

Illinois Postal News Leader



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United Postmasters and Managers of America ~ Illinois Chapter ~ est. November 1, 2016

Illinois UPMA Presidents and Illinois UPMA Hall of Fame Winners Class of 2017



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A Big Thanks to our Area VP
Jakki Strako
and all the District Managers;
MPOO's and trainers
that took time
out of their busy schedules to
attend our UPMA
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together what
we cannot do
alone”

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## Patti Sadnick~Illinois State President

Dear Friends,

I just got home from our first UPMA State Chapter Convention and if you were not there, you missed a good time! This was the first opportunity for our co-mingled NAPUS and League families to get together. I came to the Embassy Suites in East Peoria with fear in my heart, fear that our families would not get along, scared that this would be a struggle that would prove too much for some of our folks. But guess what, it didn't happen that way! Stephanie Jett brought this to our attention as she was talking to us about her own family. She and her husband each brought a family to their marriage, she compared them to the Brady Bunch. And they had to work hard to make their family one. So it goes with the NAPUS/League marriage. We have to work hard to make our family ONE organization. That doesn't mean that there won't be rocky patches, we all have things that we have loved about our respective organizations that we hope will continue on. However, I can say this with conviction, you can do anything if you do it with love. And that is what happened in the past three days in East Peoria IL. We came together not knowing how it would be, but we leave knowing that we can move forward, with love, as a blended family!

Much love,

Patti Sadnick  
Co-President UPMA

Think deeply, speak gently, love much, laugh a lot,  
work hard, give freely and always be kind.

2017 UPMA ILLINOIS STATE BOARD  
THANKS FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP!





## John Sertich ~ Illinois State President

### WE ARE ONE!

We did it. We successfully blended the two organizations into one at our just completed state convention. We took care of business by approving new by-laws and electing a slate of officers that reflects the diversity of the former

organizations. We need to send much gratitude to those people that worked tirelessly planning and presenting the affair. At the risk of omitting someone we need to cite in particular Bev Freehill and Janet Spanos who organized the event, Meta Belford who handled the vendors, Jerry Thixton, Alice Wellen and Sharon Stolte our sergeant-at-arms/pages that kept order, Shelley Zellers who kept track of the registrations, Kathy Yager and the retirees who staffed the registration booth, Larry Wieneke with PAC and (let's not forget the one and only Patti Sadnick who made sure everything went forward flawlessly~John). She handled the negotiations with the hotel and invited our guests including our Great Lakes Area VP Jakki Krage-Strako, our three district managers and our trainers. But the biggest shout out goes to those in attendance that participated in spirited debates that resulted in the approval of new by-laws and election of an incoming executive board effective November 1, 2017; President Edmund Carley, Secretary Bev Freehill, Treasurer Shelley Zellers, Executive Vice President Meta Belford, At-Large Vice Presidents Marianne Miller, Jerry Thixton, Janet Spanos, President-Retirees Morrie Smith and Immediate Past President Patti Sadnick. After the day-long sessions we were treated to excellent entertainment by our DJ Gaylon Hayes. Folks, this guy never stops. He is ready at the start each session, serenades us at lunch and dinner and rocks out all night. As we told him before he left, he is "top shelf".

Your executive board was also busy, spending nearly 3 hours on Wednesday night, prior to the convention, addressing items relevant to all members. Of note, the board again approved a \$500 subsidy to all those (active and retired) members attending the National Convention in Louisville to cover registration and verified expenses. We also selected a Time and Place committee to present site proposals for the 2018 State Convention from the North, South and Central sections of the state. The committee will present these proposals for publishing in the Illinois Postal News Leader prior to the National Convention. The site will be determined by a full-body vote at our next assembly.

While it seems that we accomplished a great deal at convention, much more remains to be done. We need to work on expanding our membership and being more inclusive to our current members. These are arduous times for the service and when times get tough for the service they usually get tougher for us. Let's work together to ensure we all make it through together. Let's keep telling each other YES WE CAN!



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## Edmund Carley~ National VP Western Area

National Vice President UPMA

UPMA has many missions; one of the most important is membership development. Membership development has many facets, the most important is networking. Your State Convention provides one of the ways in which being a member of UPMA provides a benefit to you, it allows you to “rub elbows” with fellow Postmasters, Supervisors and Managers who can discuss shared experiences and therefore knowledge is gained by all. It further provides an opportunity to meet Post Office Operations Managers, District Managers and even the Area Vice President, who directly reports to the Postmaster General! Where else can UPMA members get this kind of access?

Many times, we have been told that half of all Postal Managers, above level 20, are eligible to retire in the next 5 years. What that means is that the opportunities for advancement within the Postal Service are going to be endless. Part of the great benefits of UPMA membership is that our association gives you the training, networking and access to not only the tools, tactics and targets to be a successful applicant for those opportunities; it also provides direct access to the people that make those kinds of decisions.

While we are meeting as a State Chapter we take the opportunity to take care of the Chapter’s business. We amend and approve by laws, we elect officers, we commune around meals and we socialize together, all activities that enhance the quality of life of our members. As we complete the creation of our new organization it is a perfect opportunity for members to renew their dedication to each other, to commit to meeting more often and to helping each other in our professional journey. However, there are many other ways Chapters can get together, three digit (or area) meetings, Training Conferences and many other career development opportunities.

Your State Board is working to develop a new calendar for the rest of this year and a framework for the coming years, where the local Chapter of UPMA can provide more of these opportunities for membership development. Your input is essential, if you think there is an area where UPMA can provide better career development contact your State President or your State career development board member, their number is elsewhere in this publication. Tell them what you need, ask where you can serve; together we are always stronger and more efficient than we are by ourselves. Thank you for your membership in this great organization and I can’t wait to see you the next time we get together to grow, teach, learn and lead.

Edmund





## Shelley Zellers ~UPMA Illinois State Treasurer

### Convention was a memorable event.

The 1st annual Illinois State UPMA Convention was a memorable event. Many thanks to Patti Sadnick and her committee for choosing an awesome venue, scheduling engaging speakers, and providing fun entertainment! It was the perfect beginning for our new organization. It was also the inspiration for the remainder of my article...

Is the postal workforce prepared for the future? Will there be qualified individuals to fill our positions when we retire? As postmasters and managers, it is our responsibility to recognize, encourage, and develop the talented employees in our organization. Our time and budget constraints often make this a difficult task.

Fortunately, our districts have begun to offer Career Conferences which focus on career awareness opportunities within our organization. The 2017 Great Lakes Area conferences began in March and continue through August. You can find the dates of your district's Career Conference in the March issue of the UPMA Leader magazine. I encourage you to attend and to inform your employees of this wonderful opportunity to meet the MPOOs, network with department managers, attend career advancement training classes, and learn about the many positions available in the postal service.

I will be attending the conference hosted by Gateway on May 6 & 7 in St. Charles, Missouri. Illinois UPMA and Missouri UPMA will have a vendor table with membership information available to those in attendance. Last year we signed up more than 20 new members at this event. It was a huge success! Hope to see you there!



## Rhonda Hitchcock ~ Illinois state VP

### IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

A couple of weeks ago, I was driving home from a very long day at work when I saw something out of place on the interstate down the road. As I got closer, I realized with horror that an accident had just happened, and I was one of the first cars to come up on it. I pulled over and tried to make sense of what I was looking at. The woman in front of me had pulled over and was running up to an SUV that lay crushed in the median under some heavy equipment. As more people stopped, I tried to decide if there was anything I could do. Should I get out, or get out of the way? My mind wanted to rationalize the situation with optimistic hopes for the driver, even though I knew there was a very slim chance that anyone could have survived. With a heavy heart, I decided to move on to make way for those that would be coming soon with the necessary skills and equipment to handle the devastating scene. As I drove home, so many thoughts crowded my mind. What happened? Could it have been avoided? Did the driver have any time to react? If I had left work one or two minutes earlier, could it have been me?? I found myself combing the internet until late in the evening. I needed to know. Initial reports began to show up. The interstate had been closed, and there were fatalities. I couldn't close my eyes without picturing the scene. The next morning, a more detailed news report revealed that the victims were a retired couple that I had known for years as customers when I was Postmaster of Oquawka. They were travelling behind a pickup truck that was pulling a trailer loaded with large equipment. As the pickup went under an overpass, the load was too high and it struck the top of the overpass, ripping the load and the trailer off of the hitch and slamming it into the

SUV behind it. No one will ever know the full details of what happened in the seconds before. But the experience jolted my perspective about safety. Did the driver have any time to react? Was he travelling too close? Was he momentarily distracted? Did the driver of the pickup truck check the load to make sure it was strapped down? The next day, as I travelled the same interstate to attend our State Convention, I was mindful of the distance between our vehicle and those around us. I found myself scanning the road more carefully, and being more aware of my surroundings. We become complacent with routine. We may even get desensitized from the huge focus that the USPS has put on safety this fiscal year. We may not want to hear another safety talk. But many accidents can be avoided. And in some cases, we don't get a second chance. Our loved ones won't get us back. So stay aware. Practice what you preach when you give those safety talks to your employees. Remind them how valuable they are at work and at home. Because accidents can happen in the blink of an eye!



## Jerry Thixton~ Illinois State VP

### Thixton's Thoughts

Recently, all level 18 exempt Postmasters and above were issued their choice of smartphones by the Postal Service. The phone's purpose and use has led to many questions by our UPMA members. The official letter from Postal Headquarters on phone use and requirements is posted on the UPMA website. The phones are not to be used for personal use, nor should you expect any privacy while using these devices. Any and all sites you visit and any and all calls you make can be seen and you can be questioned about them. It is also recommended that you should not use the phones as a hotspot as that can allow anyone access to your phone, in fact, it is best to just turn the hotspot option off. It was also mentioned during the presentation at our state convention that the phones are not to be utilized as a 24 hour on call requirement or for 2 in the morning calls to fix a missed scan or a RWHT entry. These phones were issued and intended for business use, after receipt of your new number, you could then replace your personal cell phone number on official USPS contact information. Remember to visit the UPMA website for the official policy letter from USPS Headquarters.

Another hot topic at State Convention is the concern over the amount of daily emails that just keeps spiraling upward. This email problem is partly due to the vast amount of information available to district and area staff. With all this information that is now available, it is not hard to understand that when several different areas of operations send out emails that are related to their own particular area of expertise, just those alone end up being a large amount of emails. If you then factor in duplication of some of those emails, now throw in emails from your supervisor, the number of daily emails quickly starts getting into the hundreds. One speaker even mentioned they had received close to 300 emails in just one morning. Even if your job is to just read and answer emails, that number is starting to approach too many. There was an acknowledgement that this is quickly becoming a problem, however, there was no solutions offered nor no timetable for a resolution offered. This is a very real problem and we hope to see some action on resolving this issue soon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry L Thixton



## Carol Sue Carnes ~ Credit Union

### SIGNATURE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Really missed attending the UPMA State Convention in Peoria. It was the first one I have missed since joining NAPUS back in 1971. Around the first of the year I promised a dear friend of mine that I would be the Chairperson of a benefit for his seriously ill wife. He, who portrays the voice of "Elvis", and his TCB Band would be performing in Brussels at the American Legion Hall on April 8.

There was just no way I could have everything ready for the event if I even attended convention for one day. Besides the concert, we featured a Bake Sale and Silent Auction and provided light snacks for all attending. It was a great success and I was so happy we were able to do this for the family. Tom has even had to quit his job to care for his wife and two children and the medical bills keep mounting. Irene Wallendorf, Retired Postmaster of Batchtown was a great help putting on this event. Attending from Collinsville was JoAnne Chadwick, Retired Postmaster of Percy and a group of her friends. It was a wonderful evening for a great cause.

Have you thought about shopping around for cheaper insurance for your car, home, etc? How about replacing all your standard light bulbs with energy-saving ones and purchasing a programmable thermostat to save money on your electric bill. You can also check with your utility company to see if you qualify for any discounts or rebates. Next sign up for grocery and retail store rewards cards. Try shopping for deals on websites such as Amazon.com, Groupon.com and LivingSocial.com, you can even sign up to have the deals emailed to you. Have you re-evaluated your Internet, cable and satellite bills lately to compare the cost to bundle packages? I did recently and am now saving almost \$100. a month on my satellite bill alone and the price guaranteed for three years. Visit your local library where you can borrow books and DVD's free of charge. Most likely you will only read that book or watch that movie one time and then it sits there. And, last but not least, set up an emergency fund for those unexpected bills that come along.

The Signature Federal Credit Union would love to help you save money. Go to [Signaturefederalcreditunion.org](http://Signaturefederalcreditunion.org) or call toll free 1-800-336-0284 to see how we can help you save money on your loans, credit card rates, savings accounts and much, much more.

Does your present credit card have all these features? Rates as low as 7.99%, Point programs where you can earn up to 2 points for every dollar spent, 1% and 2% cash back options, no annual fee, no balance transfer fee or cash advance fee, personalized credit cards with your own photo, Apple Pay, VISA checkout, Text Alerts for protection from fraud and unauthorized transactions? If not, you need to transfer the balance from your present card and start earning all these rewards today.

Until next time,  
Carol Sue Carnes, Secretary  
Signature Federal Credit Union

***Congrats to the New UPMA Board***







# Steve Hall ~ Scholarship Report

## 2017 Scholarship Award News

After the administration of the Scholarship Fund was delegated to the retirees, a new scholarship committee was formed in 2016. The first order of business was updating the By-Laws, to clarify some grey areas, and then to have them accommodate our transitioning into UPMA. This was accomplished in October. Next up was the determination of this year's Award and the evaluating of the applications. Long story short, we are happy to announce that the very first Scholarship Awards for the IL Chapter of UPMA will total \$5000. There were four applicants for the Scholarship Award this year. And as usual, it was a very close competition between some very talented and hard working young adults. The committee individually evaluated all applications, and they decided, unanimously, to the following awards:

Julie Mahlfeldt, will receive a \$1500 award.

Julie Mahlfeldt is the daughter of Janet Mahlfeldt, Postmaster Olympia Fields. She lists her address as Morris, attends Coal City High School, and plans to attend Arizona State University. Julie was ranked 8th out of a class of 160, had a grade point average of 4.5 based on a 4.0 scale, and scored a 32 on her ACT. Some of her extracurricular activities included Volleyball, Track, Yearbook Committee and Editor, Varsity Club, Science Club - President her senior year, Student Ambassadors, and Math Team. Her community service included helping at a local homeless shelter and soup kitchen as well as serving as a St. Vincent's Table Volunteer. One teacher writes "Her intelligence, combined with her caring personality and strong character...reminds me why I love to teach. Julie plans on majoring in Biochemistry with concentration on Medicinal Chemistry.

Jay Pulliam, will receive a \$1500 award.

Jay Pulliam is the grandson of Marion and Donna Pulliam, Marion is a retired Postmaster of Peoria. Jay lists his address as Odenville Alabama. Jay ranked 1st out of a class of 120. He had a 4.2 GPA based on a 4.0 scale with an ACT score of 29. His extracurricular activities included 4 years of Concert and Marching Band, Beta Club, and Key Club with leadership roles in Band and Key Club. Jay plans on attending the University of Alabama with hopes of becoming a Physical Therapist.

Ellie Buening will receive a \$1000 award.

Ellie is a very talented and busy young lady from Effingham, the daughter of Nancy and Dale Buening. While attending high school she competed in Track & Field, Cross Country, Basketball, and she participated in or was a member of CYO, Science Club, Spanish Club, SADD, National Honor Society, Class Government, Student Council, Math Club, and Volunteens, holding leadership positions in many of them. She is currently attending college at Maryville University in St Louis, intending on obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Psychology within 3 years and then working in the Master's Occupational Therapy Program.

Blake Esker will receive a \$1000 award.

Blake is an outstanding young man that also calls Effingham home. Besides doing well academically, he was very active in high school. His activities included playing in the Band, and competing on the Track, Basketball, and Scholastic Bowl Teams. He was a member or participant of the Science Club, History Club, Electronics Club, Spanish Club, and Chess Club, and held leadership positions in many of them. He has volunteered his time to several causes in his community and has been described as very bright, competitive, and always willing to help. He is currently attending Lake Land College in Mattoon, pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Middle School Education, with a minor in Social Studies. He is the son of Gail and Terry Eskers.

Congratulations to all of the applicants. We will be awarding \$5000 in scholarship money again next year so please encourage those eligible to apply. A note to future applicants; there is only one thing that we can guarantee - if you don't apply, you won't be considered. Great thanks and appreciation to the Scholarship Committee for their commitment, time, hard work, and making it all fun: Alice Wellen, Sharon Stolte, Mary Ford, Pat Luna, and Rob Stier Sincerely, Steve Hall IL Chapter UPMA Scholarship Committee Chairman

# RETIREEES CORNER



## Kathy Yager Co-Retiree UPMA President

It Played Very Well in Peoria

First Annual UPMA convention at Peoria Embassy Suites is over, but it was one for the record books. Big thanks to National Co President and First Lady, Sean and Kristy Acord for attending and educating and leading us all. Patti Sadnick and Bev Freehill did a stupendous job putting on the convention. (Yep, these ladies do know how to plan and execute a great convention.) Mr Gaylon Hayes made us all stay on beat. One of the best events was the ROTC memorial for MIA/POW and it continued on to be a great meeting.

The Retiree's meeting was eventful also. We elected new officers who will take office November 1, 2017. Elected were President Morrie Smith. Secretary/Treasurer Mary Ford. Executive Vice President Barbara Anderson. Vice President Liz Uphoff

Congratulations to all you newly elected leaders and our sincere thanks for stepping forward to lead us all once again.

Business was voting on our Bylaws for the Illinois Chapter of the United Postmasters & Managers of America. True to all our meetings, we had lots of discussion and arrived at the best course of action for us all. One new issue that many have asked about, "Where do our dues go." Here is how it is: 50% of your dues go to the National office, 25% goes to Illinois UPMA Organization to split in the chapter and the other 25% goes to National Retirees UPMA Organization. This is news to some, not to others, but hope this answers your questions.

## Alice Wellen Co-Retiree UPMA President



### Happy Spring!!

Thank you Patti and Bev for all your hard work on our wonderful convention! Great job!

Thank you to all the retirees and their guests for attending our dinner Thursday evening at Avanti's and our convention. I thank the Retiree Executive Board for their hard work on putting together the new by-laws so they were ready to be discussed at our annual meeting. The By-Laws were discussed and tweaked, and then voted on and passed. They will be posted on the website soon under the retiree tab. New officers were elected. Congratulations to Morrie Smith, President-elect; Mary Ford, Secretary/Treasurer-elect; Barb Anderson, Executive Vice-President-elect; and Liz Uphoff, Vice-President-elect. They will take office on November 1, 2017.

I just want to encourage all the retirees to register for the National Convention to be held in Louisville, KY August 5-10, 2017. Illinois UPMA will give you a stipend of \$500 to help offset some of your expenses, whether it be registration, room or travel. Let's try and have as many retirees from Illinois as

we can at our 1st UPMA National Convention. The Retirees will host the Saturday evening dance in Louisville. Hope to see you there!

Enjoy the spring weather,

Alice

Retiree Co-President



## Morrie Smith ~ New Retiree President

### Retired, Reinspired, & Rejoicing!

Hello Illinois UPMA Retirees!

It's been awhile since I wrote an article for our chapter, and I wanted to begin by saying "Thank You" to those who attended the Retiree Meeting at the State Convention in East Peoria and elected me the next Retiree President for the Illinois chapter. It is an honor to serve again! I look forward to working with Mary Ford (Secretary-Treasurer), Barb Anderson (Executive Vice-President), and Liz Uphoff (Vice-President). Both Alice Wellen and Kathy Yager should be recognized for the excellent job they did leading us through the transition, and I know we will rely on each of them as we continue the journey to make our organization stronger. I am very excited for the future!

One primary objective I would like to pursue is to increase participation in UPMA events. I was fortunate to attend the Legislative Advocacy program in Washington, D.C. in February, but I was the only retiree delegate from Illinois. At the recent State Convention, there were 36 retirees in attendance, which is only about 7% of our total membership of 514. What can we do to interest you in attending? I am interested in your thoughts and ideas, and encourage you to send them to me at [morriesmith60@gmail.com](mailto:morriesmith60@gmail.com).

On the subject of the Legislative Advocacy Days, you should become familiar with the elements of HR 756, which is a bi-partisan postal reform bill progressing in Congress. It has already been approved by the House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform, and is headed to the House Ways & Means Committee and the Energy & Commerce Committee. Both of these groups have jurisdiction over the Medicare program, which is a crucial element of the bill. I strongly urge all retirees to review the information available, as the final edition of the bill is yet to be presented, and the hearings may provide some amendments prior to a full floor vote (possibly by July 2017). Information can be found in the latest edition of the UPMA Leader (see pages 16 and 34), at [www.Unitedpma.org](http://www.Unitedpma.org), and on the legislative link of [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). UPMA does support HR 756, as it is the only bipartisan legislative plan to offer necessary postal reform, and has the support of all stakeholders involved. At the end of this article I have attached a question/answer sheet provided by Bob Levi which may answer some of the concerns that have risen with this bill. After review, be sure to contact your Congressional Representative with your viewpoint. It is crucial they hear our voices!

The warmer weather is upon us, so enjoy it to the fullest. Stay safe, and count your blessings every day. See you at an UPMA event soon!

Morrie Smith

## What is HR 756?

HR 756 is a comprehensive bipartisan postal reform bill that addresses financial, operational, regulatory, and governance issues relating to the US Postal Service. Its goal is to revitalize the Postal Service and safeguard universal postal services. Only one section in the bill deals with Medicare integration. The legislation was approved by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform by voice vote.

## What is Medicare integration?

Medicare integration would require, as a condition of FEHBP enrollment for Medicare-eligible postal retirees, enrollment in Medicare. Integration would mean that Medicare would become the “primary” payer of covered health costs and FEHBP would cover the remaining costs.

How would Medicare integration benefit FEHBP participants and the U.S. Postal Service?

For beneficiaries, the result is 100% coverage of medical costs, meaning that, generally, the retiree would pay no deductibles and copayments. Without integration, FEHBP is the sole insurer, and copayments and deductibles apply. Since certain medical costs would be shifted from FEHBP to Medicare, FEHBP premiums will decline. This results in enrollee and USPS FEHBP premium savings. In addition, Medicare integration would virtually eliminate the remaining USPS unfunded retiree health liability. Finally, Medicare integration enables the Postal Service to be eligible to receive subsidies for its coverage of prescription drugs, which further reduce FEHBP premiums.

## Can't the unfunded liability be addressed through elimination of the requirement to prefund health costs or through raising postage rates?

The broad postal community -- both employee groups and mailers -- have argued for elimination of the “unfair” prefunding burden for almost a decade. We have run up against arcane budget rules and the lack of consensus on the elimination of the prefunding charge. Also, we believe that the new administration will oppose its elimination. Raising postal rates is a non-starter with our mailer and Congressional allies, and would require about a 6-cent increase in postage. Such an increase would drive away postal customers and impair postal finances.

## How does Medicare integration affect retirees?

Medicare Part B integration only affects postal retirees eligible for Medicare benefits and who have declined Part B coverage. (Medicare-eligible postal retirees who have retired from the USPS on, or after January 1, 1983, and are 65 years old or older are affected; those who retired prior to January 1, 1983 are NOT impacted by integration.) There are about 76,000 current postal retirees affected by Medicare integration, and the overwhelming majority is retired craft employees. Most UPMA Medicare-eligible retirees are already enrolled in Medicare, and 80-85% of all Medicare-eligible postal are already enrolled in Medicare.

## How much will Medicare integration cost Medicare-eligible postal retirees who have declined Medicare coverage?

It's important to note that HR 756 waives the enrollment penalty imposed on Medicare-eligible retirees who did not enroll in Medicare when first eligible. This penalty can be



prohibitively expensive and there are many older postal retirees who regret not having enrolled in Medicare, because as they aged the need for 100% medical coverage increased. Generally, the current Medicare Part B premium is \$134 per month. This additional cost would be partially offset by a reduction in FEHBP premiums (according the actuaries about 9%), the elimination of deductibles and copayments, and less costly prescription drugs.

## Why does the bill require Medicare coverage for Medicare-eligible retirees?

At this point, integration is the only available mechanism to eliminate the USPS' unfunded retiree health liability and ensure that the USPS can benefit from the prescription drug rebate, which can save the USPS billions of dollars.

## Why do UPMA and every postal employee association (i.e., all postal unions and management associations) support HR 756?

HR 756 is not perfect; it's not the bill UPMA or the other employee associations would have drafted, but it's the only bipartisan legislative vehicle to provide postal employees and its retirees a secure and sustainable employer and provider of retiree benefits. Opposing H.R. 756 eliminates the only chance to enact meaningful postal reform legislation this congressional session. The legislative process for HR 756 is still in the formative stage, and the bill has been sequentially referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Of course, UPMA will seek opportunities to improve the bill, including provisions affecting Medicare, without jeopardizing its possibility of enactment

## Retirees at 2017 UPMA convention





## Meta Belford ~ Illinois State VP

### What a great convention!!

If you didn't go, why not? It was a great location, in the middle of the state, Sean Acord national co-president and other National officers in attendance, we had informative speakers, educational training and the chance for us all to be first timers at Illinois's first UPMA state convention. I always come away from conventions with a lot of enthusiasm and excitement and this year is no different. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers, we have the unique opportunity to take our organization forward! I was elected to Executive VP for a term of 2 years and under our newly adopted by-laws, the EVP is in charge of Membership, so I will continue to encourage, inspire and nag you to talk to everyone in your office and neighboring offices to join UPMA! Right now is the perfect time to spread the word and encourage people to join. With their membership they receive the first 6 months free and they will also receive copies of the national magazine The Leader and our state magazine Illinois Postal News Leader. The magazines have articles written by Postmasters and Managers who are working and doing the same duties we all do everyday. I'd like each of you reading this article to pass your Illinois Postal News Leader and an 1187 membership form, on to a co-worker, newly promoted manager, neighboring PMR, or anyone who you think is interested in up wards mobility. Nationally only 68% of eligible postmasters and managers are members of UPMA, 68%, that's just slightly above half. I think we can do better, no, I know we can do better.

I'd also like to take the time to thank everyone who donated baskets or items, bought a ticket or helped sell the tickets, especially Gail Esker. The total raised was \$375 which was split between Scholarship and PAC. A big thanks to everyone who helped in anyway with securing vendors and to everyone for shopping with the vendors.

And last but not least a BIG thank you to Patti Sadnick and all her helpers for doing a fantastic job on State convention. I bet after reading this you're wishing you had went to State convention; well if I didn't see you in Peoria this time I'll see you at the training conference in November, better yet, I'll see you in Louisville Kentucky!

## Scholarship winners 2017

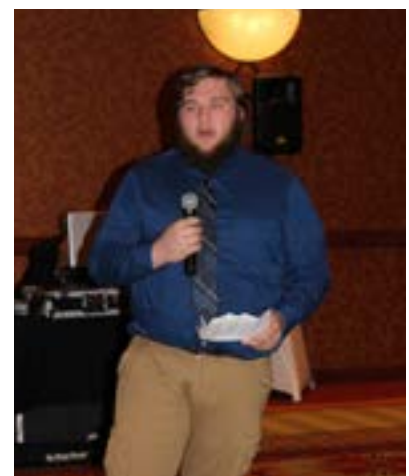
Julie Mahlfeldt not pictured



Jay Pulliam



Ellie Buening



Blake Esker

# Letter to the Editor

My thoughts,

When I started working for the Postal Service as a letter carrier, I joined the NALC, attended local and national conventions. When I was promoted to a supervisor position, I joined NAPS, attended local and national conventions. When I became a Postmaster I joined NAPUS, attended local and national conventions. I just returned from Peoria where I attended the state convention, the first as a merged organization, UMPA, United Postmasters and Managers of America. I attended my 22nd state convention as a Postmaster/retired Postmaster. Since the two organizations of Postmasters merged, I expected a large turnout, well, it was very disappointing to see around 70 attendees, half of which were retired. I have always thought, if I pay a monthly dues to a union/organization, I want to see what they are all about? This is an age old question, why don't members attend a state convention as a Postmaster, active or retired? I understand getting time off is at times an issue, perhaps money is another issue, although the state is offsetting the cost with registration refunds and paying for most meals that are provided, but yet, members don't attend, WHY? The state convention provides education, through District and National speakers, as well as question and answer sessions, a wealth of knowledge is provided. Then there's the hospitality that's provided, a time to mingle with postal family, talk work if you want or just "hang"out. This years National Convention is in Louisville, Kentucky, a drive for most of us in Illinois, the state is paying up to \$500.00 reimbursement towards you expenses. Why not plan on attending? The UMPA organization is there for "you". If you've never attended or haven't been in a few years, join us in Louisville, you won't be disappointed.

Just saying,  
Rob Stier

## Scholarship Commitee

( Rob Stier , Pat Luna , Sharon Stolte, Alice Wellen, Mary Ford, and  
Chair person Steve Hall )





## Marianne S. Miller~ Illinois State VP

### Looking forward to serving the next three years

Let me begin by thanking all the people in the forefront and behind the scenes that worked so hard to put on a wonderful first time event! Your efforts provided us with a lovely location with a very helpful staff, wonderful entertainment, and some raucous camaraderie. Great job everyone!

The very first Illinois UPMA State Convention was held in East Peoria at Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center. The convention was opened by the the Pekin Jr. ROTC presenting the colors, and by presenting a special Remembrance Ceremony. It was a beautiful and moving ceremony that I will not forget. I have included the following link for those interested in learning more about the ceremony, the symbolism, and it's history: [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missing\\_man\\_table](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missing_man_table). If you ever have the privilege of witnessing the ceremony in person be prepared for the emotional effect it will evoke.

The membership discussed and ratified the new by-laws and held elections for state officers as well as some national officers. Thank you to those who put your faith in me for another three years. I look forward to working with all the new officers as we forge ahead in molding our state chapter. The following people will take office on November 1, 2017: Edmund Carley, President; Meta Belford, Executive V.P.; Shelley Zellers, Treasurer; Beverly Freehill, Secretary; Cheryl Quaka, Editor; Jerry Thixton, V.P.; Janet Spanos, V.P.; and Marianne Miller, V.P..

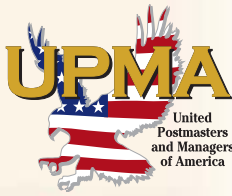
We will be hosting a training conference in November at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. The tentative dates are Veteran's Day weekend in order to accommodate people who are obliged to work weekends. Our mission is to provide life and work skill seminars along with some relaxation and networking events for active postal employees as well as retired employees. If you have a unique skill or hobby, please contact me regarding leading a class. Also, if you are aware of any interesting places or events in the Peoria area, please let me know. Some of the best learning is while on a "field trip." My contact information is: [damaracat@aol.com](mailto:damaracat@aol.com). Please reference the training conference in the subject line as I do not know everyone's email addresses.

I hope to see many of the Illinois UPMA members attend the National Convention in Kentucky this August. The location is within driving distance and has many places to see and adventures to experience. Anyone interested in going to the Louisville Slugger factory with me? (GO CUBS!). Our National office puts a great deal of effort to produce a quality convention for us and they always do a fantastic job!

We will be having Legislative Advocacy Days again next year. The dates are February 26th and 27th and a block of rooms will be reserved in advance for people wishing to attend. We will be staying in Virginia in order to make the accommodations more affordable. As I garner more information I will certainly pass it along to our members. Please remember to keep in touch with your local and federal leaders. We are their eyes and ears as to what is happening in our world.

Thank you again for electing me to serve on the Illinois board. I hope to meet many new members at our State and National events. If I can be of any further service, please be sure to let me know.





# 1st UPMA National Convention

Aug. 5-10, 2017

## Official Registration Form

Please complete one form per registrant. Photocopy the form for additional registrations.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** First Name (for your badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Postmaster  
 Supervisor Post Office You Represent City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager  
 OIC Your Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate  
 PM Retired City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_

**First-Timer/PM Retired** Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**First-Timer?**  Yes  No E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Convention Registration *(only one person per form):*

| Please circle the appropriate fee:                                                 | 9/1/16-12/31/16 | 1/1/17-3/31/17 | 4/1/17-7/15/17 | After 7/16/17 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Postmaster/Manager/Supervisor/OIC/Associate                                        | \$190           | \$215          | \$240          | \$265         |
| Postmasters Retired or Guest*<br><i>(PM Retired Luncheon included)</i>             | \$167.50        | \$186.25       | \$205          | \$223.75      |
| Auxiliary/Spouse/Postmaster Guest<br><i>(Does NOT include PM Retired Luncheon)</i> | \$142.50        | \$161.25       | \$180          | 198.75        |

Children (17 and under) \$75; includes child's meal at the Grand Banquet.

\*PM Retired member may have one guest (not an active PM) register for the same price.

Grand Banquet: Aug. 9, 2017

### Payment Information

Convention Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional tickets for Postmasters

Retired Luncheon @ \$25 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to UPMA

Visa/MasterCard

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Card security code: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(3- or 4-digit code imprinted on card)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail with full payment to UPMA National Convention Registration, 8 Herbert St., Alexandria, VA 22305-2600.**

**Questions? Call 703-683-9027**

### Hotel Reservation

UPMA has a special rate at the convention hotel beginning Sept. 1, 2016. You must call the hotel directly to make a reservation. The National Office will not handle room reservations. **To make a reservation, you must make a deposit to the hotel in the amount of your first night's lodging; this deposit is non-refundable after May 1, 2017.** All room cancellations must be made directly with the hotel. To secure the special UPMA rate, you must identify yourself as part of the UPMA convention. The rate is available only until July 1, 2017, or all rooms in the block are sold, whichever comes first.

### Galt House Louisville

1-800-THE-GALT  
 (1-800-843-4258)  
 \$119—single/double/triple/quad

**Be sure to request the Postmaster convention rate.**

### Registration Cancellation Refund Policy

Requests for cancellation refunds must be made in writing to the UPMA National Office. Requests must be postmarked by April 1, 2017, for 75 percent refund; and by July 1, 2017, for 50 percent refund. No refunds after July 1, 2017. These dates will be strictly adhered to; exemptions may be made with approval of the UPMA co-presidents.





# Cheryl Quaka~ Editor

## Pictures worth a 1000 words

### A Successful Convention

As you can see by all the smiling faces it was a successful convention. Not only because we were not at work but because we all made new friends and learned new things. Have you thought about becoming more involved? If not ....why? I read an article in another states paper that at some point I would like to see if I could borrow and publish for you. The title was called “This was not what I signed up for. “ It went on to explain that our worst nightmares from the past are now just our everyday reality! We don’t have enough help. So we don’t manage anymore we just react to crisis. We show up everyday not knowing if we can staff all the RMPO’s or if we will have enough carriers show up to deliver all the routes. We use our own vehicles , carry mail and work the window and pay out grievances for covering the crisis with our own sweat. We can’t get all our work done so we stay late or come in on weekends for free or get done only the things that we know will get us fired and hope we can catch up later. Her article brought tears to my eyes. It is doubtful that many of us will be cashing in with our NPA. Even if your unit score is decent the corporate score will pull you down to nothing. So what is the answer? We get involved! We need to stand together and make a difference! We need to elect officers that will fight to make changes. OR you can do nothing. Refuse to get involved. Complain to all your other Postmasters how UPMA does nothing for you? Please join us and help us work at adding one smile at a time as we make changes to our future.







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 MORRIESMITH60@GMAIL.COM

PAM BARDELL  
 POSTMASTER DIXON IL  
 815 -284-6015 WORK



**UPMA PAC FOR  
POSTAL MANAGERS  
MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION**

I'll do my share. Enclosed is:

|             |      |      |       |
|-------------|------|------|-------|
| \$10        | \$25 | \$50 | \$100 |
| Other _____ |      | Cash | Check |

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this with your contribution to:  
 LARRY WIENEKE  
 HC 61 Box 13B, Hardin, IL 62047-9702.

**SCHOLARSHIP DONATION  
FORM**

Make a tax deductible contribution today.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(OPTIONAL)  
 IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

Please include name and address of family so I can send them notification of the memorial donation.

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

Please include address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed scholarship form to:  
 Illinois UPMA Scholarship Fund  
 Steve Hall  
 8906 Burton Rd.  
 Wonder Lake IL 60097-2255

**Upcoming  
Events**

2017 UPMA Convention  
 August 5th-10th  
 Louisville,IL

Training Conference  
 Nov 11-12th  
 Peoria IL

Legislative Event  
 Washinton DC  
 Feb 26-27th 2018

