



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



The National League of Postmasters is The Education Organization. That education must include Legislative awareness. The purpose of this weekly column is to bring that awareness to all our members on a diversity of topics. The current economic condition of the world has hit the United States very hard and the Postal Service even harder. Loss of market share coupled with every year increasing delivery points have accelerated the decline in revenue as ALL business look to cut their discretionary spending and conserve costs just as much as the average American. Massive employee lay offs have also contributed to less money being spent. We brought this message to Capitol Hill at Forum and explained that we are NOT asking for a bail out just a way to re-finance our own money and survive the current economic crisis.. The message was received well received but follow up is necessary from ALL our states in your Congressional Districts! An INFORMED Memberships is a more effective membership!

“The Critical nature of HR 22”

Our national legislative counsel Bob Brinkmann has said that each State should correspond at the District level according to their established relationship with their Congressional offices. This is the one thing League has been promoting over the last few years: developing relationships with Congressional offices. Each State has or should have their State president or legislative Chair who through our National training at Forum and National Convention has created a "personal" relationship with their State's Congressmen and Senators for League legislative issues. As support and reference each State's Legislative operations manual is the Legislative toolbox which is update twice a year, coincidentally at Forum and National.

OK that's our basic operational procedure. As far as communications I have always advocated contact in this order: Live, Phone, Written/Fax and lastly email. Each has it's pros and cons but also it's respective effectiveness. While one might think email would have as an effective influence as at least some of the others, by it's nature: that being "convenience", tends to convey a lesser value than the hand written/typed letter or even the same info faxed to the recipient. Comparatively speaking ; Written/faxed take more effort, phoning more yet and live contacts the most and therefore carry their respective value with each.

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The legislation in HR 22 is not perfect but nothing ever is. None the less it is the best shot we have to help the Postal Service at this point. Without it we hit our debt ceiling in September and the paychecks stop. EVERYONE'S paycheck stops! There are no other sources for revenue. Everyone needs to ask for their Congressional representative for support and Co-Sponsorship of HR 22 and immediate House passage. Use the National website position paper as the base talking points to inform the Congressmen and seek their commitment. Once we make it through the House we'll need to continue with a Senate effort.

You can access all of our League position papers at:

<http://www.postmasters.org/legislation/papers/>