

# NAPS OF NOTE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

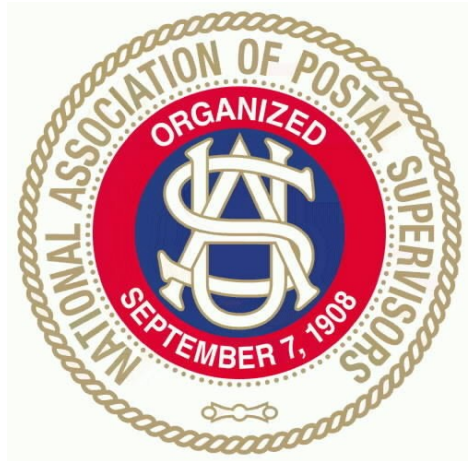
BRANCH 16

PO BOX 580333

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55458

<https://naps16.org>

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**May 2025**

## Branch 16 President's Report

### A Message from Branch 16 President

**Curt O'Donnell**

Dear Branch 16 Members,

I wanted to thank everyone who made the legislative trip to Washington. We had good meetings with the legislative representatives and left them with many bills that we as NAPS support. All four State branches were in attendance at the meetings and at the rally outside the Capitol with hundreds of NAPS members from across the country.

We will be meeting on May 8th this month starting at 7:00 p.m. as the State Convention is the 15th and 16th in Saint Cloud.

We are also including the letter sent to the House committee on our behalf by the resident officers. With so many cuts happening we don't want to have our retirement included in these cuts. I will be reaching out to my legislators tomorrow to voice my concerns. They do not know it matters unless you tell them as their constituents.

If you have any concerns that you would like us to bring to the State Convention, please let us know during the meeting or by email.

Again, it would be great to see you at the meeting on May 8th.

**Curt O'Donnell**

NAPS Branch 16 President

[cpi012@gmail.com](mailto:cpi012@gmail.com)



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## All Members



## Welcome!

**Next Meeting is  
Thursday  
May 8, 2025**

# Next Meeting Reminder!

**Thursday**

**May 8, 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

**May 8, 2025**

**July 17, 2025**

(State Convention May 15-16)



## State President's Report

**Gina Hellermann**

**NAPS Minnesota State Branch 926 President**

**Good Day, NAPS Members!**

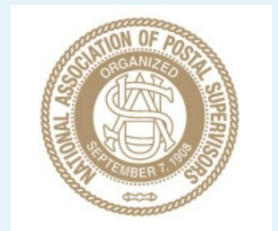
Thank you Tammy for preparing the State Article this month. LTS was very interesting this year I must say as Tammy has covered (page 8).

I just wanted to take a minute and remind everyone that the Branch 16 bimonthly meeting is moved to May 8th due to the State Convention being held the following week.

So, again, the State Convention is being held in St. Cloud at the Holiday Inn and Suites. Registration has officially closed but folks can call to see if we can accommodate more attendees. You can call Butch Wrazidio at 651-260-5842 or me at 612-239-9038

Thanks and stay safe,

**Gina Hellermann**  
President, MN State Branch 926  
612-239-9038



## House Oversight Committee Approves \$50.9 Billion in Federal-Postal Retirement Cuts By 1 Vote

On Wednesday afternoon, April 30, after 6 hours of debate, the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability approved, by a narrow 22-21 vote, a series of retirement cuts that will now be included in a reconciliation bill that will likely be considered by the House of Representatives prior to the Memorial Day recess. (The recess begins May 24.)

The cuts to the postal and federal workforce total about \$50.9 billion over the next decade. NAPS was at the committee meeting and engaged with committee members, including Chairman James Comer (R-KY) and Acting Ranking Democrat Stephen Lynch (D-MA). The reconciliation bill will not be assigned a bill number until the House Budget Committee aggregates the reconciliation language of all House committees receiving "reconciliation instructions."

*(visit [naps.org](https://naps.org) to read the rest of the article)*

## Sherry Mattfield NAPS Auxiliary

### NAPS AUXILIARY MEMBER INVITE

By joining, as a new member, you can directly support your **NAPS (National Association of Postal Supervisors)** member using your Auxiliary voice to assist in NAPS legislative initiatives. Auxiliary members also assist at local meetings and support and promote the Supervisor Political Action Committee (**SPAC**) providing financial support, through fund raising at conventions.

Each NAPS member, in good standing, is entitled to **one Auxiliary member** (over 16 years of age) who may be a **spouse, immediate family member or designated representative**. (All Auxiliary dues are paid by the local branch.)

NAME _____	NAPS MEMBER NAME _____
STREET _____	SPOUSE _____
CITY/STATE _____	FAMILY MEMBER/ RELATIONSHIP _____
ZIP CODE + 4 _____	DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE (Significant/Friend) _____
PHONE _____	NAPS BRANCH # _____
EMAIL _____	

**NOTE:** Branch NAPS member, please return this completed form to the next local branch meeting or mail to:

Sherry Mattfield, 5016 – 53<sup>rd</sup> Ave. No., Crystal, MN 55429-3226 (763-486-6310) smatt1956@outlook.com

### Laurie Butts National Auxiliary President

The National Auxiliary was organized on September 20, 1933, to assist the National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS) in their legislative objectives as well as promote a greater interest in the association and auxiliary work. Auxiliary members communicate with Congressional Representatives and Senators conveying NAPS' position on Postal Service legislation and support and promote the Supervisors Political Action Committee. In addition, Auxiliary members assist at local meetings, state conventions, training seminars and national conventions.

You as a NAPS member are the Auxiliary's main resource. All local and state auxiliaries need members to continue to speak not only on your behalf but for the benefit of all postal supervisors, managers, and postmasters. The continued growth of the Auxiliary is dependent upon the continued growth of NAPS.

We need you in order to continue this much needed and valuable support. Each active or associate NAPS member who is a member in good standing in NAPS is entitled to one Auxiliary member who may be a spouse or immediate family member (over sixteen years of age) or designated representative (over sixteen years of age). I encourage you to urge your spouse, family member (over sixteen years of age) or designated representative (over sixteen years of age) to join this group of committed, dedicated individuals. They will make friendships that last a lifetime.

NAPS and the Auxiliary have fought for many of the benefits postal supervisors now enjoy. The present sick leave, vacation, retirement and widow(er) annuity, group life insurance, health insurance and other benefits enjoyed today were made possible through this joint effort. NAPS and the Auxiliary have always worked together for the benefit of all NAPS members. Continual vigilance will always be necessary to ensure that these benefits are retained.

The Auxiliary is an organization whose main goal is to assist NAPS members in any way possible. For information on how your spouse or immediate family member (over 16 years of age) or designated representative (over 16 years of age) may become a part of this special group, please contact Laurie Butts by phone (484) 988-0933 or email laurie.butts5615@gmail.com.

On behalf of the National Auxiliary, I would like to thank you for your continuous support and for always being an enthusiastic contributor to all Auxiliary fundraising activities.

## 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



## NAPS Resident Officers Send Letter to House Committee Objecting to Retirement Cuts Scheduled for April 30 Vote

April 28, 2025

On Friday night, April 25, the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability circulated to its members legislation to increase FERS contributions, reduce CSRS and FERS annuities, eliminate the FERS Supplemental Annuity and impose a fee to appeal adverse actions to the Merit Systems Protection Board. The draft includes several other provisions that impact federal employees, but do not appear to directly affect USPS employees at this time. The committee has scheduled a vote on the provisions for Wednesday, April 30.

On Monday, April 28, on behalf of the 47,000 USPS supervisors, managers and postmasters, NAPS President Ivan Butts, Executive Vice President Chuck Mulidore and Secretary Treasurer Jimmy Warden electronically sent letters to each member of the Oversight and Accountability panel in opposition to the legislation. For your convenience, here is the link to an unaddressed version of the letter. The Federal-Postal Committee, of which NAPS is a founding member, is sending a separate letter.

If the committee approves the language, the provisions would be folded into a yet-to-be numbered "reconciliation bill" and voted upon by the House of Representatives in May or June. In part, the NAPS letter pointed out that the legislation would unfairly reduce the take-home pay of USPS employees hired prior to 2013 by 3.6% and those hired in 2013 by 1.3%.

In addition, the reconciliation language would reduce the earned annuity of CSRS and FERS covered employees by changing the basis for retirement from the average of the highest 3 earning years to the highest 5. The new formula would be effective for those retiring after the date of enactment. The legislation would also eliminate a temporary financial safety levy for FERS-covered employees who are eligible for a FERS annuity but are too young to qualify for Social Security. Finally, the letter objected to an MSPB user-fee for simply seeking due process to correct an adverse action.

NAPS members should be vigilant and be prepared to fight these proposed cuts.

### **Contact NAPS**

1727 King Street, Suite 400  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2753  
703-836-9660 (phone)  
703-836-9665 (fax)



# **James Cavegn, Secretary**

## **NAPS Branch 16 Meeting Notes - March 20, 2025**

### **Meeting Attendees**

#### **Branch Officers**

Curt O'Donnell, President  
Tashi Lama, Vice President / Legislative Rep.  
James Cavegn, Secretary  
Mark Hellerman, Sergeant at Arms  
Bruce Kuiper, Treasurer

#### **Executive Board Members**

Gina Hellerman  
Aricka Sundstrom

#### **Special Guests**

Dan Mooney, Area Vice President

### **Review of minutes from the previous meeting.**

Motion to accept meeting minutes as printed in the newsletter. Motion passed.

### **Updates on the Lawsuit**

Back-and-forth discussions are taking place.  
The judge can decide without a trial but it is the determination of the judge to do so.  
Estimated early autumn for determination which would then be open to appeal.

### **Next Branch Meeting will be May 8, 2025.**

One week early due to scheduling conflict with the State Convention.  
State Convention is in St Cloud on the 15th and 16th which causes the necessity for the change.

### **State Convention**

5 members from Branch 16 are going to State Convention.  
Rooms and registration must be completed by April 14th.

### **Legislative Training Seminar**

Five members from Branch 16 are going to the LTS.  
Other branches need to contact Aricka Sundstrom to determine which legislators to schedule meetings with.  
Discussion of Legislation to familiarize with at Legislative Training Seminar.

### **Auxiliary Report**

Requesting additional auxiliary members.

### **Drawings**

Large Drawing for \$1000  
Number 4 - Opeyemi Akande (not present)

Small Drawing  
Number 5 - Mark Hellerman

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion passed



# Legislative

By Tashi Dawa Lama | Legislative Representative, NAPS Branch 16



## 2025 Legislative Training Seminar: A Powerful Voice for Postal Workers in Washington, D.C.

From April 6–9, 2025, delegates from NAPS Branch 16, in collaboration with our St. Paul and Duluth teams, proudly represented Minnesota at the 2025 Legislative Training Seminar (LTS) in Washington, D.C. Under the guidance of the MN State Team and Area VP Dan Mooney, we came together with one united mission: to advocate for the future of the U.S. Postal Service and amplify the voice of EAS employees across the state and nation.

### Taking Our Message to Capitol Hill

One of the highlights of the seminar was our visit to Capitol Hill, where we met with the offices of congressional representatives from all eight Minnesota districts. While we didn't meet every member personally, we had meaningful discussions with most of their aides, who were engaged and receptive to our message. We also visited the offices of Senator Tina Smith and Senator Amy Klobuchar, where we spoke with their staff in depth about critical postal legislation.

Our main legislative push focused on **H. Res. 70**, a resolution that opposes the privatization of the U.S. Postal Service and recognizes its value as a public service for all Americans. We urged each congressional office to **cosponsor** this resolution and emphasized the widespread support among postal employees and constituents alike.

While H. Res. 70 was our primary focus, we also discussed several other bills impacting the USPS workforce and service operations. From ensuring fair compensation to protecting universal service, we asked our lawmakers to stand by postal workers and keep the mail moving—publicly and equitably.

### Rallying for the Cause

In a powerful show of solidarity, we rallied outside the Capitol with fellow NAPS members from across the country, chanting the rally cries: **"Mail Is Not for Sale!"** and **"Mail for All!"**. The energy was undeniable, and our voices were heard loud and clear. It was an unforgettable moment of unity, as postal workers, managers, and supporters stood side by side to defend a national institution that millions of Americans rely on every day.

### Learning and Leadership

The seminar itself offered critical updates and insights into the issues affecting our work. We received a detailed update on **NAPS' ongoing litigation** regarding the **2016–2019 Pay Package**, a matter that continues to impact fair compensation for EAS employees.

Our legislative training sessions were anchored by presentations from postal champions like **Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX)** and **Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (D-FL)**, who both voiced strong, bipartisan support for the Postal Service. They reminded us that the fight to protect USPS is not a partisan issue—it's a national one.

NAPS Director of Legislative and Political Affairs **Bob Levi** also delivered an informative update during the **Legislative and Political Review**, providing us with the tools and strategies we need to be effective advocates in our districts.

### Support Through Action

As part of our ongoing advocacy, this newsletter includes **four QR codes (next page)**. We encourage all members to **scan them** and show your support for the key bills we discussed. Just as importantly, **share these QR codes with your family, friends, and neighbors**—we need every voice possible to protect the USPS and support the people who keep it running.

## Legislative (continued)

### A Note of Gratitude

A big thank you goes out to **SPAC** (Supervisors Political Action Committee) for doing a fantastic job this year. Your work helps drive our mission forward, and we appreciate your ongoing commitment to postal employees and the communities we serve.

### On a Personal Note...

I'd like to end with a small but joyful moment—I was lucky enough to win a **digital instant camera** in one of the drawings at the event. It's now wrapped and ready as the perfect birthday gift for my daughter.

Moments like these add a little warmth to the hard work we do.

In all, the 2025 LTS was inspiring, productive, and a true reminder of the strength we have when we come together. Whether in Minnesota or on the steps of the Capitol, our voices matter. And we'll keep using them—loudly and proudly.

## NAPS LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGN

URGE YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS TO  
CO-SPONSOR THESE BILLS



(H.R. 70) TO OPPOSE  
POSTAL PRIVATIZATION



(H.R. 2095) THE POSTAL  
POLICE REFORM ACT



(H.R. 1559) THE POSTAL  
EMPLOYEE APPEAL  
RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT



(H.R. 1560) THE POSTAL  
SUPERVISORS AND MANAGERS  
FAIRNESS ACT





# **Tammy Vail-Rimer**

## **Secretary/Treasurer State Branch 926**

**NAPS urges Congress to protect the integrity of the Postal Service; enshrined in our Constitution Art. 1 Sect. 8 Postal operations are crucial to our country.**

### **Title 39: Code 201**

- \* The Postal Service is an independent establishment of the executive branch.
- \* Such an establishment with its legal governance a regulatory structure cannot be abducted by another federal agency.

### **Title 39: Code 202**

- \* The USPS authority rests with its 11-member presidentially nominated Senate-confirmed Board of Governors.
- \* The Postmaster General and Deputy Postmaster General serve at the pleasure of Board of Governors.
- \* Each postal Board of Governor serves a 7-year term and may be removed only for cause.

### **Folding USPS into commerce is a very bad idea!**

- \* 630,000 vs. 48,000 employees
  - \* voice of the people vs. voice of the business
- Requires change in law
- \* Board of Governors
  - \* Postal Regulatory Commission
  - \* Would submit national postal system to political interference
  - \* Would undermine postal finances and governance

### **Even after a disaster, privatization has led to:**

- \* higher postage
- \* slower delivery
- \* less retail outlets
- \* reduced rural service
- \* devaluation of the mail

NAPS encourages sponsorship of the following bills: **House**

**HR 70:** House opposes privatization of the postal service.

**HR 1560:** Timely start of pay talks between executive administration schedule (EAS) postal employees & postal service. Under this bill (EAS) pay talks would start 60 days prior to the expiration of the existing (EAS) pay agreement.

**HR 1559:** This bill confers non-supervisory managerial postal employees the right to appeal significant personnel actions to MSPB (merit system protection board).

**HR 491:** This bill would alleviate the financial impact (COLA) on current FERS annuitants & remedy the inequality for future FERS annuitants.

**HR 2095:** Legislation to protect USPS personnel, assets, and US Mail.

**Senate bill:**

**S 624:** Legislation to provide COLA equality to FERS & CSRS

**BE A POSTAL INFLUENCER !!** Share your concerns with our elected officials and Senators.

**\*\* USPS MOVES AMERICA !! \*\***