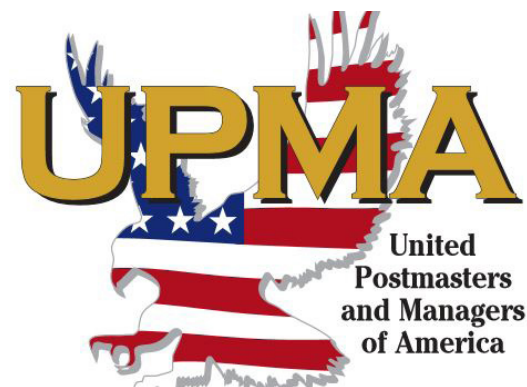


# Illinois Postal News Leader



May June 2018

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

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## Congratulations to the Chapter Award Winners 2018



## Illinois State Officers

**PRESIDENT Edmund Carley** Lincoln IL (217) 899-9256 edmund.a.carley@att.net

**EXECUTIVE VP / MEMBERSHIP Meta Belford** Wyoming IL (309) 369-2071 dabellford5@gmail.com

**TREASURER Shelley Zellers** Havana IL (217) 836-2675 shelzel2@yahoo.com

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## Standing Committees

Articles & By Laws: **Pam Bardell** Dixon IL (815) 291-9726

Signature Credit Union Secretary: **Carol Sue Carnes** carnes2@frontiernet.net

State Convention: 2019 **Morrie Smith** (217) 473 0650 morriesmith60@gmail.com

Scholarship: **Steve Hall** (815) 575-2255 schall@comcast.net

## UPMA National Vice Presidents West

**Greg Nors** Hillsboro, TX (254) 582-3572 g-nors@msn.com

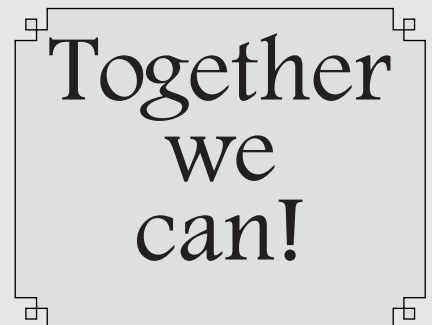
**Norma Powell** Groveland, CA (209) 962-7792 npowell55@sbcglobal.net

**Ellen Opperman** DeWitt, IA (563) 659-3712 eopper1234@hotmail.com

**Edmund Carley** Lincoln, IL (217) 732-4912 edmund.a.carley@att.net

**Dan Heins** Stewartville, MN (507) 533-4571 postmasterdan@ymail.com

**Stephanie Jett** Piggott, AR (870) 598-2706 stephjett74@yahoo.com



## Area Coordinators and National Board Advisors

### Western Area 2 (HAWKEYE)

Coordinator: **Michelle Feldhacker** N.Sioux City SD (605) 660-1032 mcfeld@iw.net

Advisor: **Ellen Opperman** DeWitt IA (563) 659-3712 eopper1234@hotmail.com

### Great Lakes Area (LAKELAND, CHICAGO, CENTRAL ILLINOIS AND GATEWAY)

Coordinator: **Mindy Barnwell** Sheridan MI (989) 763-0185 4hornetfans@gmail.com

Advisor: **National Secretary Treasurer Jim Maher** Chesterfield MO (636) 532-5999 jmaher300@aol.com

**UPMA is not a union. It is a professional association. It is an organization of people who hold proud titles. It does not discriminate by race, gender, or salary level. It is a vehicle, an avenue, a method and a tool that can and does help, assist, benefit, and encourage members to be a better Postal Managers.**



## Edmund Carley~ Illinois State President

### 5-point communication plan to reach out to You

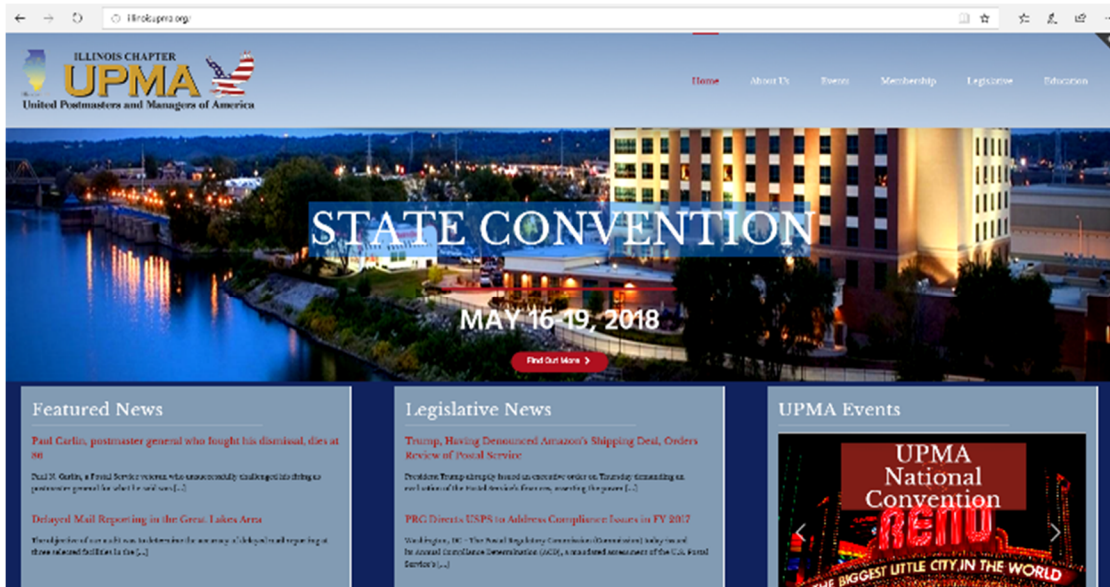
It was a true honor to preside over the 2nd Annual Illinois UPMA State convention in Peoria May 16th-19th. Your IL Executive Board met on Wednesday Night and continues to work hard for the membership. The Board meets monthly, either by teleconference or in person, and minutes of all meetings are kept, and published, in outstanding fashion by your State Secretary Bev Freehill. In addition, your board members also have various national telecons that they must attend. As your State President I have attended several National telecons that have been held as well as the Great Lakes Area and Western II Area Coordinator monthly telecons.

Executive Vice President Meta Belford also attends many membership telecons and under her leadership the Illinois Chapter has signed up 28 Postmasters, 24 Supervisors/Managers, 3 PMRs and 9 Associates this past year. That is 64 new members for the Illinois Chapter and IL UPMA also signed up several Associates and/or EAS for both the Wisconsin Chapter and the Missouri Chapters at Career Awareness Conferences or PME/NSP classes in the Lakeland and Gateway District. Illinois UPMA also attends monthly Postmaster Essentials Classes in Gateway, Central Illinois and Lakeland Districts and New Supervisor Program classes in Gateway, Central Illinois, Chicago and Lakeland Districts. Meta sends every newly promoted Postmaster and Supervisor a letter from the Chapter and organizes a follow up phone call from an officer. Every new member, who signs up received a welcome packet and was personally invited to State Convention and 3 Digit Meetings. During the 3 Digit Swing in February 2018 the National Office sent targeted letters to non-member offices and phone calls were made to invite those Postmasters or OICs to join and attend upcoming meetings.

The audit committee met at convention and confirmed that your State Treasurer, Shelley Zellers, does an outstanding job. The Chapters' finances were audited, and all was found to be in order, the Chapter is registered as a non-profit organization with the State of Illinois and Shelley made sure that we filed taxes as such in May 2018 for Calendar Year 2017. Plus, the Chapter has an established budget and is making sure that every dollar spent is to benefit the organization and its members.

This year the Illinois Chapter has embarked on a 5-point communication plan to reach out and bring in members both new and old. Under the guidance of award winning Illinois Postal News Leader editor Cheryl Quaka, every message the Chapter sends out is delivered by the newsletter, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and by email. All these methods push the connection through the new [illinoisupma.org](http://illinoisupma.org) website. This investment has allowed the chapter to communicate with as many members as possible and all modes of contact communicate with each other to make sure that members are better informed than ever. The, National Award-Winning, Illinois Postal News Leader remains the premier mode of communication and is published 6 times a year.





It serves as the hub for communications for Illinois Chapter members. It includes training slides, links to the national website and full details of all chapter events. Members can also sign up for an electronic version of a newsletter and promotes the rest of the Chapter media.



[facebook.com/IllinoisUPMA](https://facebook.com/IllinoisUPMA)

[instagram.com/illinoisupma](https://instagram.com/illinoisupma)

[twitter.com/IllinoisUPMA](https://twitter.com/IllinoisUPMA)

The Illinois Chapter also has an email list of over 400 addresses that is updated constantly, and all members are encouraged to sign up on the website. The Chapter uses MailChimp to send email blasts. So, potentially, members receive tweets, Facebook posts, Instagram pictures and an email to supplement the Newsletter and allow them to communicate with the Chapter. Of course, the chapter continues to send direct mailings; two were sent out recently to promote incentives for attendance to both State Convention and the Legislative Summit in DC.

Illinois UPMA is well served by Legislative VP Marianne Miller and PAC VP Jerry Thixton. Both were present on all telecons that National Legislative Director Bob Levi held in the past twelve months and received the Certificates of Completion from him. Both Jerry and Marianne write articles for the IPNL and run a PAC Table at events. The Illinois Chapter sent 12 delegates to the Legislative Summit at Washington DC in February 2018. They met with Congressional representatives from 18 Districts and both Senators. In fact, we met with more actual Congress Members this year than ever in the past.



Illinois has a strong tradition of giving to PAC, with 112 individual donors who give an average of more than \$3000 a year. This year the IL UPMA Chapter raised over \$1200 at the 2018 State Convention

Immediate Past President Patti Sadnick did a terrific job as State Convention Chair and continues to be an inspiration and a mentor to the entire Chapter, Education VP Janet Spanos organized outstanding training that was given at Convention. Illinois UPMA has an established award program, this year at Convention we inducted three new members of the Illinois UPMA Hall of Fame and named a Member of the Year and an Executive Board Member of the Year.



Hall of Fame Class of 2018; Timothy "TAG" Gambatese, Anthony Leonardi and Ruthie Beale (not pictured), Member of the Year Roger Roten and Executive Board Member of the Year Bev Freehill. Also pictured, Hall of Fame inductees class of 2017 Patti Sadnick and John Sertich, John also received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2018 Convention.

I continue to be inspired and motivated by all the hard-working members of the Illinois Chapter of UPMA. I pledge to you now that we will always fight for what is right when it comes to the pay and working conditions of our members. Here is to another great year and always remember; together We Can.





## Patti Sadnick~Past President

Our 2018 UPMA state convention is history and it was a good one! The Embassy Suites in East Peoria did us proud again. The hotel with all of its amenities as well as the conference center did not disappoint us. If you were there, it was great to see you! And if you were unable to make it, here are a few highlights.

There were approximately 65 attendees, with a few less on Thursday and a few more on Friday. We ended up with 6 first timers, Kasey Simmons, Brock Norvel, Rodney Tenholder, Molly Bazyn-Menard, Edward Frentzel, and Evelyn Campbell. Here's hoping you all will be second timers next year!

We started our time together with the JROTC from Pekin with a POW ceremony that was very moving. If you looked around when they were done, there were not too many dry eyes in the place.

Our speakers were Michael Clark, Central IL District Budget/Financial Analyst giving us the proper way to prepare a deposit. Believe it or not, many of us have not been doing this correctly.

Next up was Tim Markland, Central IL Labor Relations Specialist. His topic was understanding harassment and how to prevent it from happening, something we all need to be aware of.

Laura McNulty, Central IL District Finance Manager broke down the parts of NPA, how to move our numbers and what we should be looking for.

Dale Lehnherr, Gateway District HR Generalist gave us a good program on something we all look forward to, Retirement! He showed us how to prepare for our retirement, what to start planning for in the different stages of our career.

Kristen Braaksma, MCSO from Lakeland District gave her presentation on Variance Programs.

Our next day included our A/Area VP Erica Brix. It was a pleasure to hear her speak and tell of her plans for Great Lakes Area. Also one of the highlights of this convention, was the chance to ask questions of Ms. Brix as well as District Managers or their representatives. Many questions were addressed including staffing for PTF's in offices. It was brought to their attention that most of our offices only have enough people to just cover their APO and RMPO but when prime time vacation comes, we don't have people to put in place. Also was brought up about PTPM Postmasters who need coverage as well.

After much discussion about different places for state convention, it was voted on to hold next years 2019 convention in Springfield IL and to return to Peoria in 2020.

Throughout the convention, Gaylon Hayes was there to provide music during each of our sessions as well as karaoke in the evening hospitality suite, nicely done as always! Speaking of the hospitality suite, Greg Duncan and Barry DeJaynes did a wonderful job again this year of stocking and serving treats and drinks from Wednesday night through Friday night. This is a major task and you did it so well! Thanks to all of you for helping to contribute to a great convention!!



# Bev Freehill~UPMA IL State Secretary



## Minutes of the 2nd Annual Illinois UPMA State Convention Minutes May 17-19, 2018

Embassy Suites, East Peoria, IL

Thursday May 17th, 2018

Convention started at 8:30 a.m. with Opening ceremonies performed by the Pekin JROTC, followed by the Pledge led by Postmaster, and Veteran, Jerry Thixton, and the invocation. Rules and courtesy as well as vendor recognition was given. Executive Board reports were given starting with IL State President, Edmund Carley. Edmund welcomed the crowd and introduced John Crain, Postmaster of Peoria who gave some welcoming remarks. John thanked us for coming and mentioned how

important it is to be there and that we need each other more than before. John Sertich spoke on Adverse Action and gave some helpful pointers; be in your office when you are supposed to, do all your reports, it is not your money; not your property, keep your hands, and comments to yourself. Give Adverse action a call when needed; you are not alone. There was a reading of proposed by-law changes and resolutions. Training was given by Michael Clark, CID Budget/Financial Analyst instructed us on Proper Bank Deposit and Registered Preparation. This was followed by a presentation by Tim Markland, CID Labor Relations Specialist on the topic of Understanding, Investigating, and Preventing Harassment. Lunch was provided. Then, more trainings by Laura McNulty, CID Manager, Finance regarding NPA, Dale Lehnherr, Gateway HR Generalist (Principal) on Retirement, and Kristen Braaksma, MCSO, Madison WI (Lakeland Dist) on Variance Programs were given. Both Candidates for National President addressed the group. They were Dan Heins and Rich Hui. Rich Springer, one of the two candidates for National VP was also present and addressed the group. Then there was discussion regarding the Time and Place of the 2019 and 2020 State conventions. Offers have been made by the following cities: Springfield, Decatur, Bloomington, Galena. Voting will take place on Friday. Session was adjourned.

Friday May 18th, 2018

Session began at 8:30 with opening by IL President Edmund Carley introducing Acting Great Lakes Area VP Erica Brix. Following her opening remarks, we had the opportunity to present questions and concerns to the Area Manager Panel. Erica spoke to us about the task force being implemented by President Trump and the 120-day window. She also discussed HR 756.

With the Election forthcoming, she asked that we all make sure we take LMS 10026981 and are familiar with the requirements of the Hatch Act. Ms. Brix stressed the importance of scans and consistent service as well as safety. Safety is very near and dear to her heart as it should be to all of us. She stressed making sure that safe practices are being enforced. There should be no texting while driving. Safety glasses should be worn when appropriate. CARE meetings should be conducted for those employees who have 3 years or less of service and for the repeaters. Make sure to have meetings that make an impact and make the employee realize the significance of safety and their wellbeing. Be sure to make use of the PS4584 – Safe Driver Observations. Increase Engagement. The Postal Pulse will be coming out on 5/22-6/22/18. This time it will include a comment section. It was suggested to Ms. Brix that perhaps Headquarters could consolidate the comments and have a service talk that addresses the Top 5 Concerns from the Postal Pulse Survey. Lastly, she addressed the Customer Experience. There are 18,000 calls a day made to the ECC. It is important that we always address each case with a quality, timely case resolution. Utilize Package Tool and minimize the WTIL.

After the Area VP spoke, the attendees of the IL State convention were able to have District breakouts. This allowed us to speak with our respective DM's and/or POOMS. Lunch was provided, followed by



National Elections. 25 votes were cast for National VP. 25 votes went to Rich Springer; 24 votes to Brent Cofield. 26 votes were cast for National President. 21 were cast for Dan Heins; 5 were cast for Rich Hui. All proposed changes to the bylaws and the resolution passed unanimously.

The 2019 and 2020 convention sites were voted on. The 2019 IL State convention will be held in Springfield, IL and the 2020 IL State convention will be held in Peoria, IL. Following a brief break, we were able to hear from our National UPMA Co-President, Anthony Leonardi. Tony discussed topics which included membership, pay package, NPA, education, and he discussed the 2018 National convention. He reminded us that the convention will be in Reno, NV at the Nugget Casino Resort from July 21-27. Room rates are \$102.50 and there is free parking. Tuesday will be a free day. On June 15th, the registration rate increases. He also discussed the 2019 National convention which will be held at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, CT on July 27-Aug 2, 2019. The room rates will be \$139. For 2020 the sites which are being considered are St Louis, MO and Omaha NE. Also keep on your calendars to attend the Legislative Summit to be held on January 28-29, 2019 at the Renaissance Hotel in Arlington, VA with a room cost of \$159 per night. Door prizes were drawn; vendors were recognized. Session was adjourned which was followed by the Grand Banquet. Scholarship Award winners were announced, and scholarship presented.

Saturday May 19th, 2018

Session began at 9 a.m. The session consisted of a very moving Memorial service. We remembered each member who passed on this past year by lighting a star when each of their names was read. The 2nd Annual State Convention of the UPMA IL Chapter was adjourned.

## Announcement

The 2018 Convention passed a resolution to assess IL UPMA members \$1.00/PP, starting November 1st, 2018, to fund stipends to attend UPMA events. This must be ratified by the National Executive Board, however, the IL Executive Board resolved to “seed” this fund with \$10,000 and offer a stipend for IL UPMA members who attend Reno, NV convention. To qualify IL UPMA members must attend all general sessions in Reno, attend all mandatory meetings and at least one training session. The stipend will be \$190 which is the lowest rate of registration. Expense vouchers will be available at the State caucus in Reno.



## Barb Anderson~ Retiree President

### Getting to know your National Retiree President Jack D Wilkins

We were honored to have our National Retiree President at our UPMA Illinois State Convention in Peoria, IL.

I interviewed Jack and he very gracious in relating his postal career



On May 23rd, the Vandalia Postmaster Retirees & guests met at Ponderosa.

Standing: Loraine Yager, Tony Williams, Raymond Clark, Lawrence Carie, Larry Wieneke, Harold Lieb, Kathy Yager, Treva Beals, Kay Lieb, Bill Brandenburg, Steve Beckmeier, Kirk Edgecombe

Seated: Alice Wellen, Mary Beckmeier, Paul Luna, Pat Goffinet-Luna, Sharon Stolte, Barb Carie, Edie Brandenburg  
Our next gathering will be on Wednesday Oct 24, 2018 at the Vandalia Ponderosa. it opens at

11 AM and dinner is at 11.30 AM

Jack started his career in September, 1965 as sub-clerk/carrier in Carbondale IL

In November, 1965 he was drafted and served 2 years in the U. S. Army.

In October 67, he made regular as his time in service counted for his seniority.

In 1971 the Post Office Department became the U. S. Postal Service under the Postal Reorganization Act of 1971. That bill allowed in service employees to apply for Postmaster positions. Prior to that all Postmasters were political appointees.

September 1972 he became Postmaster in a level 15 office in Pittsburg, IL.

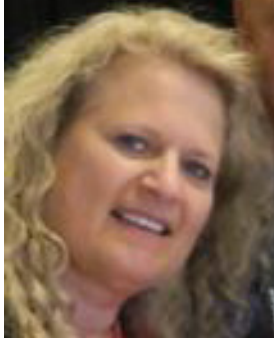
He was the Postmaster of Metropolis, IL from 1973 until 1979. In 1979 until January 1984 he was Postmaster in Granite City, IL. He then became PCES candidate and was appointed MSC Manager/Postmaster in 1984 in Roswell, NM.

He was MSC/Manager/Postmaster of Reno NV from July 1987 until his retirement in April, 2004

having completed 39 years and 3 months of his U. S. Postal Service career

Barbara Anderson, retired president of UPMA





## Shelley Zellers~ Illinois State Treasurer

The annual audit of the UPMA accounts was performed at State Convention in Peoria, (see attached 2017 Treasurer's Report.) I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the audit committee. Try as I may to simplify the process for them, it is a big job. Each year they work tirelessly and without complaints to verify every transaction made in the previous year. Many thanks to Jerry Thixton, Susie Bedwell, and Marianne Miller!

Have a wonderful summer and I hope to see you all in Reno!

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTMASTERS

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

12/31/2017

Balance on hand January 1, 2016      January 1, 2017      \$115,647.61

Receipts      \$104,494.10

    Dividend      \$343.63

    Deposits      \$104,150.47

Disbursements      \$87,050.66

    Editor \$0.00

    Executive Board      \$14,624.48

    IPN Postage & Fees      \$8,545.00

    Leadership      \$6,416.25

    Legal & Accounting      \$625.00

    Membership      \$0.00

    Memorials      \$0.00

    Midstate Conference      \$0.00

    Misc.      \$4,531.99

    National Convention      \$22,524.55

    PAC      \$0.00

    Pins & gifts      \$0.00

    PM Directory      \$0.00

    PM Rep      \$713.43

    President      \$2.66

    Region Meeting      \$0.00

    Retiree Expenses      \$3,855.00

    Secretary/Treasurer      \$55.65

    Service Rep      \$0.00

    State Convention      \$21,756.49

    Training Conference      \$1,558.72

    Webmaster      \$1,841.44



Balance on hand November 7, 2015      December 31, 2017      \$133,091.05





## Meta Belford ~ Illinois State VP

Another UPMA State Convention has come and gone. A big shout-out to Patty and all who helped make it informational and fun. Thank you! I am thrilled to say we signed up 69 new members in the last year – from May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018.

Current synopsis of our membership:

Active Postmaster	319, down 5
Manager/Supervisors	62, down 1
Associate and PMR members	85, down 1
Retired members	429, down 66
Compensated members	23, up 14

With 388 Active Members, our total membership (including retired members) is 918, which is down 59 members. These numbers were pulled from the May 1st report I received. Keep in mind we offer 6 months free membership right now, so sometimes the numbers are a few off because of that.

Our membership numbers are down from May 2017, despite all the new members we've signed up in the last 12 months. We need to continue to promote UPMA and all its benefits to our fellow supervisors, postmasters, PMRs, and EAS personnel – anyone who could benefit from our training and networking.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped spread the word about UPMA or approached a fellow employee about the benefits of becoming a member. I'd also like to thank everyone who has taken time from their weekends to attend training conferences across the state to promote UPMA. Training conferences put on by the USPS are the best opportunity to endorse, encourage and promote this great organization. If you are interested in going to the training conferences to help, please let me know. If there are enough of us helping at these events, you can usually attend some of the training classes to benefit yourself too! Please keep up the great job of promoting. Remember, if your enthusiasm comes thru while you're talking about UPMA you will sign a new member with ease.

I hope you are signed up to go to National Convention in Reno. There is always outstanding training on a national level at these conventions, and when you come back you can't help but be pumped up and ready to recruit, recruit, recruit!



# Scholarship winners



Ryan Wendt and Family



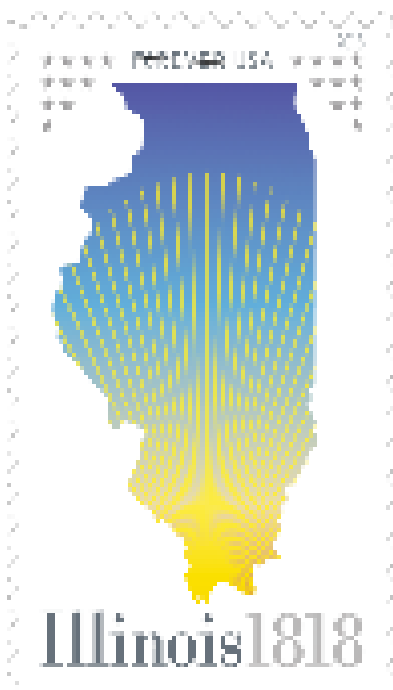
Devin Koester and Family



Not pictured  
Julie Mahlfeldt  
Jay Pulliam  
Ellie Buening

2018

## IL UPMA Convention Scholarship Report



There were nine applicants for the Illinois Chapter UPMA Scholarship Awards this year.

And as usual, it was a very close competition between some very talented, unselfish and energetic future leaders. The Scholarship Committee selected five winners, each to receive a \$1000 scholarship. This year's recipients are Julie Mahlfeldt, Jay Pulliam, Ellie Buening, Ryan Wendt and Devin Koester.

If you would like more information please let me know

Mary Ford





***2018 Southern Officers Conference  
October 4-7, 2018***

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **State Representing** \_\_\_\_\_

**February 20, 2018-May 31, 2018--\$100.00**  
**June 1, 2018-September 1, 2018--\$125.00**  
**After September 1, 2018 and on site--\$150.00**

***Omni Houston Hotel Westside***

**13210 Katy Freeway  
Houston, TX 77079  
281-558-8338**

**Room rates: \$119. (Includes 2 complimentary breakfasts)**

**Return registration form and fee to:**  
**ROSA GONZALES**  
**2843 PRIVATE ROAD 3778**  
**WILLS POINT, TX 75169**

**Look for updates on facebook pages: SOC 2018, Texas Chapter or UPMA, Texas Chapter or Website: [Texasupma.com](http://Texasupma.com)**

**Flying** \_\_\_\_ **Driving** \_\_\_\_

**If you need Transportation From Hobby or George Bush International Airport, please complete the information below:**

**Airline and flight number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Data and time of arrival** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date and time of departure** \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks to be made out to TX UPMA**





## Marianne Miller ~Illinois State VP

**THE END.** Not happily ever after. Not riding off gallantly into the sunset. Just...**THE END.**

If this is how you would like your career with the United States Postal Service to conclude, then do nothing. Perhaps you like that type of conclusion – short, simple, no fanfare. But that is not reality.

The reality is, our United States Postal Service is trying to survive a slow and agonizing demise. Congress has been slow to react to our cries for help, thus rendering us helpless and soon to be lifeless. Is this how an institution that has been in existence longer than the United States should come to its end? I do not believe so.

For the Postal Service to be restored to a vibrant and healthy organization, we need Congress to answer our cries for help. It is quite apparent that our cries are too faint for them to recognize. Therefore, we need to be louder, bolder, and much more energetic in our efforts.

House Bill H.R.756, and Senate Bill S.2629, the Postal Reform Act, are bipartisan efforts to breathe life back into our ailing Postal Service. The two bills are in different stages of the legislative process and need our efforts to help them garner traction, leading them to their respective floor for eventual approval.

To assist us in getting the Bills the attention they require, Bob Levi has provided us with letter formats which address each Bill's merits. Please take a moment to personally write your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators urging them to address the dire state of our U.S. Postal Service. Your energy and backing of these two bills is extremely important. If action is not taken by August by our legislators we will be back to square one, forced to begin the process all over again.

Should action not be taken, our U.S. Postal Service will be forced to make even larger cuts, and make further prioritization of debts and expenses. We need your assistance to make our cry for help heard in Washington, DC. Make it loud. Make it persistent. Make it personal.

Our United States Postal Service is gasping to capture each shallow breath in order to stay alive. Our future is fading. **THE END.**

What will you do with this cliff hanger? Now is your opportunity to write the ending to this 'True Life' story. Will it end in tragedy or triumph?

God Bless~

Marianne Miller

V.P. Legislative Representative



# Sample letters to your Congressmen

Dear Rep. \_\_\_\_\_,

As your constituent, I request you urge the House of Representatives leadership to schedule H.R.756, the Postal Reform Act, for full House consideration as soon as possible.

H.R.756 is a bipartisan, balanced and constructive legislative approach to address the challenges confronting and the opportunities available to the modern U.S. Postal Service. The legislative provides greater pricing and product flexibility, helps protect universal postal services and stabilizes the financial situation of to the Postal Service. Moreover, H.R.756 helps alleviate the impact of the retiree health liability, resulting from postal legislative enacted in 2006. H.R.756 was approved by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee in spring 2017 and has been pending ever since.

Please share with me your position on the legislation and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Dear Sen. \_\_\_\_\_,

As your constituent, I request you urge the Senate leadership to schedule S.2629, the Postal Reform Act, for full Senate consideration as soon as possible.

S.2629 is a bipartisan, balanced and constructive legislative approach to address the challenges confronting and the opportunities available to the modern U.S. Postal Service. The legislative provides greater pricing and product flexibility, helps protect universal postal services and stabilizes the financial situation of to the Postal Service. Moreover, S.2629 helps alleviate the impact of the retiree health liability, resulting from postal legislative enacted in 2006. In April, S.2629 was placed in the Senate calendar.

Please share with me your position on the legislation and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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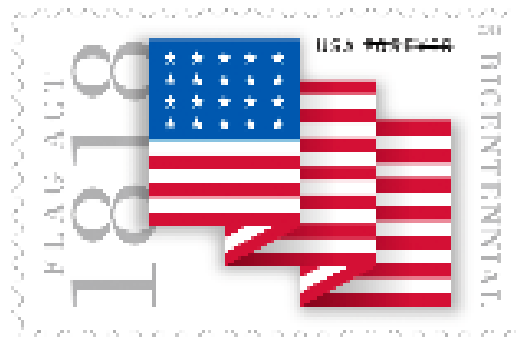
Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

On May 4, Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Jeff Pon, transmitted to House Speaker Paul Ryan a legislative proposal that would slash the benefits earned by postal and federal employees and retirees by over \$143.5 billion over the next decade. This proposal would have a devastating impact on my family budget.

OPM's legislative package includes the elimination of the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) Supplemental Annuity, which provides a financial safety net for federal annuitants who retire prior to Social Security eligibility; eliminates the cost-of-living-allowance for FERS annuitants; reduces the cost-of-living-allowance for Civil Service Retirement System annuitants by 0.5%; changes the calculation of the retirement formula for current postal and federal employees that reduces their earned annuity; and increases dramatically the employee contribution towards their future federal pension. This legislative package is punitive and unfair. Consequently, I request that you oppose the OPM proposal. At you earliest convenience, please let me know your views.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,





# Banquet Pictures 2018



NEW NUMBER FOR NUGGET HOTEL IN RENO: from Gerri Swarm

The Nugget Hotel in Reno has a new telephone number for making reservations to attend the National Convention. Here is the new information:

Nugget Casino Resort

800/648-1177

GROUP CODE: GUPMA18





# 2nd UPMA National Convention

July 21-27, 2018

## Official Registration Form

Registration also available at [www.upma.org](http://www.upma.org)

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 Your Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ OIC City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Associate  
☐ UPMA Retired  
☐ Spouse Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Guest E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

First-Timer/  
UPMA Retired  
First-Timer?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

### Convention Registration (only once price per block)

Please circle the appropriate fee:

	8/10/17- 12/31/17	1/1/18- 2/28/18	3/1/18- 6/15/18	After 6/15/18
Postmaster/Manager/Supervisor/ OIC/Associate	\$190	\$215	\$240	\$265
UPMA Retired or Guest*	\$167.50	\$182.25	\$206	\$223.75
(UPMA Retired Luncheon included)				
Auxiliary/Spouse/ UPMA member Guest	\$142.50	\$161.25	\$180	\$198.75
(Does NOT include UPMA Retired Luncheon)				

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

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

Grand Banquet: July 26, 2018

### Payment Information

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional tickets for UPMA Retired  
Luncheon @ \$25 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Check payable to UPMA

☐ Visa/MasterCard

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

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

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

Mail with full payment to UPMA National Convention  
Registration, 8 Herbert St., Alexandria, VA 22305-2900.

### Hotel Reservation

UPMA has a special rate at the convention hotel beginning Sept. 1, 2017. 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, 2018. 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 June 1, 2018, or all rooms in the block are sold, whichever comes first.

#### Nugget Casino Resort

1-800-843-2427

\$90—single/double/triple/quad

Be sure to request the UPMA 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, 2018, for 75 percent refund; and by May 1, 2018, for 50 percent refund. No refunds after June 1, 2018. These dates will be strictly adhered to; exceptions will be made only in cases of illness or death.

# Reno, Nevada

M

Michelle Feldhacker VP Western Area 2  
<mcfeld@iw.net>

## What does being a member of UPMA (United Postmasters and Managers of America) mean to you?

Does it mean belonging to an organization?

Does it mean you have friends to call and talk to when you need to discuss work?

Does it mean you have insurance for your job?

For many of us- it means a little of all of these things. Did you know that all National leaders and state presidents are current USPS employees? They are actively working and not retired? That as an active member, you have the privilege to vote and hold these leadership positions at all levels of the organization. Did you know that you have access to training videos and information regarding the organization, legislative issues, and information that affects your career? Do you know your member number? IF not, contact an officer in this magazine- to have them help you get your member number. Once you log into the member site- there is so much more information available to you.

I briefly mentioned- insurance for your job... After you have been a dues-paying member for six months, you have the benefit of our Legal Defense Plan and network of Adverse Action Member reps... should the need arise.

Networking- to me is the biggest reason to be a member of UPMA. Many of us work with other Postmasters/Managers from time to time... Why not get to know them? What better way than to go to training together or meetings? They might be the one that you need to call for help down the road. Don't you want to know who you are talking to? Don't you want to build that relationship with someone who could help you? Maybe they have already been there and done that... and have the answers to your problems. Maybe they are the person who is going to help you move up within the organization? Many times- it isn't necessarily what you know... but who you know.

Make sure when working with others that you have integrity in your manner. You are always on "display" for those around you. BUT, UPMA can offer you a huge network of Postmasters, Managers and Supervisors who can assist you in your everyday duties. They can become your mentors and a possibility of a future opportunity. I know that is one of the reasons why I go to the National events. Not just to see my fellow UPMA members- but to get together with my "postal" family. Many of these people have become part of my family. When I needed help for a fellow postal employee's family member in Tennessee/Kentucky- who was driving home for a funeral- and had an unexpected issue arise- I was able to call some fellow UPMA family members to come to the rescue. I know I have heard many Postmasters tell their children- that if they ever needed help while traveling- to stop in at a Post Office, and tell them your mother or father was a Postmaster. Many things have changed over the years... and you might not get quite as far with this as you used to... BUT, many of us go above and beyond to help our families out. That is why I belong to UPMA... to help fellow managers and to build a wonderful network of friends.

The purpose written on the back of a flier for UPMA states "The purpose of UPMA is to assist, mentor and guide all Postmasters, Managers and Supervisors- as well as anyone aspiring to these positions- toward achieving their professional goals. We are an avenue through which all United States Postal Service employees can help one another and themselves in matters concerning their careers. We provide the essential training and networking necessary for every member to be successful."

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## Jerry Thixton ~ IL State VP

OPM chief recently recommended the following regarding the postal retirement plans

- ~ Increase employee retirement contributions by 1% per year until reaching 7.25%
- ~ Eliminate cost of living adjustments (COLA) for FERS and reduce COLA for

### CSRS

- ~ Abolish the FERS supplement Annuity for retirees prior to Social Security eligibility
- ~ Change the computation formula from high 3 years salary to high 5 years salary

The US Postal Service is the only entity - public or private - required to prefund its retiree health benefits. Our agency emerged from the recent recession seriously wounded by this prefunding obligation. The payment for this prefunding obligation in FY18 was \$6.7 Billion. Absent this annual multi billion dollar burden, the Postal Service would have realized operating surpluses.

For the reasons above, your organization, United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA) supports HR 756, the bipartisan "Postal Reform Act" and looks forward to supporting a Senate Version of the bill. Please contact your congressional representative and let them know of your support of (House Resolution) HR 756.

If you wish to contribute to PAC so we can continue to keep raising issues to our elected representatives that are important to all of us, send your PAC contributions to PO Box 1, Lincoln, IL 62656 or sign up for ePAC to be automatically withdrawn from your check. We raised a great amount at State Convention and had 100% participation, ask any state board member how you can help by contributing to PAC to help us protect our interests.

## RETIREE CORNER



### **Southern Illinois retired Postmaster get together on May 16, 2018.**

Next get together is September 19, 2018, 12 noon Mackies Pizza in Marion Il. Retirees pictured are left to right: Phyllis Fisher, Frances Hardin, Melody Nance, Paula Logan, Nina Ferrell, Lelia Canada, Brenda Douglass, Charlotte Muniz, Evelyn Harris, Jim Kaufman. Seated are: Cheryl James Jackson, Virginia Goeltzer, Herb Goeltzer, Mary Ellen Grisley. Judy Kaufman took the picture. Good time and good conversation. Come join us September 19.





# Carol Sue Carnes ~ Credit Union

## Signature Credit Union

### SIGNATURE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

I just returned from Peoria and the IL State Convention. Many thanks to Patti Sadnick, Chairman for a great convention, sorry more were not in attendance. Lots of great speakers, evening entertainment, delicious meals, etc.

A table was set up for information, brochures and give a ways from Signature FCU.

Many thanks to all who stopped by and congratulations to Jerry Thixton, winner of the \$50.00 Visa card from Signature.

Everyone was especially happy to see the Certificates rates had increased in April.

3 mth – 1.05% APY - 6 mth. – 1.15 - 9 mth – 1.25 - 12 mth – 1.75 - 18 mth – 1.85

2 yr – 1.95 - 3 yr – 2.05 - 4 yr – 2.15 and 5 yr – 2.50 (Minimum deposit \$500.)

I hope by now you have downloaded our mobile app. You can manage all of your accounts in the palm of your hand, everywhere you are. One of the most convenient features is the Remote Deposit Anywhere. Just choose the account you want to deposit the check into, enter the check amount, take a photo of the front and back of the endorsed check and submit. This app also allows you to view balances and transfer funds, view accounts, Loan and Visa transactions, make Loan and Visa payments, apply for a loan, Bill Pay and even helps you find a shared branch or a Free ATM near you.

Now is the time to share our credit unions most used products and services with everyone in your life. Whether it be your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, your siblings, your neighbors or those you work with, let them know how easy it is to join and what all we have available.

If you have a checking account with us now is the time to earn BIG with our high-yield Choice Checking. Use your debit card at least 10 times per month; have direct deposit totaling \$1,000. or more into your account per month, be enrolled in e-statements

and your balance up to \$15,000. will earn 3.00%APY. We also offer over 30,000 FREE ATM's and 5,000+ Shared Branches.

Those of you attending the National Convention in Reno, NV remember all members are invited to the Annual Meeting on Wednesday afternoon, July 25. Ballots will be mailed on or about June 25 and are due in office of Teller of Election by midnight July 20. You have the option of voting online or by paper ballot. If you choose paper ballot we wish to advise that we will no longer supply a Voter ID Form. Instead, the ballot will contain a unique bar code that will distinguish your name and member number, while preserving the secrecy of your ballot. A third-party Teller of Election administers the voting process, so your vote is never seen by our staff or officials. For those of you who have elected to vote by electronic means, you'll be receiving your ballot via the email address you have supplied. This will arrive around mid to late June at the same time that paper ballots will be mailed.

Improving our members' financial lives is something that we believe in and strive for every day. We are proud to announce that we gave back to our members more than \$2.6 Million in dividends in 2017.

If you have any questions or concerns please call the Credit Union toll free 800-336-0284.

Carol Sue Carnes, Secretary – Signature Federal Credit Union

Brussels, IL 62013 email: [carnes2@frontiernet.net](mailto:carnes2@frontiernet.net)



## Full day Personal Leave Documentation

When an exempt manager is directed or required to work on a non-scheduled day, or a holiday, they are entitled to take a full 8-hour day of personal leave some time in the future: it is no longer required to be in the same pay week. The below 3971 is an example of how J Q Postmaster worked the Saturday before Memorial Day and is taking off the Day after 4th of July. The important thing to remember is the phrase “Do Not Charge to Leave”. Also, all leave should be entered into eRMS and copies kept locally. Postmasters can schedule up to 40 hours of their own Annual Leave without approval but all 3971s and any other documentation should also be sent to their POOM for information purposes. Full day personal leave is not meant to be “banked” and should be used sparingly, but as the postal business evolves it will become more prevalent. UPMA hears of many variations of this process and is trying to standardize how different Districts and POOM areas observe this important pay issue.



### Request for or Notification of Absence

Employee's Name (Print last, first, MI.) <b>Postmaster, John or Jane Q.</b>		Employee ID <b>12345678</b>		Date Submitted (MM/DD/YYYY) <b>May 26, 2018</b>		No. of Hours Requested <b>8.0</b>		<div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">SCHEDULED</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">UNSCHEDULED</div>	PP	Year																																					
Installation (For postmaster's leave, show city, state, and ZIP Code) <b>Anytown USA</b>		N/S Day <b>Yes</b>		Pay Loc. No. <b>001</b>		D/A Code <b>080</b>					From: Date <b>07/05/2018</b>	Hour <b>08:00</b>																																			
Time of Call or Request		Scheduled Reporting Time		If Needed, Employee Can Be Reached At: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not call		Thru: Date <b>07/05/2018</b>							Hour <b>17:00</b>																																		
Type of Absence <input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday/AL Lv Exch <input type="checkbox"/> Carrier 701 Rule <input type="checkbox"/> LWOP (See reverse) <input type="checkbox"/> Sick (See reverse) <input type="checkbox"/> Late <input type="checkbox"/> COP (See reverse) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <b>Personal Leave</b>		Documentation (For official use only) <input type="checkbox"/> FMLA Requested (Certification review - HRSSC) <input type="checkbox"/> For COP Leave (CA1 on file) <input type="checkbox"/> For Advanced Sick Leave (PS 1221 on file) <input type="checkbox"/> For Military Leave (Orders reviewed) <input type="checkbox"/> For Court Leave (Summons reviewed) <input type="checkbox"/> For Higher Level (PS 1723 on file) <input type="checkbox"/> Scheme Training Testing Qualifying (Memo on file)		Revised Schedule for (Date) Begin Work Lunch Out End Work Total Hours		Approved in Advance <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Day</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Init.</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Hours</div>	Sat 01																																						
												Sun 02																																			
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																																							Tue 11								
																																										Wed 12					
																																													Thur 13		

Remarks (Do not enter medical information. See Privacy Act Statement on reverse of this form.)  
**Worked NSD Saturday 5/26/2018 do not charge to leave.**

I understand that the annual leave authorized in excess of the amount available to me during the leave year will be charged to LWOP.		
Employee's Signature and Date <i>J Q Postmaster</i> 05/26/2018	Signature of Person Recording Absence and Date	Signature of Supervisor and Date Notified
Official Action on Application (Return copy of signed request to employee.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved (Give reason below)	Do not check an FMLA box until you verify the FMLA designation. <input type="checkbox"/> FMLA Designation is PENDING <input type="checkbox"/> FMLA Protected <input type="checkbox"/> Not FMLA Protected	Signature of Supervisor and Date  <input type="checkbox"/> Continued on reverse



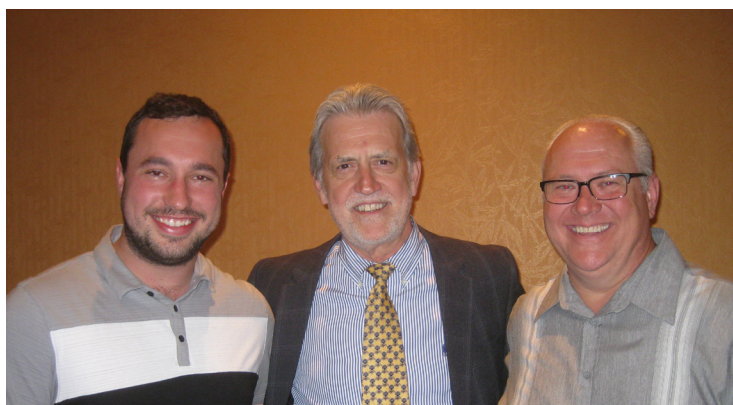
Cheryl Quaka ~ Illinois UPMA State Editor

## Spare no expense to save Money

I know per Headquarters the reasons we were all mandated to take a 25 minute heat stress course. I could see the benefit for employees who were about to embark on their first summer delivering mail and it was good information. I heard from a friend in DC that we have had at least one death from heat stroke and it was recommended from OSHA that we provide training. However for our seasoned professionals I think that might have been overkill? Now that being said I cannot resist bring up our water buying policy. I have never really been in favor of it. No one bought me water when I was a carrier. But times have changed. We are engaging our employees. I have spent weeks talking about postal pulse questions. I want them to know that management of this office and the USPS care about them. The first hot week we had they ask where the water is and.....You know the answer! 90 degree forecast for 10 days or more. You must provide only for the number of employees working outside unless your air conditioner is broke. There went my survey down the drain like water I could not buy. I ended up buying water out of my own pocket at 2.50 a case. We spent 30 dollars and bought 11 cases. I just wanted to say again; **it was bought with my own money**. I don't want anyone to think I stock piled it using Postal funds.

Please do the math with me. If you paid 50 people to take the heat stress video and it took them 30 minutes that is 25 hours. 25 hours at \$25 is = \$625.00 If you paid the price of ebay water 7.79 a case you could buy 80 cases of water. Would not that be a better bang for our buck? Would we have a carrier watch a dog bite video but not give them dog spray?

Plus during the video the common theme was to take extra breaks and drink lots of water. If you watched the video with your employees they were smiling during the whole thing. That extra break is going to cost \$5.00 a person (unless it is overtime). I guess they can buy their own water! We spare no expense sometimes to "save money."







### Illinois UPMA Member Reps

John Sertich  
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Ruthie Beal  
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Morrie Smith  
(217) 473 0650  
morriesmith60@gmail.com

Pam Bardell  
Dixon IL  
(815) 291 9726  
napuspres@yahoo.com

### 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

### 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:

JERRY THIXTON  
PO BOX 1 LINCOLN IL 62626

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Fill out an 1187  
and  
JOIN TODAY!

~~~~~  
Retired?  
Fill out an 1187R



## Upcoming Events

National Convention  
Reno, NV  
July 21st - 27th

Legislative Summitt  
Washinton DC  
Jan 28-28 2019

Southern Officers conference  
Oct 4-7 2018  
Houston, TX

## Article Due Dates

Aug 3rd 2018  
Oct 5th ,2018  
Nov 7th 2018