Arms

Mark Hellermann
bgmn10@hotmail.com

Secretary

James Cavegn
jimish2@gmail.com

Treasurer

Bruce Kuiper
brucekuiper@yahoo.com

Legislative Rep

Tashi Lama
naps16vicepresident@gmail.com

NAPS members must attend three or more board meetings during the year in order to meet the qualification requirement for *Officer* and *Executive Board* nomination. Elections are held every January. All NAPS members are strongly encouraged to attend and take part in the decision-making process.

Newsletter Editor

Ken Gardner

kgnaps16@aol.com



Legislative

By Tashi Dawa Lama | Legislative Representative, NAPS Branch 16



Why Privatizing the Postal Service is a Bad Idea

For more than two centuries, the United States Postal Service (USPS) has been a vital part of American life, delivering mail and packages to every home and business, no matter how remote. It's more than just a mail carrier; it's an essential public service that connects the country. However, recent discussions about privatizing USPS have raised serious concerns about what this could mean for affordability, accessibility, and reliability.

President Donald Trump recently suggested that the Postal Service should be placed under the Commerce Secretary's control, arguing that it should be run like a business. However, this idea runs into a major roadblock: Congress. The Postal Service isn't just another government agency—it's protected by federal law, and privatization isn't as simple as moving it under a different department. Congress Protects USPS for a Reason. Unlike private companies that prioritize profits, USPS operates as a public service, ensuring universal mail delivery, including to rural and remote areas where private carriers might not go. This is because of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, which transformed USPS into an independent establishment of the federal government. The law makes it clear that USPS is not meant to be a profit-driven corporation but a service to the American people.

Additionally, the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 8, Clause 7) of the U.S. Constitution—explicitly grants Congress the power to “establish Post Offices and post Roads.” This means that the Postal Service is not just a government agency that can be sold off or transferred at will; it is a constitutionally mandated public service, giving Congress full authority over its structure and operations. This also means any major structural change—like privatization or moving it under the Department of Commerce—would require Congressional approval, which is highly unlikely given USPS's widespread bipartisan support.

Why Privatization Would Hurt Americans. Privatizing USPS would mean handing over mail services to private corporations, which would likely result in: Higher costs – Private companies would charge more for deliveries, especially in rural areas. Reduced service – Many small towns could lose reliable mail service because private carriers focus on profitable regions. Job losses – USPS employs over 650,000 workers, many of whom could lose their jobs or see reduced benefits.

President Trump's Commerce Department Proposal: Why It Won't Work. President Trump's idea of placing USPS under the Department of Commerce is legally and structurally impossible without major legislative action. The Postal Reorganization Act established USPS as an independent entity, and Congress would need to rewrite federal law to move it under Commerce. Given the strong bipartisan support for keeping USPS independent, such a move would face overwhelming opposition. Furthermore, USPS does not rely on taxpayer funding for operations. It's funded through postal revenue, meaning it does not fit within the Commerce Department, which oversees trade and economic development, not independent self-sustaining services.

USPS Must Stay Public for the People – And Advocacy is Key. The Postal Service is more than just a delivery system; it's a public trust that ensures all Americans have access to essential mail services. Privatization or unnecessary political interference would only weaken this institution. Congress has repeatedly rejected efforts to privatize USPS, and with strong legal protections in place, President Trump's proposal to place it under the Commerce Secretary simply isn't possible.

That's why advocacy is more important than ever. The fight to keep USPS public doesn't stop with legislation—it requires ongoing action and pressure from postal workers and supporters across the country. From April 6-9, 2025, members of NAPS Branch 16 along with other NAPS members will be heading to the Capitol to advocate for your rights, your jobs, and the future of USPS. This isn't just a trip to Washington, D.C.—it's a mission to ensure lawmakers understand the value of USPS and the impact their decisions have on postal employees and the communities they serve.

Keeping the ball rolling is critical. If we don't show up and speak out, decisions will be made without us—and often against us. Every year, new policies are introduced that could impact postal workers, job security, and universal mail service. We cannot afford to sit back and let privatization efforts gain traction.

The message is clear: The Postal Service must remain independent, public, and protected. Advocacy is the key to making sure that happens. Whether you're attending in person or supporting from home, your voice matters. Now is the time to stand together and fight for the future of USPS!