

26th Annual California Postal Legislative Coalition Event

On Sunday, February 2, 2025, a cold and rainy day in Sacramento, I had the privilege of attending the 26th annual California Postal Legislative Coalition event. This was my third attendance at the Postal Legislative Coalition. This Coalition is composed of Union and management organization leaders representing California Postal Employees and Postal Federal Retirees.

Though attendance appeared to be less than in previous years, there was much to learn from the impressive list of speakers, many of which appeared via Zoom. First and foremost was a significant presentation by NARFE National Legislative Director, John Hatton. Mr. Hatton provided the attendees with a broad overview of NARFE priorities. This included the recent success of HR 82, which was the repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the ongoing efforts of NARFE to oppose potential cuts to Federal Employee retirement and health benefits in the 119th Congress. I have written an email to Mr. Hatton requesting a copy of his PowerPoint presentation and if received, I will share upon request.

Mr. Hatton was followed by many different representatives from various Postal Employee organizations. This included American Postal Workers Union (APWU), National Mail Handlers Union (NMHU), National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA), National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS), and United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA). In addition, there were speakers from the California Federation of Labor Unions, Save the Post Office Coalition, and the California Alliance for Retired Americas (CARA). The most common concern was the potential privatization of the Postal Service. There is hope that HR 70, "Preserve the Postal Service" will gain momentum in 119th Congress with more support from the majority party. The second most common concern was the ongoing protection of employee and retiree benefits.

I have found the California Postal Legislative Coalition annual events to be a great opportunity to learn and also to meet with and potentially recruit new members to NARFE. I handed out several NARFE magazines and membership applications to interested Postal attendees during the event. If given the opportunity NARFE members might find future Postal Coalition events to be both an interesting and informative way to spend a Sunday in February. If you have any questions, please ask me.

Nels Christensen, NARFE Chapter 1596 President