



e-NAPUS Legislative & Political Bulletin

March 24, 2006

Volume 3, Number 10



NAPUS Legislative Chairs Ready to Lead 1,000 Postmasters Up the Hill

Postmasters Master the Hill

At this week's NAPUS Leadership Conference, key Members of Congress, including Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Mary Landrieu (D-LA), and Rep. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) applauded the 1,000 participating postmasters on their mastery of the postal reform bill and their ability to convey pertinent information about the bill to congressional offices. According to congressional speakers, postmaster activism and familiarity with the bill greatly aided the legislative process. In addition, Sen. Landrieu acknowledged, with pride the postmaster of Covington, LA, NAPUS President Dale Goff, and she thanked Louisiana postal employees for their efforts in aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Leadership Conference training imparted postmasters with a refresher course in politics and the pending postal legislation. Even Conference first-timers demonstrated a firm grasp of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, and the issues remaining unresolved issues. Consequently, the legislative component of the four-day forum emphasized strategies to influence the deliberations of the congressional conference committee that will consider the House and Senate-passed postal bills.

Early in the NAPUS Leadership event, Postmaster activists focused on how legislative politics could affect the House-Senate conference, evaluating the potential for a Presidential veto should the conference agreement conflict with White House positions, and how the 2006 elections may impact the conferees. Postmasters also discussed ways in which their election-year activities could make a difference to the outcome of a conference, and how postmasters could ally themselves with other employees in a coordinated political campaign.

All Conference attendees participated in intensive legislative training, based upon the *2006 NAPUS Legislative Workbook*. (The *Workbook* is available to NAPUS Chapters for in-state legislative training.) Postmasters were tasked with examining the material, which was followed by a Government Relations Department administered *open book* quiz. Everyone passed with flying colors! Postmasters also reviewed the specific postal issues they would be carrying to Capitol Hill. (A summary of these issues may be viewed on the NAPUS Website.) In addition, NARFE Legislative Director Judy Park addressed postmasters about issues of mutual concern to federal retirees and postmasters, and indicated that NARFE would work with NAPUS in pursuit of a postal reform bill that does not reduce employee or retiree benefits. At the conclusion of legislative training, postmasters were treated to a presentation of Otto Preminger's political classic, *Advise and Consent*. The movie, filmed on Capitol grounds, is about a Senate confirmation battle. The viewing was preceded by an introduction by Assistant US Senate Historian Betty Koed.

Also during the Conference, key congressional staff members of likely postal conferees participated in a wide-ranging discussion about how the House and Senate were able to pass postal reform legislation despite some major bumps



Congressional Postal Panel at 2006 Leadership Conference

along the way. They spoke at length about factors that could influence postal conference deliberations and how postmasters can best influence the conduct of those deliberations. Most importantly, all the panelists commended NAPUS members on their knowledge of the House and Senate-passed bills and their ability to ensure that Members of Congress know postmaster views on specific provisions within the legislation. In addition, in anticipation of the early May House oversight hearings on postal operations, the congressional panel encouraged postmasters to share with their Members of Congress factors that may be adversely impacting the quality of postal services to their communities.

Susan Collins Crowned NAPUS Champion for 2006

The NAPUS Leadership Conference Banquet paid tribute to Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Susan Collins, awarding her the Fourth Annual NAPUS Champion Honor. The past honorees were former Rep. Connie Morella, Sen. Daniel Akaka, and Rep. McHugh.

In making the presentation, NAPUS President Goff noted Sen. Collins' diligence and leadership in educating her colleagues about the need for postal reform, and resolve in achieving Senate passage. In addition, Dale recognized the Senator's guidance in shepherding the Postmasters Equity Act (PL 108-86) through the Senate, and her relentless advocacy on behalf of federal employee and retiree benefits. Goff mused that Sen. Collins also found the time to spearhead efforts to reform federal lobbying practices, ensure homeland security, and investigate ways to prepare for natural disasters.

In accepting the honor, Sen. Collins paid tribute to NAPUS postmasters for being a key member of "her team" and a major force in advancing postal reform. Sen. Collins thanked Dale and former NAPUS President Wally Olihovik for their invaluable effort in advancing postal reform. She noted the success that postmasters have had in educating her colleagues in the Senate. Moreover, Sen. Collins referenced the strong bipartisan teamwork that enabled the legislation to reach conference. She singled out the hard work of Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), her Senate companion in pursuit of postal reform.

Postal Management Groups and Unions Send Letter to Hill

Last week, all seven postal employee groups signed a letter to prospective postal conferees advising the Members of Congress of the positions taken by the employee groups. The correspondence began by noting that the associations and unions represent over 700,000 USPS postal employees. The joint letter affirmed the commitment of the employee groups "to ensure a financially sound, operationally healthy Postal Service that provides high quality universal service for its customers at affordable rates." As part of this commitment, the letter stated that groups unanimously endorse the following conference positions: Repeal CSRS escrow and restore U.S. Treasury's obligation to fund the CSRS military service credit; adopt House "exigency" language; and adopt Senate "banking" language the Senate provision regarding "single-piece parcels."



Dale Goff Presents
Sen. Susan Collins
2006 NAPUS
Champion Award

**National Association of
Postmasters of the U.S.**

**8 Hebert Street
Alexandria, VA 22305**

Tel. 703-683-9027

Fax. 703-683-0923

Email: blevi@napus.org

We are on the Web!

www.napus.org