

1. The USPS violated law by suspending convention leave.

Section 1004(e) of Title 39 of the United States Code provides that after each new collective bargaining agreement with the largest craft, the Postal Service has 45 days to propose changes in Postmaster pay policies and schedules and **fringe benefits**. In addition, the section states that the Postmaster benefit changes are to be effective during the same period of time as covered by the craft bargaining agreement.

The suspension of convention leave, a listed benefit (ELM 519.621), did not take place as the result of pay and benefit talks, as described in Section 1004(e). Importantly, convention leave is an item that has been discussed during “pay talks.” Moreover, the suspension is to take place in the midst of craft agreement. For both of these reasons, NAPUS believes that the USPS is in violation of current law.

2. NAPUS fully appreciates the fiscal situation of the USPS.

NAPUS offered to forgo convention leave for Fiscal Year 2010, in return for continuing such leave through September 30 this year – 4 months. The PMG summarily rejected this Postmaster offer.

3. While USPS suspends the five-day convention leave benefit for Postmasters, Postal Executives continue to enjoy generous employment benefits.

In the current Fiscal Year, Postal Executives awarded themselves exorbitant “bonuses”, and continue to reap a generous compensation package, which includes FREE Federal Employees Health Benefit Program coverage, FREE Federal Employee Group Life Insurance coverage, and generous relocation benefits.