



E-NAPUS Legislative Newsletter

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Enduring & Emerging Coalitions For Postal Reform

One major fact of politics is the extreme difficulty for anyone to promote a major piece of legislation alone. It takes a group with overlapping interests, yet distinct constituencies to advance a bill. In some instances, the coalition can include members who actually disagree on every other issue, yet finds common ground on a particular bill. NAPUS is an active participant a number of coalitions. On the other hand, coalitions can emerge whose sole task is to oppose the efforts of the first group. Welcome to Washington!

EMPLOYEE COALITION NAPUS is a founding member of the "FAIR Coalition," a group of federal and postal employee and retiree organizations who advance mutual concerns. Within this coalition, postal labor, management, and supervisory organizations have worked together to make sure that Congress and the Administration does not ignore concerns that are unique to USPS employees and retirees. Together, the postal subgroup represents approximately 700,000 postal employees, and many more postal retirees. The immense size and diverse geography of our combined membership permits us to energize an effective grassroots network. In addition, within electoral politics, during the 2004 election cycle, the postal fraternity contributed more than **\$5 million** in support of Members of Congress and congressional candidates who support postal employee issues. This financial power compares favorably with the United Parcel Service contributions to Members of Congress and congressional candidates. UPS contributions topped off at slightly less than **\$3.1 million** for the same period. Postal employee groups working as a coalition carries extraordinary legislative and political muscle and is invaluable when advocating legislation to benefit or confronting measure that harm our members.

MAILING COALITION NAPUS also is an active coalition partner with the broad mailing community. We recognize the fact that the mail is essential to the U.S. economy. I need only refer to Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Susan Collins' mantra – the postal industry is a \$900 billion industry, accounting for 9% of our nation's gross domestic product, and employs 9 million Americans. In addition, without a profitable and loyal mailing industry, Postmasters would be out of work, because the USPS would not exist. Mailers, printers, and publishers reach into every hamlet and home in this nation. NAPUS' collaboration with the mailing industry demonstrates our shared commitment to a universal and affordable mail service.

POST OFFICE COALITION NAPUS has long recognized that one or two specific issues can also define a coalition. Post office protection is one of those issues. For years, Postmasters have worked with such groups as the Rural

Together we stand
Divided we fall
Come on now people
let's get on the ball
Let's work together
Come on, come one,
let's work together

"Let's Work Together"
by Dwight Yoakam

Congressional Caucus, and groups pieced together by Reps. JoAnn Emerson (R-MO) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), and Senators Max Baucus (D-MT) and James Jeffords (I-VT). Among the number of organizations that champion small and rural post office, consumer advocate and former presidential candidate Ralph Nader heads one. NAPUS has a long tradition in assisting communities whose post offices the USPS has targeted for closing or consolidation. We constantly work with communities and groups not only to demonstrate the worth of post offices, but also to enhance their value. For this reason, NAPUS, in collaboration with coalition members, continues to compile ideas about how to enhance and expand the services offered by small and rural posts. Please share your innovative ideas and email them to rsvp@napus.org.

Monday Is B-Day

Over the weekend, President Bush will put the finishing touches on his Fiscal Year 2006 Budget. On Monday morning, the White House Office of Management and Budget will submit the budget to Congress. Although the proposal does not have the force of law, it provides insight into projected federal revenues and spending, including Presidential priorities. This past Wednesday, President Bush provided a glimpse of what to expect. He told a Joint Session of Congress that he would propose a budget that holds "discretionary" spending below inflation, cuts in half the \$427 billion federal deficit by 2009, and eliminates or reduces 150 government programs.

NAPUS will be reviewing the weighty FY 2006 budget, assessing its impact on postmasters and the postal community. We will pay particular attention to any harmful affect that the proposal could have on postmaster health or retirement benefits. In addition, we will evaluate the emphasis that the President gives to Postal Reform, and determine whether there is room in the budget to release the Postal Service from funding the CSRS escrow account.

It is important to understand that February 7 represents the start of the 2006 budget cycle. Congress dramatically alters the President's proposal during the process. Next week, the House and Senate Budget Committees will conduct hearings on the budget, to assist in their preparation of the FY 2006 Congressional Budget Resolution. The resolution establishes the framework for congressional spending. This is only the beginning of the budget debate.

Rep. Jon Porter to Chair Civil Service Subcommittee

On Thursday, House Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis, announced that Rep. Jon Porter (R-NV) will be the new chair of the Subcommittee on Civil Service. Rep. Porter is beginning his 2nd term in Congress and 1st term on the Government Reform Committee. He represents the Las Vegas suburbs.

The Subcommittee is vitally important to NAPUS, since it has jurisdiction over the federal employees' retirement plans, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and other benefit programs in which active and retired postmasters participate.



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We are on the Web!