

Calling All Current and Future Postmasters

By Ben Clapp, Stevan Gerber and Chuck Mulidore

You may not realize it, but there currently are more than 2,300 postmaster members of NAPS from throughout the country. To more effectively address the special representation needs of postmasters, NAPS inaugurated a Postmaster Committee at our national convention six years ago.

Following last year's national convention, President Ted Keating took a decisive step of appointing three national officers—the authors of this article—to address the recommendations of the Postmaster Committee that deliberated at that convention. We also were tasked with developing a communications plan to provide information from NAPS specifically related to our postmaster members.

How did our 2,300-plus postmasters become members of NAPS? Well, many of them already were NAPS members before their appointments as postmasters. Many of these individuals have dual memberships; they're members of NAPS and also of one or both of the postmaster organizations.

Why would someone want to be a member of

competing organizations? Well, first off, the three USPS postal management organizations—NAPS, NAPUS and the League—are *not* competing organizations. In fact, they regularly work together as partners, today more than at any other time in the histories of the organizations. It's not at all surprising, then, that most postmasters who are NAPS members also are members of one or both of the postmaster organizations.

NAPS provides outstanding membership benefits, including our Disciplinary Defense Fund and experienced, competent representation in times of trouble. Our members in the postmaster ranks come from all levels of the Postal Service. Some serve as officers of local branches, others serve as state branch officers and national officers, as do the three of

us! Indeed, postmasters hold important positions throughout the NAPS organization.

Upwardly mobile NAPS members often are known to gravitate to postmaster positions. When they do, many keep their NAPS memberships. More than 900 postmaster positions have become available

as a result of the recent voluntary early retirement (VER). And there's a new round of VERs now in the works that will offer supervisors and managers the opportunity to take the important career step of becoming a postmaster. When you become a postmaster, we hope you'll consider taking NAPS along by maintaining your membership,

In the coming months, we'll be providing additional, postmaster-specific information in *The Postal Supervisor* for our postmaster members. We'll also be working in the field to promote dual membership in NAPS and one or both postmaster organizations. Additionally, we'll be looking for feedback and ideas from NAPS postmaster members on how our organization might better serve their unique needs.

Our goal is to help our members who move on to become postmasters keep their affiliation with NAPS, while, at the same time, developing new relationships with the postmaster organizations.

Postmaster members of the NAPS Executive Board are, from left, Rocky Mountain Area VP Stevan Gerber; Pioneer Area VP Chuck Mulidore; and Northwest Area VP Ben Clapp. They have been postmasters for, respectively, nine, five and six years.

Photo by Scavone Photography

