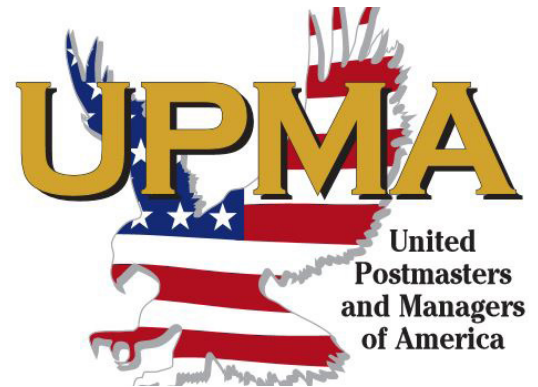


Illinois Postal News Leader



June/July 2022

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

PMG DeJoy Honors Newly Appointed Postmasters in Chicago, Illinois



PMG Louis DeJoy addressed Illinois USPS employees on June 2, 2022, which was followed by a swearing in ceremony of recently appointed postmasters.

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Together
we can!

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 better Postal Managers.



Earl Husbunds ~ Chapter President

**TRUE LEADERS DON'T CREATE ANIMOSITY.
TRUE LEADERS FOSTER HARMONY.**

Greetings UPMA family! We held our 6th annual UPMA Illinois Chapter Convention in Northbrook, IL on May 12th through May 14th. It was so nice to see so many familiar faces, and new faces as well. We had ten first time attendees and a host of new District leadership from the Illinois 1 District. They included the District Manager, Donald Dombrow Jr., Manager of Operations Integration, Don Good, and four Managers of Post Office Operations; Jason Howard, Jo Bittinger, Rob Ivie, and Benjamin Giese were all in attendance. Mr. Dombrow Jr. gave a phenomenal speech on Leadership that was very well received. We even had Mr. Eric Henry, the Central Area Vice-President of Retail & Delivery Operations, come and speak with our members. He gave another great speech on service to our customers, safety for our employees, running efficient postal operations, and engaging our employees. We were all so grateful that these District leaders took time out of their busy schedules to come visit and speak with our members. They all stayed for lunch and were accessible to everyone there. The theme of the convention was "Together We Can" which was so fitting, as we all know there are several issues impacting the Postal Service at this time. We can and will get through them by working together.

When I returned to the podium, I proudly proclaimed to the District leaders that their best Postmasters, Supervisors, and Managers will come from UPMA membership. I avowed we will do our part in pushing forward the postal agenda and will be supportive of the PMG's 10 Year Plan. I informed them to feel free to reach out to me if there was anything I could do as the UPMA Illinois Chapter President to assist them in the future. I wholeheartedly believe that true leaders don't create animosity. **True leaders unite people together and foster harmony.** I informed Mr. Henry and the District leaders that we in turn need their assistance in helping us improve some vitally important issues to us, such as postmasters being forced to deliver mail, and in many cases, not being treated with dignity and respect. I also spoke about the broken hiring process and how we can work together for better results. I believe that working together is the best approach for a long-term sustainable change, and I am confident that UPMA has the full respect of Mr. Henry and all the District leaders that were in attendance.

In fact, two days after the close of our convention I received an invitation to meet with Mr. Henry and all the Central Area District, Central Area Human Resources, and Central Area Labor Managers in Minneapolis, MN on June 7, 2022. I was asked to submit agenda items that I wished to discuss, and all my items centered around four topics. Working together to

build stronger relationships with all UPMA Chapter Presidents and District Managers. Fixing the broken hiring process. Non-Bargaining employees being forced to deliver mail, and clarifying the often-misunderstood leave policy for postmasters and installation heads. I eagerly look forward to future meetings with District leaders and will represent our members well.

As I continue to work with the District and Area leaders it is vitally important that I have the full support of all Illinois UPMA members in making sure we are all doing our part. I believe the respect of UPMA, and its members for doing their job correctly and efficiently, will give me a stronger voice for all of us when I am addressing some of the issues that we may be experiencing. I need everyone to be accountable for the duties and responsibilities that we have all been entrusted to do as part of our jobs. Please believe that I know how frustrating it can be with all the sometimes unnecessary workload that is being put on an already full plate. Yet, I ask that you all stay calm, professional, and try your best to follow the instructions provided to you, unless you feel they are unsafe, illegal, or immoral. We have a process in place, notifying me of any issues, and I will let you know how we will proceed. It doesn't help you or me, if you get into arguments with your managers. I want to build on the positive momentum we have going right now in hopes for a better future for all of us. I hope that everyone understands the message that I am trying to convey, and that I can count on your continued support.

Where there is discord, may we bring harmony.

Where there is error, may we bring truth.

Where there is doubt, may we bring faith.

Where there is despair, may we bring hope.

~St. Francis of Assisi



District and Area leadership attended the UPMA Chapter Convention. Pictured left to right: Dist. Mgr. Don Dombrow, Jr., Operations Mgr. Don Good, Poom D Rob Ivie, Chptr Pres. Earl Husbunds, A/POOM D Jo Bittinger, POOM A Ben Giese, POOM B Jason Howard. Not pictured: Central Area VP Eric Henry.



Morrie Smith, Retiree President

RETIREE RE-CAP

Most of this edition of the IPNL will be covering aspects of the recent State Convention, and this article will review what transpired on behalf of the retirees. We were fortunate to have nearly 20 members attend, and were joined by National UPMA Retiree Treasurer candidate Bill Tierney, and his partner Val Nehls. In addition to attending sessions and the annual retiree meeting (more details later), the participants took a tour at the Chicago Botanic Garden (absolutely beautiful!), went to dinner at the Union Ale House (is there any place else for shrimp?), and toured the Illinois Holocaust Museum. A very special "Thank You!" goes out to Virginia Chalifoux, who made the arrangements.

What did you miss if you didn't attend? You had the opportunity to hear Congresswoman Robin Kelly speak, whose Mother retired from the Post Office and whose brother is a mailhandler in New York. She is very supportive of UPMA, and took time for questions and photo op's with the membership. We also heard from Yasmeen Bankhole, who spoke on behalf of Senator Dick Durbin. And, of course, our own National President, Edmund Carley, enlightened us regarding UPMA activities. You also missed seeing the surprise on Cheryl Quaka's face when it was announced that she joined the Illinois UPMA Hall of Fame, and the shocked look and scarlet shade of red that Edmund Carley flushed when he joined her in that honor. Congratulations to both of them! Also honored was Gaylon Hayes, who many will remember serving as a disc jockey and sound man at many recent conventions. He may not be with us now, but his memory is a part of Illinois UPMA.

We were also able to recognize Emma Schnitzler (Liz's granddaughter), and Hannah & Damian Jones (their Mother, Michelle, is Postmaster of Wyoming, IL) as the winners of the UPMA Scholarship award. They each received \$1000 towards

their future studies. Emma's parents attended the banquet, and spoke on her behalf. During the banquet the winners of the silent auction were announced, and a 50/50 drawing took place, with the proceeds from both events going to the scholarship fund. I am pleased to inform you that \$536 was raised! Thank you to all who participated, and to all who donated items for the auction.

During the retiree meeting John Sertich was re-elected to the Secretary/Treasurer position, and Roger Roten will be the incoming Executive Vice-President. It should be noted that he just retired at the end of April, and stepped (or was it pushed?) up to become an officer of our retiree chapter. Either way, welcome aboard, Roger! We enacted a minor change to our by-laws, which now allows an officer to serve consecutive terms in the same position. We approved a donation to the National Scholarship fund, and also made a donation to the National Retired Veterans Project. For the first time in three years, we had members in attendance who weren't on the board, so we were able to form an audit committee, consisting of Dawn Boma, Nancy Buening, and Gail Esker. Their review found no errors or issues with our accounts. Thank you ladies!

Before closing, I'd like to recognize Pam Bardell, who chaired the convention, and Earl Husbands, the actives President. They both did an EXCELLENT job managing and leading the event. Patti Sadnick led a poignant Memorial Service, and Rich Springer entertained us with "Singo Bingo". It was a time for both laughter and tears. Next year we will meet in Bloomington/Normal in April, and the membership voted to return to Springfield in 2024. We hope to see more of your smiling faces at these future events, as well as at the National Conventions. Until then, stay safe and healthy!

Morrie

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others."
~ Douglas MacArthur

"Leaders think and talk about the solutions.
Followers think and talk about the problems."
~ Brian Tracy

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Pam Bardell ~ Chapter Exec. VP

A Winning Combination

Greetings Everyone!

The 6th Annual UPMA Chapter convention was filled with great information and great fun. Be it reconnecting with old friends, making new ones (we had ten first time attendees), or networking with Mr. Don Dombrow, IL 1 acting District Manager. There was lots of great training by USPS District and Headquarters staff.

At the time of writing this article, our chapter numbers are as follows:

- 311 Postmasters
- 118 Manager/Supervisor
- 79 Associate members
- 3 PMR
- 320 Retired
- Total Members 859

Our membership is growing, yet there is still a lot of work to do. I would like to challenge you to sign up at least two new members, if not more. The chapter board voted at the

convention to pay active and retired UPMA members \$100 for every EAS employee they recruit. The membership promotion will run from now until December 31, 2023. All new EAS members can join for one year with no dues deducted from their paychecks, until the year has elapsed. To be eligible for the incentive, the new member must put your name on the bottom of their form 1187; IL UMPA will mail you a \$100 check for each new EAS member. It is the hope of the board that this promotion will be as successful as ones that have been offered in the past. UPMA strives to serve its current, and future members, as the premier leadership organization among employees of the United States Postal Service.

Individuals wishing to join UPMA can do so by going to the UPMA National website, www.unitedpma.org and click on the banner at the top of the page which says, "Join UPMA Today" which will then walk them through the membership registration process. Or, one may fill out a form 1187 and mail it to: UPMA, 8 Herbert St., Alexandria, VA 22305. Either way, it's a Win-Win for everyone!

Scholarship Awards 2022 by Mary Yates, Chairperson

This year we had seven very capable candidates apply for the UPMA Scholarships. After much consideration we decided on three winners, each receiving \$1000. The recipients are:

Hannah Jones of Knoxville, IL, the daughter of Michelle Jones, from the Wyoming, IL Post Office. She will be attending North Central College. Hannah is pursuing a career in the medical field.

Damian Jones, also from Knoxville, IL, and the son of Michelle Jones from the Wyoming Post Office. He will be attending Northern Illinois University. Damian is also pursuing a career in the medical field as an illustrator.

Emma Schnitzler of Manteno, IL, the granddaughter of Elizabeth Schnitzler, retired Postmaster of Pearl City, IL. Emma plans to attend the University of Illinois and is pursuing a career in Environmental Science, with the end goal of becoming an Environmental Attorney.

As members of UPMA, we are very excited for these young

people! It is enlightening to see such exceptional candidates, who will definitely impact the future in a great way.

We commend all the candidates who applied for the scholarships. Keep up the good work and know that deciding upon deserving candidates was not an easy job.

I wish to thank my scholarship committee members:

- Morrie Smith
- Rob Stier
- Barb Anderson
- John Sertich

Without them this would not be possible. As this is my last year as Chairperson, I wish the next Chairperson the same great cooperation as I have received. And a special shout out to Mary Ford, without whose guidance I would have been lost.

Sincerely,

Mary C Yates
Scholarship Chairperson 2022



Bev Freehill ~ Chapter Secretary

In Just A Minute...

The UPMA IL Chapter Executive Board met at the Crowne Plaza in Northbrook, IL at 6pm on Wed, May 11 before the Chapter convention began the following day. Roll call was done by Secretary Bev Freehill. All members were present including President Earl Husbands, Exec VP Pam Bardell, Treasurer Shelley Zellers, Secretary Bev Freehill, Editor Marianne Miller, VP Education Cindi Cotton, VP PAC Roger Roten, Immediate Past President Meta Belford, and Retiree President Morrie Smith. Also present was National President Edmund Carley and past editor Cheryl Quaka. President Earl Husbands presented us with a meeting agenda. Meta made a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Morrie. Motion passed.

President Earl Husbands thanked everyone for their support and told us we would be going step-by-step over the Chapter agenda for the convention. We will also be nominating and electing a new president, exec vice president and vice president at the chapter convention. All three positions are up for election. Earl thanked Pam for all her hard work as chair of the convention.

Treasurer Shelley Zellers gave the treasurer's report. Her books were audited by Edmund and Cheryl prior to the board meeting. For our regular checking account our beginning balance was \$95,426.74 with disbursements of 2,987.12 and deposits of 11,686.77 for an ending balance as of April 30, 2022 of \$104,126.39. The savings account had a beginning balance of \$95,091.35 with no activity. The stipend checking had a beginning balance of \$23,901.60 with withdrawals of \$480.16 and deposits of \$701.00 for an ending balance of \$24,122.44. Total Assets are \$223,340.18.

Secretary Bev Freehill had the meeting minutes from our previous meeting on April 28. Motion was made by Roger and seconded by Morrie to waive reading and adopt minutes. Motion passed.

Editor Marianne Miller wanted to make sure that everyone knows that the next article due date is May 18 and the due date is always published in IPN. There was discussion about the website and Earl is going to work with Marianne to get the website current and updated.

VP Cindi Cotton talked about the training that has been scheduled for chapter convention and that some of the speakers have been moved. We will talk about that when we go over chapter agenda.

VP PAC Roger Roten talked about PAC and things he has planned to raise funds for PAC during convention to include the

Heads/Tails game as well as the \$1 in the envelope.

VP Membership Pam Bardell shared with the board the numbers of those registered for our 2022 Chapter convention. There are 47 people registered which includes 26 active members, 16 retired, and 5 assoc/aux members. She also shared the information that Dan Heins has sent out regarding new members. IL as of 5/2/22 has 312 Postmaster members and 204 non-members so we are at 60.47% We have 312 Postmaster members, 118 Supervisor members, 3 PMR members, and so we have a total of 432 active members. During the contest we have signed up 60 new active members, and 5 new associates so far. Keep working on membership.

Retirees President Morrie Smith talked about the retirees and their part of convention. The retirees will be having their meeting at 10:15am on Fri rather than 9:30 so they will be able to attend convention while the congressional members are speaking. He also told us about the tours that have been planned, and that they will be having a retiree dinner on Thursday evening.

Morrie Smith also explained about the 2022 UPMA Retirees Veterans Project which is taking place at National convention in St. Louis. It is a project assisting military veterans in Veterans homes in St. Louis with items they need. They are asking we donate ski caps, gloves, and diabetic socks/hose for their use. Morrie made a motion that UPMA IL Chapter give \$500 to UPMA National Retired on behalf of the state to support their Veterans Project this year at national convention. Motion was seconded by Roger. Motion passed.

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

- A. 2022 Budget – President Earl Husbands will be talking with us about this on our monthly telecon on Wednesday, June 29th.
- B. Chapter Convention 2022 – it was at this point of the meeting that we went line-by-line thru the agenda to discuss our plans and make any corrections. Different duties were assigned as far as who would be called on to lead the pledge, invocation, convention rules, introduce first-timers, etc. VP Cindi Cotton will be giving her presentation on Leadership to the group on Friday following the National By Law discussion and vote.
- C. National Convention 2022- St Louis August 20-26, 2022 at the Marriot St. Louis Grand. PMG Louis DeJoy has requested to install postmasters

at the UPMA National Convention. If you are a UPMA member and a postmaster assigned to your post office after November 1, 2021, then Postmaster General Louis DeJoy will conduct a swearing-in ceremony at the UPMA National Convention in St. Louis on the morning of August 22. If you want to participate there is a form to fill out no later than Aug 5th.

- D. Chapter Convention 2023 – The vote by those at the chapter convention in 2021 was for the 2023 convention to be held in Utica, IL followed by second-place vote of Bloomington/Normal. Dana has exhausted all possibilities of holding the convention in the Utica area. The only possibility would be to have convention in January, which we do not desire, so he has been looking in the Bloomington/Normal area. He has been able to locate a place for us in Normal, IL so we will be announcing at our chapter convention that our next chapter convention will be April 14-April 16, 2023 at the Bloomington/Normal Marriot Hotel and Conference Center in Normal. The room rates will be \$127 or \$157 for a suite.
- E. 3 Digits – President Earl encourages us to look for times and places where we can conduct 3-digit meetings. Call Earl and he will try to attend and/or assist.
- F. Membership – There was discussion that the National Executive Board is continuing incentive to award new members a year of free membership. Earl asked if the IL Chapter would consider raising our incentive from the \$25 we now pay to \$100. Secretary Bev showed minutes that it was previously voted on to be raised to \$50. Roger Roten made a motion to raise the incentive from \$50 to \$100 thru 10/21/22 starting at 9:30pm 5/11/22. Motion seconded by Cindi. Motion passed.

Meta made a motion to adjourn meeting at 9:27pm - Seconded by Marianne.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Freehill, UPMA IL Chapter Secretary



First time conference attendees pose with newly appointed Chapter President, Earl Husbands.



President Earl with Representative Robin Kelly



Eric Henry, Central Area VP of Retail and Delivery Operations



Yasmeen Bankhole spoke to us on behalf of Senator Dick Durbin



Don Dombrow, Jr., IL1 A/District Mgr.



Representative Robin Kelly addresses UPMA members and welcomes photo ops.



Heads or Tails... Who'll be the winner? PAC is the winner!

Nat'l Pres. Edmund swears in VP David Clark and Pres. Earl Husbands



It pays to attend... Our 50/50 winner!





Cindi Cotton ~ VP Education

How the Postal Reform Act Affects Your Healthcare Benefits

As a result of the Postal Reform Act, the Postal Service will be transitioning from FEHB to PSHB as of January 1, 2025. In order to participate in PSHB, providers must have over 1500 participants enrolled in 2024. If you are part of a plan that has less than 1500 participants and do not make a new election during open season, you will be moved to a plan similar in benefits and cost. All plans will still be administered by OPM and benefits must match or exceed those in FEHB.

If you are already retired or retire prior to Jan 1, 2025, there will be no changes to your current benefits; you are not required to enroll in Medicare Part B. If you retire after

January 1, 2025 you will be required to enroll in Medicare Part B when eligible in order to enroll in a USPS plan.

You are not losing coverage, it is just becoming secondary. This means Medicare will pay first and your USPS plan will pay after. If you do not enroll in Medicare Part B when eligible, you will not be eligible for USPS Healthcare benefits in retirement.

It is forecasted that this change will reduce premiums for both active and retired members. Compensation and Benefits is still working through the requirements and more information will be forthcoming.



John Sertich ~ UPMA Member Representative

ARE YOU REALLY PROPERLY TRAINED?

Recently I conducted a training session at our Chapter convention in May. I was asked to summarize it in an article for our Chapter publication. At

this session, as well as many others, I often hear concerns from our members that they don't feel that they have been properly trained. Surprisingly I had the same belief when I was coming up the ranks as a young supervisor back in 1986. Looking back now I realize the advice I received from the Postmasters I worked for was actually their way of mentoring me for the rest of my career. For example, when I would ask them a question, their usual response was "What does the book say?" I'd think to myself "What book?" One Postmaster recommended that I get the six basic postal manuals, keep them on my desk and refer to them often. He added, "Once you learn which one to refer to for questions or issues that arise, you'll have most of the knowledge you will ever need to succeed in the Postal Service".

The manuals were:

Administrative Support Manual (ASM) – It contains all things pertaining to administrative responsibilities within the USPS; policies, procedures, forms and directives. It defines postal management structure and provides guidance for purchasing, use of forms, facility management, audits, investigations and a myriad of other subjects.

Postal Operations Manual (POM) - The POM sets forth the policies, regulations, and procedures for all operations of the Postal Service; including delivery, retail, philatelic, processing, transportation and vehicle operations.

Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) – Contains all things pertaining to and regulating domestic mail classification.

International Mail Manual (IMM) – Contains all things pertaining to and regulating international mail classification.

Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) – Suffice to say it contains all rules, regulations, benefits and policies affecting all employees.

Handbook F-101 Field Accounting Procedures (formerly the F-1) – Contains resources for consistent and standardized processes for key field accounting activities. In other words, this is the financial bible.

Once you get familiarized with the subject matter of each one and their indexes you will be able to find answers to many of the question that may come your way. Back in the day, we had to have hard copies of these manuals and spend considerable time doing research. Now, with the proliferation of computers, you can literally do that research in seconds via your search engines, obtaining information and answers in seconds.

Someday, before you know it, someone will ask, "When do I have to submit medical documentation for sick leave?", you'll know the answer is found in ELM 513.36.

There are scores of other handbooks, publications and directives published by the Postal Service that are essential to your operations, depending upon your position. For example, delivery supervisors and managers need M-39, M-41, JCAM, PO-603, etc.

Let me be candid, do not feel like you are not properly trained because you don't know as much as you think you should. Learning is a life-long journey. I spent over 40 years in the Postal Service and never stopped learning something new. The trick is knowing where to look for information and answers. And sometimes, it's not what you know, but who you know.

The trick is knowing where to look for information and answers.

That being said, I'll leave you with a true story that happened about 30 years ago. I was a level 19 SPO. I left the office around 5:00pm and met my Postmaster after hours. My Lead Clerk was having problems closing the retail and submitting the daily business. He called me to explain the problem. Upon sharing the conversation with my Postmaster, he commented, "I guess I'll have to go in and fix it". I told him, "I'll take care of it." He stated, "There's no way you can do it." "Watch me" I said. I returned to the office, analyzed the problem, and called a friend of mine who was a Finance Supervisor. He diagnosed the problem, talked me through the solution and I was back with my Postmaster in less than 30 minutes. Upon hearing the problem was fixed he looked at me and said, "I guess I did a pretty good job of training you". I simply smiled and said, "Yes Boss."

Good luck on your journeys.

Our Beloved Retirees



Pictured left to right; Front Row: Newly retired Roger Roten, Dave Bornstein, Barb Anderson, Morrie Smith, John Sertich. Row 2: Newly retired Shelley Zellers, Carol Sue Carnes, Nancy Beuning, Steve Joutras, Val Nehls, Bill Tierney. Row 3: Bob Umland, Shirley Johnson, Gail Esker, Dawn Boma, Rob Stier.



Shelley Zellers - Chapter Treasurer

**AUDIT REPORT
12/31/2021
UNITED POSTMASTERS AND MANAGERS OF AMERICA**

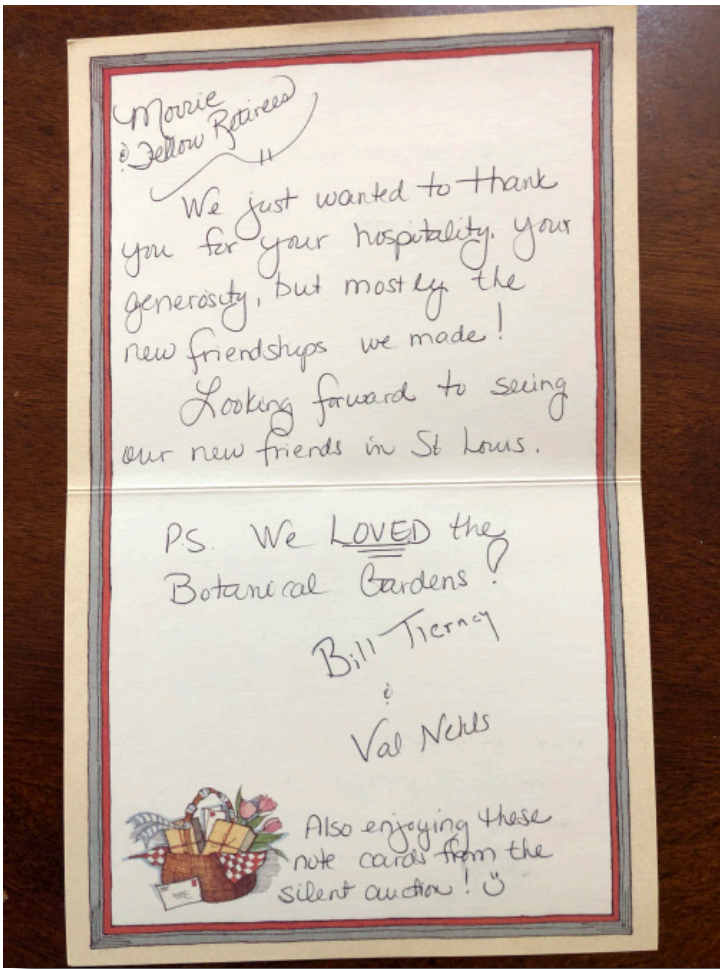
<u>CHECKING ACCOUNT</u>		
1/1/2021	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$55,173.28
	DISBURSEMENTS:	\$53,832.00
	DEPOSITS:	\$88,846.53
	DIVIDENDS:	
12/31/2021	ENDING BALANCE:	\$90,187.81
<u>SAVINGS ACCOUNT 00</u>		
1/1/2021		\$94,912.96
	DEPOSITS	\$0.00
	DIVIDENDS	\$142.45
12/31/2021		\$95,055.41
<u>ASSESSMENT CHECKING 04/12</u>		
1/1/2021		\$16,667.98
	WITHDRAWALS	\$4,180.00
	DEPOSITS	\$10,036.00
	DIVIDENDS	\$0.00
12/31/2021		\$22,523.98
<u>TOTAL ASSETS:</u>		
	CHECKING	\$112,711.79
	SAVINGS	\$95,055.41
		-
GRAND TOTAL:		\$207,767.20

**WE CERTIFY THAT ALL THE FUNDS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR AND IN
BALANCE WITH THE BANK STATEMENTS AND THE CHECK BOOK.**

AUDIT COMMITTEE:

NAME (SIGNED): _____ DATE: _____
 NAME (SIGNED): _____ DATE: _____
 NAME (SIGNED): _____ DATE: _____

Beginning Balances		\$166,754.22
	Dividends	\$142.45
	Deposits	\$98,882.53
	Disbursements	\$58,012.00
Ending Balance		\$207,767.20



A thank you note from Retiree candidate Bill Tierney and guest, Val Nehls, who attended the IL Chapter Convention.



PMG DeJoy addresses USPS employees in Chicago, IL



Cleveland Williams, Postmaster O'Fallon, IL



PMG Louis DeJoy receives the red carpet treatment.



ILI MPOO D attendees: Aleesa Lowder, Anne Balsley, Stephanie Johnson, Andrew Yerk, Diana Paulson, Raymond Tesmer, Joshua Zdravetz, Russ Haile, Merri Cox, Cindy Munoz, Allison Geuther, Monique Benjamin-Routen, Marianne Miller.

During my 18-year tenure with the United States Postal Service (USPS) I have served in many roles, beginning as a casual pre-career carrier employee, to now postmaster of a level 21 office. I would not be where I am today if it had not been for the many years of hard work and dedication recognized and encouraged by the many coworkers that I have come to call friends. Working for the USPS has not only been a career, but a place of tremendous personal growth for myself.

During the Postmaster General's visit in Chicago, IL, Mr. Louis DeJoy, gave an encouraging and inspiring speech about securing our financial sustainability and focusing on service excellence. What stood out to me was how he detailed his plan for working toward that goal by investing in our people, technology, and improving our infrastructure. Attending the PMG visit in Chicago, networking and making new connections with those influential individuals will always be one of the best moments of my career, and I look forward to my future with the United States Postal Service.

Submitted by Cleveland Williams



Carol Sue Carnes, Signature FCU Secretary

The UPMA Illinois State Convention was certainly a great one with 50 members in attendance. Many thanks to the Convention Co-Chairs, Pam Bardell and Meta Belford, also our new Chapter President, Earl Husbands (who it was a pleasure to meet), Morrie Smith Retiree President, along with all the other officers of the chapter. Business sessions were well attended and very informative, retiree tours both afternoons with Morrie and Virginia were outstanding, and evening entertainment was great as well. The hospitality room provided a delicious breakfast and was open all day for those needing an extra cup of coffee, fresh fruit, or a snack item or two. Lunches were buffet style and the banquet a sit-down dinner; all were very delicious. I would also like to thank my son, John Carnes of Edwardsville, who took time off from work to drive me to Northbrook. He also enjoyed the event as well and is now looking forward to attending the 2023 convention with me in Bloomington. It had been three years, and the start of COVID, since I had been in attendance. So great seeing old friends as well as making new ones! It was even greater having our National President, Edmund Carley, present at convention!

I did have a Signature Federal Credit Union table set up for all attendees to stop by and see what we have available to members. I was also given time on the program to bring everyone up-to-date on all the new services we offer. Most important at this time are the rates on our share certificates. Namely:

- 3 month CD - now 0.40% APY - 6 month CD now 0.45% APY - 9 month CD now 0.50% APY
- 12 month CD - now 0.80% APY - 18 month CD now 0.85% APY - 2 year CD now 0.90% APY
- 3 year CD - now 1.00% APY - 4 year CD now 1.10% APY - 5 year CD now 1.25% APY
- Our EZ Save Certificate for one year remains at 1.00% APY

Legacy Money Market rates have also increased: \$500.-\$9,999 now pays 0.35% APY, \$10,000 - \$49,999 now pays 0.40% APY and \$50,000. PLUS now pays 0.50% APY.

We also offer Savings and Checking accounts just for kids. Savings Accounts for kids ages 0-17 and Checking accounts for teens ages 13-17. Now is the time to start teaching smart money habits to your children. What better way to start than to have their own Savings or Checking account? No monthly fees or minimum balance requirements. Students can even submit their cumulative end of the year report card for a promotional deposit for A's (up to \$20 per year). Rates are 0.10% APY higher than a standard savings account to encourage saving. With the youth checking you can also have a Visa debit card you can use anywhere Visa is accepted, and access to over 30,000 free ATM's and 5,000+ Shared Branches. Both Youth Savings and Youth Checking does require a guardian 18 years or older to be joint on the account. If you have any questions, please call Member Services at 1-800-336-0284.

Since Credit Unions are not-for-profit, income generated goes back to our members in the form of higher dividends and lower rates. I am also proud to announce that in 2021 we gave back to our members more than 3.4 million in dividends!

Until next time,
Carol Sue Carnes, Secretary Signature FCU
Brussels, IL 62013
Phone 618-883-2333
eAddress: carnes2@frontiernet.net



.....
: "It's not about how much money you make. It's how you save it!" :
.....



Meta Belford, Past President

Bill HR 4268 Allows Buy Back of Pre-Career Years

How did you start your postal career? Were you lucky enough to be hired as a “career” employee? I, and

many employees, were not hired as “career” employees, and unless you were hired before Dec 31, 1988, those years are not credited towards your retirement.

I have big news if you started after that magical date. Bill HR 4268 is currently pending before the House of Representatives. This Bill, which will amend Title 5, United States Code, will give government employees hired after Dec 31, 1988, the opportunity to buy back creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This Bill was introduced into Congress on June 30, 2021, so we need to start contacting our Representative right away and let them know we all support Bill HR 4268.

It’s simple to do, you can either write or call your Representative. If you are thinking I don’t know what to say, here are a few general tips: First remember your Representative was elected by you and they represent a vast geographical area, and have a small staff to read and respond to mail. Stand out by inserting a brief personal note on how this bill would impact your life. Don’t use postal acronyms we use daily. The Representative and their Aids won’t understand your message. Remember, they will be looking for your support next election so don’t think your one letter doesn’t matter. You could be the first constituent to send them a letter on this topic.

This subject is so important to everyone who started at the Post Office in a pre-career position, PMR, Casual, TE etc. This doesn’t just affect postmasters or managers, it affects everyone who started as a pre-career position. Get this out to everyone you know at the post office. All crafts need to be on board with this! Make your voices heard, even if you still have years to go to retirement. This will affect you in the blink of an eye, trust me!

Within this article is a letter template you can use to send a note to your Representative. Be sure your address is on the letter.

Be brief and to the point. Please also know a staff member will probably be the person who reads your letter or answers your call.

If you decide to call your Representative, be brief: **“Hi! I’m a constituent and I am calling to ask Representative (name) to co-sponsor Bill HR 4268, the Federal Retirement Fairness Act. This bill would allow me to retire with 32 creditable career years instead of 25, which currently at 60, I will have.”**

If you write a letter, a template is below:

Dear Representative (insert last name here),

I am writing to ask Representative (last name here) to cosponsor H.R. 4268, the Federal Retirement Fairness Act. (Add a personal message) I started working for the United States Postal Service in 1991 and this Bill would allow me to buy back 7.5 years of creditable service time. I would like to retire in November of 2023 and will have 25 career years, 19 years proudly served as a Postmaster. If this bill passes it would allow me to retire in 2023 at 60 with 32 years of creditable service. When I started with the Post Office the majority of employees starting were hired as “non-career” employees, and being able to buy this time would be beneficial to them also.

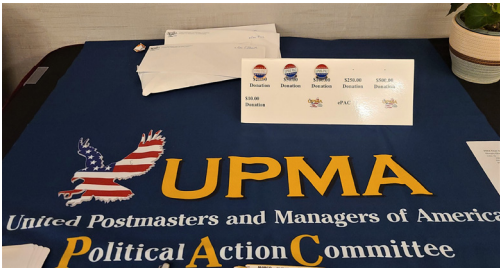
Thank you for your time,

Sign your name

On another subject, congratulations to President Earl on a well run and productive convention. I’d also like to say a big thank you to Pam Bardell for chairing a great convention! We had wonderful training, great information and knowledgeable speakers. The biggest news is we had ten members attend for the first time which was an increase from last year. Can we do this again next year? I think our goal needs to be at least ten members attending for the first time for convention 2023!

“Before you speak, listen. Before you write, think. Before you spend, earn. Before you invest, investigate. Before you criticize, wait. Before you pray, forgive. Before you quit, try. Before you retire, save. Before you die, give.”

~ Author Unknown



IL Chapter Growing Family of Members

The Fallen Soldiers Table





It was strange day. We arrived at the location of our meeting during a rainstorm. When the rain was over we went to the door and a sign said: Closed Due to a Fire. We ended up going across the street to Bob Evans restaurant and enjoyed a luncheon together. Going from left to right our retirees are Mary Ellen Grisley, Evelyn Harris, Phyllis Fisher, Charlotte Muniz, Emily Ames, and Ricky Jones.

CARES & CONCERNS

Our sincere condolences to the families of:

SYMPATHY TO MARION T. PULLIAM: from Charley Peters

MSC Manager/Postmaster Retired Marion T. Pulliam lost his wife of 65 years, Donna Pulliam, on July 7, 2022. Donna was a former homemaker, beautician, and bank teller. She was very active in NAPUS and rarely missed a convention or meeting. She loved spending time with her family and friends. She also liked to travel, garden, and most things outdoors. Memorial donations may be made to Parkway Baptist children's ministry, 2580 Springfield Rd., Bardstown, KY 40004.

Sharon Carter, Retired Postmaster of Eddyville IL 62928 died July 12, 2022. There will be a celebration of life for her at her son's home, Bryan Robertson, 313 Rock Rd, Golconda, IL 62938. Rose and Gilbert Funeral Home in Rosiclare, IL handled the arrangements. Check their website for more details and her obituary.

Rita Gene Williams, November 28, 1941- June 17, 2022. Rita Gene Williams, age 80, of Newton, Illinois, passed away at 5:43pm, Friday, June 17, 2022, at Cumberland Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Greenup, Illinois

The family of Carol Sue Carnes in the tragic loss of her granddaughter, Lydia Carnes, 24, of Edwardsville, IL who lost her life in a fatal car accident in June. She is the daughter of John and Julie Carnes, John has been to many NAPUS/UPMA events with his mother in support of her endeavors in the organization and Signature Federal Credit Union. Notes of sympathy can be sent to John and Julie Carnes, 1724 Partridge Place, Edwardsville, IL 62025 and Grandmother Carol Sue Carnes, Retired Postmaster of Brussels, 4800 Illinois River Road, Brussels, IL 62013.

Jerry Childers, retired Postmaster from Anna, IL passed away June 12, 2021 (We just became aware of this). If anyone wants to send sympathy cards, the address is Sandy Childers, 311 S. 3rd St. Marion IL 62959. I am sure she would like to hear from his Postal friends.

James "Jim" Hayes, Postmaster of Chatham, IL for many years. He passed on June 11th in Broomfield, CO at the age of 68, while with his son. Condolences to the family can be left at bischfuneralhomewest.com.

Jordan Hooks, son of John R. (Rick) and Betsy Hooks passed away May 26, 2022. He was 39. Rick was the former Postmaster of East Alton ,IL and a long-time active member of the Illinois Chapter. Jordan was a rural carrier at the Edwardsville, IL Post Office. The family asks you to consider a donation in his memory to First Tee, an organization that provides educational programs for young people through the game of golf. Their website is firstteelouis.org/donate. Condolences can be sent to Rick and Betsy Hooks, 1011 Georgia St, Edwardsville, IL 62025.



SPOTLIGHT

The “She” to my “Nanigans”... by Morrie Smith

In this article I'd like to recognize Shelley Zellers, who joined the ranks of the retirees earlier this year.

throughout the U.S., and is my most reliable airplane buddy. She has served in a number of functions, hosting events and filling the secretary/treasurer roles for many years (she is still the treasurer for the Illinois actives, even though she has retired). She has earned awards as NAPUS Postmaster of the Year, UPMA Board Member of the Year, the Booby Prize Spot Award (a very limited club), and as a member of the UPMA Hall of Fame (alongside of her husband, Jamie). What may come next?

I have had the fortunate opportunity to know Shelley for two decades, both as a friend and co-worker. We first met in 2002, just after I became the Postmaster of Jacksonville. Shelley was a 204B in Lincoln, and I recruited her to come to Jacksonville instead, which was closer to her home. Little did we know what was to come.

Shelley's smile and laughter are prevalent wherever she goes. As a member of the "Take Care Of" club, she has always ensured that her friends arrive safely, even if she has to roll them in a wheelchair or help carry the load. She has never met a stranger! Now in retirement, she is busy gardening, camping, reading, (still) traveling, and spending time with her children and 8 (!) grandchildren. How did that happen? It seems just yesterday that my wife and I were at Shelley's wedding to Jamie...I guess there must be something in the water in Havana!

Shelley began her postal career in 1992, serving a variety of roles in a number of different offices. She left an impression in Chandlerville, Lincoln, Jacksonville, Chapin, Beardstown, Williamsville, Virginia, and Havana. I was pleased to have set the premise for her success in Havana, having been Postmaster there before she was appointed to the position (just sayin'). It wasn't the only time I helped her out — Captain Underpants also once saved the day!

Congratulations my dear, dear friend on this new chapter in your life. I'm proud that you are my confidant, peer, and partner in crime. In fact, it has been said that you are my "Shelley Wife #2". Aren't both of you gals lucky?! I know I am to have you both in my life. Enjoy the days to come!

In 2003 Shelley joined NAPUS (then UPMA in 2016), and soon became an active participant in all events. She has attended every state convention since then, and almost every national convention. She has enjoyed traveling



A Little Bit of Scholarship Goes a Long Way by Liz Schnitzler

Dear Friends of UPMA,

I have been asked to talk to the membership about our Illinois scholarship program. When I first got involved in NAPUS, there was a Postmaster that was very true to giving for the scholarships. Since she did not have a legacy of family, she gave generously to the scholarship fund. She encouraged so many of us to give, and suggested if a Postmaster or family member passed away, to give to the scholarship fund. The organization would send the family a note of gratitude for their generosity. This is such a good way to support UPMA and pay tribute to the deceased. I always felt if I could give to PAC, I could give to the good of the youth of our postmaster families.

More recently my grandchildren have been recipients. I think back through the years, and remember when my grandson, Devin, was in the play at school. I attended his play while I was IL NAPUS Editor. I always encouraged my grandchildren to work hard in school, and be active in their school and community; to learn valuable leadership skills. Many of the schools today include community service to graduate- so wonderful. I am so pleased that UPMA includes that portion in the scholarship requirement.

I'm not positive when my grandchildren won their UPMA scholarships, because all have won several over the years. Believe me it takes several scholarships to pay tuition! Kelley is now an Agriculture teacher with a Master's, Sophia works for General Mills in their Finance Dept., Becca will have her Doctorate in Occupational Therapy next May, Isabella will have her Master's in Special Education next May, Devin is working in research at U of I while studying for his Master's, and Emma will be a Freshman at the U of I - majoring in Environmental Science.

Yes, I like to brag about my grandchildren, and I am grateful for the UPMA scholarships, as all financial contributions are such a help to them in attaining their goals.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Make a Tax Deductible Donation Today!

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

In Honor/Memory Of: _____

Please provide the address of person or family being honored that we may send them a note.

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Mail completed donation form to:
Mary Yates, Illinois UPMA Scholarship Funds,
2 Lake Court, Catlin, IL 61817-9213



Form 1187

Request and Authorization for Voluntary Allotment
of Compensation for Payment of Employee Organization Dues
*Fill Out Form On-line, Print it out, and Return to
UPMA National Office at the Address Below for Processing*

Section A: All New Members Complete

USPS Employee Identification Number (EIN)	Social Security Number	Date of Birth	Gender Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Name (PRINT Last Name, First, MI)		Contact Telephone	
Home Address (Street and Number/Box)	City	State	ZIP+4
Personal E-mail Address			

Section B (Check One): Postmaster Manager/Supervisor Associate PMR

Position	PO/City/State/ZIP
Post Office/Work Telephone Number	Pay Schedule Level
Post Office/Home Payroll Office Finance Number	Designation Code

Section C: For Use by the Employee Organization

P

Mail completed form to: **United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA)**
8 Herbert Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22305-2600

Visit the UPMA website unitedpma.org for membership benefit information.

Section D: Authorization by Employee

I hereby authorize the above-named agency to deduct from my pay each pay period the amount certified above as the regular dues the (UN-P) United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA) and to remit such amounts to that employee organization in accordance with its arrangements with my employing agency. I further authorize any change in the amount to be deducted that is certified by the above-named employee organization as a uniform change in its dues structure.

I understand that this authorization is a pay periods deduction. It will become effective the first pay period, following its receipt in the employee organization's headquarters office: UPMA, 8 Herbert Street, Alexandria, VA 22305-2600.

I further understand that revocation forms Standard Form No. 1188, "Revocation of Voluntary Authorization for Allotment of Compensation for Payment of Employee Organization Dues" are available from my employing agency and that I may revoke this authorization at any time by filing such a revocation form or other written revocation request by "Certified Mail" directly to the employee organization's headquarters office: UPMA, 8 Herbert Street, Alexandria, VA 22305-2600. Such revocation will not be effective, however, until the first full pay period following March 1 or Sept. 1 of any calendar year, whichever date first occurs after the revocation is received in the employee organization's headquarters office.

Signature of Employee	Date
-----------------------	------

Section E

Check this box to signify you've read and understood the terms in Section D of this form.

Who/what most influenced your decision to join UPMA?

Person's Name _____

Career Awareness Conference USPS Provided Training Other _____

UPMA NATIONAL OFFICE FOR PROCESSING



FORM 1187-R

Request and Authorization for Voluntary Allotment of Compensation for Payment of Employee Organization Dues

Please complete and mail to:

UPMA National Office
 8 Herbert St.
 Alexandria, VA 22305-2600
 (703) 683-9027

*OPM assigns the CSA number to all Civil Service and FERS annuitants and/or surviving spouse

Social Security Number

			-									
--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

My Annuity Number is:

CSA

			-										
--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Name of Retired Employee (PRINT Last Name, First, Middle)				Date of Birth					
Street and Number/PO Box			City			State		ZIP+4	
Month/Year Retired		Home or Cell Number ()		Gender Male _____ Female _____		Chapter			
Email Address				Sponsored by:					

Note: If not receiving an annuity contact National Office for information on membership.

SECTION A – Authorization

The United States Office of Personnel Management is authorized to make an appropriate deduction from my annuity payments, not to exceed the amount certified by the **United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA)** as the amount of dues for which I am obligated, and to pay the deducted sum to **UPMA**. This authorization shall apply to any and all dues changes certified by **UPMA**. This authorization shall be valid until **UPMA** receives and processes my written notice of cancellation in accordance with its agreement with the United States Office of Personnel Management. Any disputes regarding this allotment authorization shall be a matter between **UPMA** and me; I hold the United States Office of Personnel Management harmless for any erroneous deductions made pursuant to this authorization.

I also request the United States Office of Personnel Management to disclose any information necessary to execute this request.

Signature	Date:
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Revised 11-19

JOIN TODAY!
Fill Out
Form 1187
UnitedPMA.org

Free Membership Offer Ends
December 31, 2023

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Know A Retiree?  
Pass Them Form 1187R  
To Join The Fun!



Please remember that **all members are welcome to submit articles and photos.** All content is subject to the approval of the Editor and Chapter President.  
Submit to:  
**IPN\_Editor@Yahoo.com**

## Upcoming Events

Membership Kickoff  
Denver, CO

January 13th - 15th, 2023

Legislative Summit  
Washington, DC

March 12 - 15, 2023

IL Chapter Convention  
Bloomington/Normal, IL  
April 14th -16th, 2023

7th Annual UPMA National Convention  
Denver, CO

August 26th - 31st, 2023

Central Area Officers Symposium

TBD

TBD

Southern Area Officers Conference  
Myrtle Beach, SC

October 5th - 8th, 2023