



# E-NAPUS Legislative Newsletter—EXTRA!

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## Senate Confirms NAPUS Member Dawn Tisdale to PRC



Sen. Kay Bailey  
Hutchison (R-TX) and  
Dawn Tisdale

Early Sunday morning, the Senate confirmed by voice vote former Postmaster Dawn Tisdale as the newest member of the Postal Rate Commission (PRC). Dawn is a retired Postmaster, who served from 1989 to 2000 as the manager-in-charge of the Smithville Texas Post Office, and has been a NAPUS member since 1990.

The PRC is an independent regulatory agency that is composed of five commissioners who are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Commission reviews requests for new domestic mail rates, fees, and mail classifications.

In February, President Bush submitted the nomination to the Senate. In June, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), conducted a hearing on the nomination. In late June, the Committee approved the nomination by a unanimous vote. As the Senate moved closer to considering Tisdale's nomination, one or two members of the mailing community and a small number of right-wing groups raised objections to the Tisdale nomination based upon his past employment with U.S. Postal Service. In addition, some dismissively suggested that he lacked the qualifications to serve on the PRC. The President and the Senate found these charges to be without merit.

Senate Democratic Leader Daschle (D-SD), Governmental Affairs Chairman Collins (R-ME), Senator Akaka (D-HI), and Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) promoted the Tisdale nomination. Prior to his tenure as postmaster, Dawn managed Employee Relations in Waco, and carried mail in Austin. Dawn will be serving the remainder of a six-year term, expiring in 2006.

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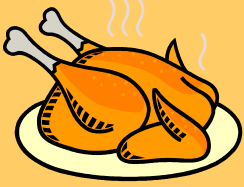
## USPS Gets the Money

The House and Senate approved an "Omnibus Appropriations" bill, which included funds to help the Postal Service defray the costs associated with biohazard detection technology and reimburse the agency for revenue forgone. NAPUS actively supported funding these postal priorities.

On Saturday evening, the Senate approved the Conference Report on the Foreign Operations and Export Financing Appropriations Act (House Report 108-792) by a 65-30 majority. The measure comprised the pending nine appropriations bills, including the Transportation, Treasury, and Postal Appropriations Act. Consequently, this legislation – a "catch-all" spending bill – is referred to as an omnibus appropriations bill. It will arrive at the President's desk within a few days.

Outgoing Senate Appropriations Chairman Ted Stevens (R-AK) deserves much of the credit for securing the funds for the Postal Service and the postal

Happy  
Thanksgiving!



community. The spending bill includes \$507 million that is designated to help the USPS purchase and implement biohazard detection technology. The technology would protect postal employees from hazardous materials enclosed in mailed material and bolster consumer confidence in the sanctity of the mail. The bill also includes \$29 million for the annual reimbursement to the Postal Service for providing congressionally mandated discounts to not-for-profit mailers. In addition, the legislation includes \$61.7 million for free mail for the visually impaired, overseas voter registration and absentee voting by mail.

If Congress failed to appropriate funds to cover these programs and, in some cases, legally mandated financial obligations, postal customers and postal employees would have had to shoulder the costs themselves. This would have resulted in higher postage, additional erosion of the postal infrastructure, and would harm our bottom line.

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## Governor Miller Confirmed to Postal Board of Governors

On Sunday morning, the Senate also confirmed James Miller III to complete a full term on the Postal Board of Governors. For the past year, Governor Miller has served as a "recess" appointment, meaning that unless the Senate confirmed him prior to adjournment he would be off the Board at the end of December. Now, his term expires on December 8, 2010.

Jim Miller served as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, a cabinet level post, and chairman of the Federal Trade Commission under President Reagan. There is speculation that Commissioner Miller may be vying for the leadership of the Board of Governors. Ordinarily, the Vice Chairman would be elected to the chairmanship. (John Walsh, a Democrat, is the present Vice Chair.) However, with the recent recess appointments to the Board of Carolyn Gallagher and Louis J. Giuliano, both Republicans, the ratio on the Board is 5 Republicans and 2 Democrats (excluding the PMG Potter and DPMG Nolan). President Bush has yet to nominate anyone to the two vacant Democratic seats on the Board. Therefore, it is not inconceivable that Governor Miller, who has been extremely active on the Board, could run for and win the chairmanship.

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## Congress Fails to Agree on Dental-Vision Benefit Bill

On Saturday afternoon, the Senate approved legislation (S. 2657) that would have provided federal and postal employees and retirees a new option to purchase dental and vision insurance. The bill called for the Office of Personnel Management to establish a voluntary insurance program to exploit the federal and postal employee and retiree community purchasing power to get favorable premiums. Chairman Collins and Senator Akaka introduced the bill. The House passed a similar, but not identical bill earlier this year (H.R. 5295). The House and Senate must pass identical bills for the legislation to be forwarded to the President for his signature. Representative Tim Murphy (R-PA) authored H.R. 5295. Rep. Murphy serves as Acting Chair of the House Civil Service Subcommittee. In all likelihood, the bill will be introduced next year.

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