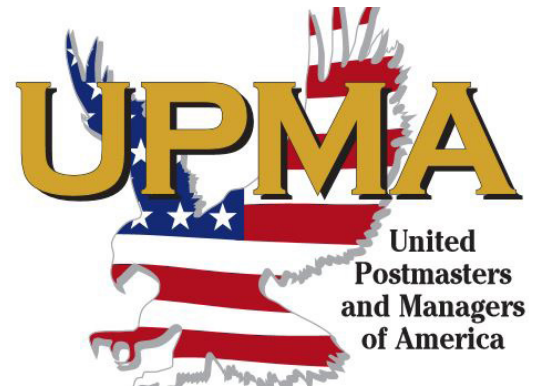


Illinois Postal News Leader



Mar/Apr 2023

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

Celebrating Women in Postal History



The entire staff of the Willow Springs, Illinois, Post Office is composed of women. From left in Le Gros' photo: Sub Carrier Chris Czarwinski, Sub Clerk Fay Arnett, Clerk Alice Leadeking, Postmaster Celia Daonitz, Florence Frisco with her vehicle and Safe Driving Award, Carrier Shirley Bittles, Custodian Anna Andrulewica.

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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 Husbards ~ President

The Advantages of UPMA Membership

Greeting UPMA Family,

Often times while I am out recruiting new members for UPMA, I get the question, “What is the difference between UPMA and NAPS?” This is how I answer that question.

There are only two agencies that the United States Postal Service recognizes as official organizations that they must consult with on a national level. The first one is NAPS, the National Association of Postal Supervisors, and the second is UPMA, the United Postmasters and Managers of America. Both are great organizations! The difference between the two is that NAPS is primarily a supervisory organization, and the Postal Service only consults with them on pay talks for Level 17 positions. The Postal Service consults UPMA on Level 18 positions and higher. Postmaster positions range from levels 18 through 24, and include Postal Career Executive Services (PCES) employees. Both organizations can represent any Level 17 or higher if any discipline is issued to a member.

Another difference is that UPMA only allows active postal employees to hold positions of leadership in UPMA, whereas in NAPS, many of the leadership positions are held by retired postal employees. While we have retired members of UPMA that we love and cherish, it is a fundamental belief of UPMA that it is better to have our leaders be currently employed by the USPS. Current employees know what is happening in today’s Postal Service. We feel our active members are better served by current employees when discussing topics such as the “6 to 9 play”, RRECS scanning, and the CRDO scorecard for example.

UPMA Leadership positions all have 3-year term limits, which means after 3 years, it’s time for another member to become a leader in UPMA. NAPS does not have any term limits, and in my opinion, could perhaps lead to someone becoming too complacent in their role.

UPMA has an Associate Member program that allows our acting supervisors (204B) and other craft employees to join. NAPS does not let any craft employees join until they become a supervisor. We feel it is important to allow all employees to become Associate Members, because we realize that is how most of us started our career path to the Executive Administrative Schedule (EAS) position we now hold. We are focused on building a bench and assisting our Associate Members in their efforts to become EAS employees.

The last big difference between UPMA and NAPS is that UPMA has a program that provides our new members one year of free membership when they join, and NAPS does not. New members receive a free “1-year test drive” of the organization. We are so confident that when new members join, they will be so hooked on the benefits of UPMA, that they will never leave.

After one year, it is only \$15 per pay period, and you will have access to our Legal Defense Fund to provide you with a Merit System Protection Board (MSPB) specialty attorney if you are ever facing an adverse action from the Postal Service. UPMA represents members for less serious discipline matters, such as Letters of Warning, and 7-day suspensions, from the moment they join. NAPS does not allow any free membership period, and in fact won’t even represent you in any disciplinary issues until you have been a member for at least one month. So basically, you are paying for the first month and not even eligible to be represented in any disciplinary issues.

As I said, both NAPS and UPMA are both great organizations. But, for the reasons I list above, I prefer to be an Active Member of the United Postmasters and Managers of America, otherwise known as UPMA!

Earl Husbards
UPMA Illinois Chapter President

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Registration Form

UPMA 2023 Legislative Summit

March 19-22

Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA



You also may register online at www.unitedgma.org

Please note: one attendee per registration form.

Name (as it should appear on your badge): _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Title (please check one that applies): Postmaster UPMA Retired Associate Member Guest
 Supervisor Manager EAS Professional PME

Post Office You Represent: City _____ State _____

Name of your U.S. representative (not senator): _____

Your Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime phone: _____

Email: _____

Registration Fee: (please circle fee that applies)	Registration
On or before Feb. 15, 2023	\$45
After Feb. 15, 2023	\$65

Hotel Information

Reserve rooms at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202; 1-800-233-1234. The room rate of \$209 will be honored until March 1, 2023, or until the room block is sold out, whichever comes first.

All reservations must be accompanied by the first night's room deposit. After March 1, all first-night room deposits will be non-refundable.

The \$209 room rate includes 50% off valet parking, complimentary access to the health club and complementary shuttle to/from Reagan National Airport.

Payment (Payment in full, using one of the following payment options, must accompany this form; payment is non-refundable):

- Check payable to UPMA
- Visa/MasterCard only

Card Number _____

Expiration Date ____/____ Card Security Code _____

Signature _____

Please mail completed forms, with payment in full, to:

UPMA Legislative Summit Registration
8 Herbert St.
Alexandria, VA 22305-2808



Registration Form

Central Area Officers Summit

September 22-24, 2023

Indianapolis, IN

Omni Severin Hotel

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

UPMA Chapter: _____

UPMA Chapter Board Position: _____

Your Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

One attendee per registration form

**We look forward to seeing
you in September!**

Registration fee is due by September 1, 2023 and can be paid using VENMO (@IndianaUPMA), or by check/money order payable to "Indiana UPMA." Mail a copy of your registration form and payment to: Indiana UPMA, PO Box 355, Oakland City, IN 47660

Registration Fee:	Registration
On or before July 31, 2023	\$100
After July 31, 2023	\$150

If using VENMO, please email a copy of your completed registration form to IndianaUPMAConventions@gmail.com be sure to include your VENMO username so we can track payment.

Hotel Information
 Contact the Omni Severin Hotel at 317-834-8864
 The room rate is \$128 per night. This rate will be honored until September 1, 2023.
 Use block code: 092223UPMACENTR
 Each reservation will require the 1st night deposit.
 Any reservation not cancelled 72 hours prior to arrival will be subject to a one-night room and tax cancellation fee.
 Additional information can be found on our Facebook Group "UPMA, Indiana Chapter"





Cindi Cotton ~ V.P. Education

Mistakes- Mistakes

The next time you are presented with a mistake, whether yours or an employees, instead of jumping to anger or issuing discipline, stop, take a breath, and think about how to turn it from a negative to a positive.

Whether we like to admit it or not, everyone makes mistakes.

The key is how we respond to those mistakes. Fix it if you can – Not every mistake can be fixed. Sometimes you just have to accept that it is what it is. However, if a mistake can be fixed, be sure to do it. Don't sweep it under the rug and hope no one will notice. In most instances, a mistake that is made transparent, even if it can't be corrected, is a situation that ends quickly. Issues and discipline occur most frequently when you try to cover up a mistake.

Learn – Why did the mistake happen? What can you do in the future to prevent the mistake from happening again? This is a very important step. In fact, a common interview question is, "Explain a time you made a mistake and how you corrected it." The key to answering this question is what you learned to prevent the situation from reoccurring.

Don't blame – Own your mistakes. You can gain a lot of respect from coworkers and employees when you own up to your mistakes. Passing them off on someone else has the opposite effect.

Share – Let others learn from your mistakes. The ancient Indian philosopher and teacher, Chanakya said, "Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all

yourself." Helping others learn from your mistakes is the sign of a good leader.

As a Postmaster, manager, or supervisor, all the mistakes you have to deal with will not be your own. You will also have to respond to, and sometimes answer for, mistakes that were made

by your employees. When others make mistakes:

Don't get angry – Anger doesn't keep people from making mistakes, it just keeps them from telling you about them. If people don't share important information with you, reflect on how you react when given information. If you get angry and fly off the handle, it is going to condition people to keep this information from you.

Assist and coach – Use mistakes as a teaching moment. You may have to fix the error, but it is much better if you can coach the person to

fix the issue themselves. This isn't always possible. If you do have to correct an error, be sure to discuss it afterwards so the teaching moment isn't lost. Think of a carrier that misdelivers an Express Parcel. A misdelivery is a hassle and inconvenience to the customer. You can apologize to the customer. However, if the carrier continually misdelivers this customer's mail, an apology no longer holds any water. The carrier must learn and develop a process to prevent misdeliveries. You can give the carrier guidance and ideas, but the best solution is going to be the one that the carrier comes up with.

Assist and coach – Use mistakes as a teaching moment. You may have to fix the error, but it is much better if you can coach the person to fix the issue themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The National Executive Board has approved offering new EAS members that join from November 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2023 a free year of membership, dues withholding will start once they reach their 1-year anniversary with UPMA.



Join on-line at www.unitedpma.org/membership/join or by completing Form 1187 and mailing to the UPMA National Office. Any questions concerning the membership promotion, contact the National Office by email: Information@unitedpma.org or call 703.683.9027. Scan the code below to be taken to the 1187 form.



Summit is here! Well right around the corner. The UPMA 2023 Legislative Summit is March 19-22 2023 in Arlington VA. Get your registration in and do not miss out. If you register by Feb 15, 2023 the registration will be \$45.00 and after it raises to \$65.00. Save money by registering early. This also helps us to plan groups by knowing the number of people in attendance. The hotel reservations can be made thru Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington VA. If you book your room by March 1st, the room rate is \$209 and includes 50% off valet parking, complimentary access to the health club and shuttle to/from Reagan National Airport.

Members will get up to \$500.00 reimbursed for the Summit upon receipt of payment. This is an opportunity you do not want to miss. Come see what we are about and network! See you at the Summit.

Jennifer Longo
 United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA)
 Illinois Chapter Legislative Vice President

2023 UPMA LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT ~ Gerri Swarm

This is a very brief agenda for the Legislative Summit. The Summit is March 19-21 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel. Registration form is available at www.unitedpma.org, click the Events tab, then National Events. It is also enclosed in this publication if you prefer to print and mail it in. Scan below to be taken to the Legislative registration form.



MARCH 19, 2023	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Registration, Independence Foyer
MARCH 20, 2023	10:00 a.m.	General Legislative Session, Regency E/F
	10:00 a.m.	USPS SPEAKER
	12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch on your own
	1:15– 5:00 p.m.	General Legislative Session, Regency E/F
	(Please Note: IL Chapter Dinner will take place following General Session)	
MARCH 21, 2023	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm	UPMA Visits on Capitol Hill
		Free Evening

*Contributions to the UPMA PAC fund will be accepted during the Monday session.



Roger Roten, Retiree President

Patience Pays Off - Join The Fight

Hello everyone,

Hope all is well with all of you. I encourage all of you to go to the Legislative summit. Last year, UPMA helped get Legislation passed to help all of us. Now it is time to get the WEP/GPO passed. There are federal workers that paid into social security that are not getting their benefits. WEP/GPO fixes this issue. This is a chance for you to make a difference in the direction of the Postal Service. You have the opportunity to go above your MPOO, District Manager, Area vice president, and the Postmaster General to affect how the Postal Service is able to survive and make improvements to your career.

A few years ago, we were sitting in our Representatives office talking about the weather back home. The high was going to be

-12. We were worried about the safety of our carriers being in 30-year-old vehicles and barely any heat. He asked us who we could call to get something done; we told him there was nothing we could do at a local level, but he could call the PMG and talk to her. Five hours later, mail service was suspended in 10 states for 2 days. Our concerns were very real for when we got home. I heard about a Fed Ex driver passing away in the Quad cities due to extreme frigid cold. Our representative taking action due to our conversation, may have saved one of our carriers lives. All interaction with Congress may not yield such instant results, but all interaction makes a difference. This is just one way YOU can make a difference. Go to the legislative summit and make a difference for all.

Roger Roten
President-Retirees



Shelley Zellers ~ Treasurer

The Illinois board made some decisions concerning our finances. We voted to reimburse members, including retirees, up to \$500.00 in verifiable expenses to attend the 2023 Legislative Summit

in Washington, DC. The summit will be held March 19, 2023, through March 22, 2023. You will find the registration form for the event in this issue. I strongly urge you to attend as we convey the needs of our employees and retirees to our congressmen. Nothing changes without constituents pleading their cases. UPMA needs you to help represent us in DC!

Also coming up soon is our annual State Convention, which will be held April 14 through April 16 in Bloomington, IL. +The registration form for this event is in this issue. If you send your registration in by March 1, 2023, and attend the entire convention, the fee will be reimbursed. There are 3 board positions that will need to be filled at this convention. After 12 years as your treasurer, I am stepping down from this position. Last year I retired, and I feel it's time to transfer my skills and support to the retiree section of this great organization! Along with the treasurer position, you will also be electing a secretary and a vice president. Anyone interested in running for a position is encouraged to do so! Please join us in April

to conduct the business of Illinois UPMA, attend educational classes, network with your peers and have some fun!

The final event I would like to mention is National Convention. This year we will be traveling to Denver, Colorado for our 7th Annual UPMA National Convention. My first national convention was in Denver in 2003 and I've attended nearly every national convention since. It has been amazing hearing our PMGs speak. I've learned so much at the training offered each year and I've enjoyed networking with postmasters from all over the United States. National Convention is truly an event no one should miss. This year Illinois UPMA is offering up to \$500.00 reimbursement of verifiable traveling expenses to all active members and retirees attending this convention. So, mark your calendars, make your arrangements, and join us in Colorado August 27th through September 1st.

Since we have so many new members attending events, I wanted to reiterate the reimbursement process. The expenses eligible for reimbursement are registration, airfare and baggage, mileage to/from airport, gas receipts if driving, hotel, and transportation fare to meetings with congressmen. These expenses must be recorded on a stipend voucher for non-board members with receipts attached. There is a separate voucher for board members. These vouchers can be found on the Illinois UPMA website. Your name badge can be used as the receipt for

registration. Actual receipts are required for all other expenses. Vouchers and receipts should be mailed to Earl Husbands for his approval. He will then mail them to me for payment. Expenses are required to be submitted within 30 days of the actual event. Late submission will require board approval for payment.

President Earl will be issuing travel orders for board members four to six weeks before each upcoming UPMA event. Travel orders will also be issued for members at large that are approved to attend. Airline tickets are not to be purchased until the receipt

of the travel order unless otherwise instructed by Earl. We also voted to require prior approval of the President for the purchase of any ticket exceeding \$500.00. Please keep these new requirements in mind when planning future UPMA travel.

Have a blessed new year!

Until next time,
Shelley

Letter to the Editor

I am a retired postmaster and have been trying to contact someone, anyone, to assist me with my Medicare benefits. It appears talking to an actual human being has gone by the wayside. I tried calling Medicare and was greeted by a recording. I tried calling the OPM, left messages, was eventually sent a link to access information – which I cannot even open. It would be great if someone would just call me back! In the time it takes to listen to the recording, I probably could have had my answer. I just got to know going forward – doesn't anyone care about customer service anymore?!

I heard through the grapevine that the Postal Service has gone back to having "Mystery Callers." Apparently so many offices were not answering their phones to assist customers, that it became a chief complaint. I'm not sure why anyone would think it was okay to not answer the company phone. Let me remind you...the Customer Pays Your Salary! And, it is very aggravating as a customer to be ignored!

D.B

A Letter from the Editor

Hello everyone and thank you for your service to our GREAT nation! I know many are struggling with staffing in their offices which have left gaps in duties and has created issues with productivity. Our Chapter President and our National President have been stressing how important it is to complete the EAS Carrying Mail Survey. This is a headquarters survey, and it really is being monitored. I know the last thing anyone wants to do is another survey, but it was designed to analyze which areas and offices are struggling with resources – primarily human resources. Not completing the survey when you have cased, carried, or both, is falsifying records. We have a tool which was created because someone listened to our concerns. The least we could do is complete the survey so they can try and help us.

We have had some publications returned for address correction. I ask that you verify your mailing information on this publication, including your name, title, and address with the full 9 digit zip code. If your zip only has the 5 digits, or has a "-0000" it needs to be updated in the UnitedPMA.org site. Many people have been promoted, or have moved, and have not updated their records accordingly. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of keeping your records up to date. Use the Member Login on the website to gain access to your record. If you need assistance, please contact me. I'm always happy to help.

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming conventions. If you are a budding author or a hobby photographer, I would love to have your stories and photos to include in our publication! Any of your experiences at convention, at work, on vacation, etc. are all appreciated. Send me some photos and a short bio of someone you think deserves to be in our "Spotlight" segment. A major accomplishment, and anniversary, an award won... it's all important, and I would love to help share it with your UPMA family! You never know, perhaps you may be the next winner of a national editor's award!

As we bloom into spring and roll into summer, I wish everyone beautiful and wonderful times with family and friends.

God Bless~

Marianne Miller



UPMA



United Postmasters and Managers of America

2023 ILLINOIS CHAPTER STATE CONVENTION

Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, Normal IL

Friday April 14th - Sunday April 16th

NAME _____

OFFICE _____ **ZIP CODE** _____

PERSONAL PHONE _____ **FIRST TIMER** _____

Please check one:

____ **Postmaster**

____ **Auxiliary Member**

____ **Supervisor**

____ **Retired UPMA Member**

____ **Manager**

____ **Associate Member**

Fee: \$50

Registration will be reimbursed if registered by March 1, 2023

Send to: Shelley Zellers, 12646 SR 78, Havana IL 62644

Bloomington/Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

201 Broadway, Normal, IL (309) 862-9000

Room rates are \$127.00 use code: UPMA

With State Convention right around the corner, we thought you might like a peek at what we are planning and when. Keep in mind, anything and everything may change between now and then. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Bloomington/Normal!

Meta Belford and Shelley Zellers

2023 State Convention Agenda (tentative; times and items may change)

Friday April 14, 2023

7:00 AM Breakfast, Compliments of Retirees – Hospitality Room

8:00 AM Registration
Vendors

8:50 AM Door Prize Drawing (must be present to win)

9:00 AM Call to Order – Earl Husbands
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
Convention Rules and Credentials
Introduce First-Timers

9:15 AM Opening Address

9:30 AM Illinois 1 & 2 Dignitaries

10:30 AM Eric Henry, Area Vice President

11:30 AM Reading of By-Laws and Resolutions – Edmund Carley

11:45 AM Time and Place – 2025 Chapter Convention

12:00 PM Luncheon

1:15 PM Officer's Reports
President – Earl Husbands
Secretary – Beverly Freehill
Treasurer – Shelley Zellers
Executive VP – Pam Bardell
VP PAC – David Clark
VP Legislative – Jennifer Longo
VP Education – Cindi Cotton
Editor – Marianne Miller

2:15 PM Announce Chapter Candidates

2:30 PM to be determined

3:00 PM to be determined
3:45 PM Introduce Vendors
4:00 PM Adjourn

4:30 PM Hospitality Room opens
6:30 PM Pizza and surprise evening entertainment

Saturday April 15, 2023

7:00 AM Breakfast (Compliments of Retirees) – Hospitality Room
8:00 AM Registration
Vendors
8:50 AM Door Prize Drawing (Must be present to win)
9:00 AM Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
9:15 AM Memorial Service
9:45 AM Time & Place Vote
Immediately following, Retirees excused
10:00 AM Chapter Candidates
11:00 AM National Candidates
11:30 AM Elections

12:00 PM Luncheon

1:15 PM National President, Edmund Carley
2:15 PM Break
2:30 PM To be determined
3:30 PM Vendor Drawings
4:00 PM Adjourn
4:30 PM Hospitality Room
6:30 PM Banquet
8:00 PM DJ

Sunday April 16, 2023

Training to be announced

Resolution for Continuation of Illinois UPMA Chapter Dues Special Assessment

Be it resolved that the Illinois Chapter of the United Postmasters and Managers of America will continue to assess one dollar (\$1) per pay period to all active members of the Illinois Chapter to fund stipends for Illinois UPMA members to assist in expenses associated with attending UPMA events, this special assessment shall begin with Pay Period 22 FY 2023 Pay Day October 27th, 2023, and expires with Pay Period 21 FY 2024.

This fund is kept separate from the general fund and reviewed every fiscal year.

Stipends are awarded to any UPMA member for verifiable expenses incurred by attending UPMA events to include, but not limited to:

- IL UPMA Chapter Convention
- UPMA Legislative Summit
- UPMA National Convention

The amount of the stipend will depend on the value of the fund and the number of stipends given. The IL Chapter Executive Board will control the amount of the stipends and direct the Chapter Treasurer to disperse the funds via expense voucher.

Verifiable expenses include:

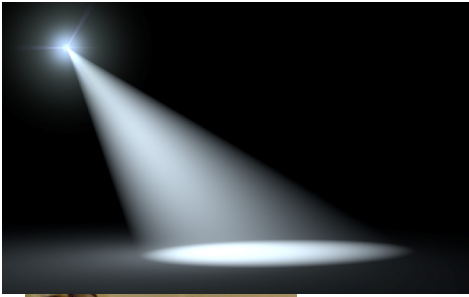
- Airfare
- Hotel expenses at the event host hotel
- Event Registration at the lowest rate
- Gas receipts (not mileage)

To qualify for the stipend, the UPMA member must be registered for the event, attend all general sessions, participate in any mandatory meetings, and attend at least one training class that may be given at the event.

This fund was used to fund (at least in part) the following:

- IL UPMA members to go to 2022 UPMA National Convention in MO
- IL UPMA members to go to 2022 Legislative Summit
- IL UPMA members to go to 2022 IL State Convention

Note: Per UPMA National By-Laws Article I Section 7 this resolution must be approved by a vote of the Chapter at the Chapter convention and submitted to the National Executive Board for approval. Such requests must include the reason for the special assessment and the duration of the assessment.



SPOTLIGHT



Anne Earns Her “Just Desserts”

Thank you, UPMA, for my wonderful postal family! I was blessed to cross paths with Anne Walter-Balsley at a NAPUS convention years ago. Anne was eager to learn everything she could, and used everything she learned to enhance herself and her postal career. We always had a lot

of fun and made wonderful memories together.

Some of my most cherished memories with Anne are from our Legislative Summit. I remember Anne's first visit to D.C. We had about 800 postmasters at this convention. Banquets at the legislative convention were always amazing. Anne loved the special desserts from the banquets, especially cheesecake! Cupcakes were a special treat one year; procured all the way from Georgetown.

I also remember going to state convention with Anne. One year the theme was Kentucky Derby, and we all went to the horse races. The banquet was a hoot with everyone in their Derby finest attire, hats and all. The best environment to learn in is a fun one. With that being said, Anne took all the knowledge attained from the conventions and became an amazing Postmaster! I wish Anne the best in her retirement. USPS will miss all her knowledge and vivacious spirit. Here is Anne's story.

I started my journey with UPMA, formerly known as NAPUS, after being involuntarily converted from a clerk to a city carrier at age 50. I fortunately secured a temporary officer-in-charge (OIC) job in a Level 11 office, where NAPUS member Liz Schnitzler stopped by and asked me to join the organization. I jumped at the chance! The first event I attended was the National Convention in Puerto Rico. I met Postmasters from all over the United States. I also met many Postmasters from the Illinois chapter. They were all

very encouraging that someday soon I would join them as a Postmaster. I attended every event I could.

At my first State Convention I won first place for meeting and obtaining the most signatures from the other members. I was all in with this group. The training I received for my job was thorough and complete. I am amazed at the vast knowledge and professionalism of the group. Their willingness to share knowledge and support one another is commendable. Each convention always has a dinner and dance with different themes to make it a fun evening! Hint: The desserts are amazing, aren't they Marianne Miller?

I had the chance to attend the Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. several times. It is one of the best experiences I've had. Again, you have the opportunity to meet Postmasters from all over the United States. Then you go to the Hill and lobby for postmaster jobs and Postal reform with your representatives. The last time I was there, I was able to talk to Senator Durbin.

Convention is not all work! You have time to go to the Smithsonian Museums and tour the monuments. I also was able to include tours to The National Archives and The Pentagon. And the majority of the museums are free.

After a few years, one of my best friends, Pam Bardell, became the Postmaster of a neighboring town and was looking for a supervisor. This was my chance to quit carrying mail and do customer service work, which is what I excel in. I was awarded the job and worked at 110%. I then had the opportunity to OIC in a Level 18 office. I applied for the job but wasn't selected for the position. A few months later another Level 18 was posted, and I was awarded the Postmaster position. It has been the most fulfilling position I have ever had! I have enjoyed the last three years of my career, and at the end of February I am retiring. I have been blessed by this group and will be forever grateful for them.

Again Anne, I wish you the most amazing retirement. I'm not too far behind you!

I feel so blessed to be part of this wonderful organization!
Pam Bardell



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/Rm)	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 22304-2800

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 fee (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 22304-2800.

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 22304-2800. 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
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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



United Postmasters and Managers of America

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:			

Notes: 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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CANDIDATE FOR ILLINOIS UPMA RETIREE PRESIDENT

My name is Dr. Veronica Johnson, and I am announcing my candidacy as Illinois Chapter Retiree President for the United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA). I have been a member of Napus, The League, and UPMA; as a retiree.

I began my United States Postal Service (USPS) career in Chicago as a City Letter Carrier and within four years my journey directed me in pursuit of many management positions.

I have held the following positions: Supervisor Customer Service, Operations Program analyst, Manager Customer Service (EAS-19, 22), Manager Customer Service Operations (EAS-23), and Postmaster (EAS-24, 26). My positions afforded me the opportunity to work in various parts of the country to include Michigan, Georgia, and retiring as Postmaster of Mobile, Alabama (EAS-26). I returned home to Chicago following my retirement and began to pursue furthering my education. Currently, I am a part-time ad-junct instructor at a university in downtown Chicago and a certified mediator in the state of Illinois. Additionally, I coach and train new mediators in various Illinois universities and actively serve as an Illinois UPMA Chapter Member Representative (CMR).

My purpose for seeking this position is to get more involved by increasing retiree and active membership, increasing the voices of our retirees; as a vital part of our organization and USPS, keeping our retirees informed in all aspects of communication, and maintaining the importance of Illinois UPMA Retirees. As retirees, we want dedicated and passionate leaders to serve as our representatives and that is why I am asking for your vote as Illinois UPMA Retiree President.

We are Stronger Together!

Thank You,
Retired-Honorable Postmaster, Dr. Veronica F. Johnson

TEXT-TO-JOIN FEATURE GOING AWAY - from UPMA GOLD

Just a reminder:..We have been notified that our option to Text-to-Join is going away as of March 30, 2023. Due to changing regulations, our Text-to-Join feature, which allows members to sign up for UPMA Gold emails by text, will be deactivated on Mar 30, 2023. If you are promoting Gold by including this feature, please remove keywords from any marketing materials, newsletters, sites, social media pages, and emails. Until then, feel free to encourage members to sign-up by texting the word UPMAGOLD to the number 22828, then follow the prompts. It is the easiest and fastest way to join the GOLD network. Other ways include sending your name and chapter to upmagold@gmail.com.

2023 UPMA Scholarship

We are now accepting applications for the annual Illinois Chapter UPMA Scholarship Award. Those interested in applying must complete the application form, which is in this issue or available at illinoisupma.org and mail with required information to:

Illinois Chapter UPMA Scholarship Committee
C/O Shelley Zellers
12646 SR 78
Havana, IL 62644

Scholarship rules:

-Applicant must be a child, stepchild, grandchild, or legal ward of a member or retired member of Illinois UPMA.

(Past applicants and/or recipients may apply.)

-All information submitted becomes property of the scholarship committee and will be held in strict confidence.

-Application must be postmarked by March 20, 2023.

ILLINOIS CHAPTER UPMA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Full Name _____

Home Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Phone _____

High School Name/Address _____

Name of Principal _____ Graduation Date _____

Number of Students in your class (HS/College) _____ Class Rank (HS/College) _____

Grade Point Average (HS/College) _____ 4.0 Scale/ 5.0 scale (circle)
ACT Score _____ SAT Score _____
College Name, City & State (currently attending) _____

UPMA Sponsor Name/Relationship/Work Address _____

Name of Institution or Vocational College you plan to attend _____

Have you applied for admission? _____ Application accepted? _____

Do you currently work? _____ For whom? _____

Average hours worked per week? _____

Do you plan to work while attending college? _____

The following items must be included with this completed application:

-Official high school transcript and current college transcript (if applicable)

-Copy of ACT and/or SAT scores

-Two character reference letters written by a non-relative

-Copy of letter of acceptance from the college of choice (if not in college)

-Summary of your high school/college community activities, awards, hobbies

*List by name & year and include approximate time commitment for each school, community, and volunteer activities:

*Membership and other participation-example: Yearbook staff (10, 11, college) 25 hrs/month for 6 months. Basketball (9, 10, 11, college) 40 hrs/month for 5 months.

*Leadership positions/offices held-example: Student Council (9, 10, 11, 12) 12 hrs/month for 5 months. 4-H Leader (11, 12) 5 hrs/month for 4 months.

*Honors/Awards-example: All conference basketball (11, 12). Jr. Rotarian (10).

*Volunteer work-example: Candy striper (11, 12) 20 hrs/month for 3 months.

*Paid work positions-example: Grocery store (10, 11) 16 hrs/month for 2 months.

-What are your career goals? How would this scholarship help you attain them?



John Sertich~ Retiree Treasurer

Below are calendar year 2022 financial reports for the main retiree account and scholarship account. Both will be audited at the State Convention. Submitted By: John Sertich, IL UPMA Sec/Treas Retirees

Audit Report 2022 UPMA ILLINOIS RETIREES

<u>Checking Account</u>		
31-Dec2021	Beginning Balance	\$3,558.63
	Disbursements	(\$5,809.44)
	Move to CD	\$0.00
	Deposits	\$5,040.00
	Dividends	<u>\$1.63</u>
31-Dec2022	Ending Balance	\$2,790.82
<u>Savings Account</u>		
31-Dec2021	Beginning Balance	\$10,070.23
5-Jun 2022	From CD ID 42	\$0.00
	Dividends	<u>15.12</u>
31-Dec2022	Ending Balance	\$10,085.35
<u>ID 41 12 Month Certificate</u>		
1-Jan 2022	Beginning Balance	\$3,047.34
	Deposit	\$0.00
	Dividends	<u>\$20.23</u>
31-Dec2022	Ending Balance	\$3,067.57
<u>ID 42 12 Month Certificate</u>		
5-Jun 2021	CD Matured - Transferred to Savings	(\$10,049.79)
31-Dec2021	Ending Balance	\$0.00
<u>Total Assets</u>		
	Checking	\$2,790.82
	Savings	\$10,085.35
	CD 41	\$3,067.57
	CD 42	\$0.00
31-Dec2022	Grand Total	\$15,943.74

Illinois Chapter UPMA Scholarship Fund
Account Balances

Balance Jan 1, 2022		Balance Dec 31, 2022	
Savings	21.49	Savings	21.49
Checking	6279.51	Checking	3815.51
CD-41	15768.18	CD-41	15878.58
CD-42			
Total	22069.18		19715.58
Total interest earned 2022			110.40
Total income 2022			536.00
Total Expenses 2022			3,000.00
Opening Balance Jan 1 2021	27772.64		
Income	0.00		
Interest	296.54		
Expenses	-6000.00		
Closing Balance Dec 31, 2021	22069.18		

ABOUT THOSE CHEAP STAMPS: from UPMA Gold

We have all seen the ads for half price or less rolls of USPS postage stamps. Per President Edmund, the ad is fraud, or if you do receive them, the stamps are counterfeit. Member Joseph Seitz and others have expressed concern, and of course all of us know that the escalating availability of counterfeit stamps is damaging the USPS. Here is a link provided by UPMA National President Edmund Carley that includes a link to report counterfeit stamps. Feel free to share with those who contact you. Obviously, this is a scam. <https://www.uspis.gov/news/scam-article/counterfeit-stamps>



Carol Sue Carnes, Signature FCU Secretary

In less than one month Spring begins. I must say we have had a mild winter so far. During Christmas week we did have extremely cold, windy, below Zero temperatures with a layer of ice. But, since then only a light snow. Of course, we still have time for more bad weather to arrive before winter is over.

I hope you have seen our ads on Social Media regarding our "Bump It Up Certificates". For a limited time you can lock in a great rate for 23 months or 59 months, and then during the term of your CD you have the opportunity to "bump up" your rate one time if the rates go up. Earn 4% APY for 23 months, with a minimum opening balance of \$500. Or earn 3.50% APY for 59 months. Once again, if the rate changes during the term of the CD, you can "bump it up" one time to the new rate. Minimum opening balance also \$500. for the 59 month CD. We also offer our Premium 36-Month Certificate, now earning 4.50% APY. Take advantage of this limited-time offer and open your account today with a minimum balance of \$500.

Be a 2023 Scholarship applicant. If you are a member of the Signature Federal Credit Union and in need of assistance with your higher education tuition, or related expense, now is the time to apply for our essay-based scholarship. This year's essay topic is: Describe a person or event in your life that helped shape who you are today. The deadline is June 21, 2023 for your chance to be selected as one of three winners awarded \$1,000. each. Just go to SignatureFCU.org/Scholarships to view the requirements and submit your 250-to-500-word essay (typed and double spaced).

If you so choose you can freeze your loan payment this winter with "Skip-a-Pay". For a small fee, you can skip one monthly or two bi-weekly payments and you can choose the month. A \$35 processing fee will be charged; your final loan payment will be extended by one month. Interest will accumulate on your loan during the month you skip your payment. All loan payments must be current and in good standing to qualify and your loan must have been on the books for at least one year to be eligible for this promotion.

Many of you may have received our Dormant Account letter from time to time. Your account must have one transaction per year to stay active. If you have an account set up for children or grandchildren and would like to set up a deposit every year for their birthdays or Christmas, our Member Service representatives are always happy to help you. They can set up a reoccurring automatic deposit to any of these accounts. Just give them a call at 1-800-336-0284 extension 237.

It won't be long, and Illinois Chapter Convention will be here! It will be held April 14-16 at Bloomington/Normal Mariott Convention Center. There will be a Signature FCU table set up, so be sure to stop by and talk to either Ruthie Beal or myself.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Carol Sue Carnes, Secretary, SFCU
4800 Illinois River Road, Brussels, IL. 62013
Cell Phone: 618-795-4618

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” —Henry Ford

****CARES & CONCERNS****

Our condolences to the families of :

Pam Bardell, Postmaster of Freeport, IL 61032 who lost her Mother-In-Law, Vivian Bardell Schlickman, on February 20th. Cards may be sent to Dave and Pam at 4985 S. Baileyville Rd, Baileyville, IL 61007.

Morrie Smith, retired Postmaster Champaign, IL, lost his Father on February 23rd. Cards may be sent to Morrie and Shelley at 1335 Morris Lane, Jacksonville, IL 62650-6720.

Jo Bittinger, MPOO D, IL1 District who lost her Father on Dec 27th. Please send cards to Jo c/o Freeport Post Office, 103 N Chicago Ave, Freeport, IL 61032.

Katie Levernier, Postmaster of Lake Bluff, IL 60044 who lost her Father-In-Law in January. Cards may be sent to Kurt and Katie at 3302 IL Route 176, Crystal Lake, IL 60014-2144.

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers as they move forward without their loved ones by their side.

*if you know someone in the UPMA family who has lost a loved one, is ill, or is need of parayers and support, please email Phyllis Fisher, pmretphyl@gmail.com, or the editor, ipn_editor@yahoo.com. We will do our best to get the word to our membership for support and care.

Do you know who the first woman postmaster was, or when she served? Or who Janene Gordon was? Celebrate the women in your life by checking out these interesting facts and more at: <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/>

Sarah Decrow, Postmaster of Hertford, NC was the first woman appointed under the Constitution in 1792.

Janene Gordon, US Postal Inspector, was accepted and trained in the first class in 1971 to have women trainees, after women were approved to serve as Postal Inspectors.

Wishing you all a...

HAPPY SPRING!
HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!
HOPPY EASTER!



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!

**Article Due Dates**

Apr 15, 2023  
Jun 15, 2023  
Aug 15, 2023  
Oct 15, 2023  
Dec 15, 2023

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

**Upcoming Events**

Membership Kickoff  
TBD  
2024

Legislative Summit  
Washington, DC  
March 19 - 22, 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  
Indianapolis, IN  
September 22nd - 24th, 2023

Southern Area Officers Conference  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
October 5th - 8th, 2023